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Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019

**Agenda item 4: Progress in Implementing the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and Related Best Practices**

**Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean: Progress in Implementation and Main Elements for its Evaluation**

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## **Note by the Secretariat**

The UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) was the first Regional Sea Programme to approve a legally-binding Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean ([Decision IG.21/7, Istanbul, Turkey](#)) in December 2013, hereunder referred to as the Regional Plan, providing for a set of programmes of measures and implementation timetables to prevent and reduce the adverse effects of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment as well as regular assessment, monitoring and promotion of collaboration and involvement of regional actors.

The Regional Plan came into force in 2014, providing for a series of measures imposing clear obligations regarding the waste management hierarchy, closure of illegal dumping/dumpsites, shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, removal of existing Marine Litter using environmental sound practices such as fishing for litter, clean up campaigns, port reception facilities, and monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of measures as well as enforcement of national legislation. The majority of the measures as provided for in the Regional Plan should be implemented by the Contracting Parties by 2020.

Evaluating the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan provides the MAP Secretariat and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with a clear picture about provisions that have been successfully implemented and those for which further support is required. The success stories emanating from implementation of the Regional Plan, and those that have not yet yielded the expected, is another indicator of the effectiveness of its provisions. To date, *satisfactory* progress can be reported for the implementation of several provisions of its Articles; however, further support and coordinated effort is required for some of its elements.

The present report presents the main elements for the evaluation of the Regional Plan, as well as highlights of important progress achieved to date in the implementation of its main Articles and relevant provisions. The present report is presented to the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices for consideration of meeting participants. The aim is to obtain feedback and inputs to further enhance and support the ongoing process of reporting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regards to the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and its effectiveness.

## Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.	EVALUATION ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL PLAN.....	1
3.	EVALUATION FINDINGS OF THE REGIONAL PLAN .....	2
	Article 7: Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans .....	2
	Article 9: Prevention of marine litter.....	2
	Article 10: Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal .....	3
	Article 11: Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean .....	3
	Article 12: Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme.....	3
	Article 13: Research topics and scientific cooperation.....	4
	Article 14: Specific guidelines.....	4
	Article 15: Technical assistance .....	4
	Article 16: Enhancement of public awareness and education .....	4
	Article 17: Major groups and stakeholder participation .....	4
	Article 18: Regional and international cooperation.....	4
	Article 19: Reporting .....	5
4.	CHALLENGES .....	5
5.	CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6

ANNEX I:	DETAILED FINDINGS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN ON MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN	
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## **List of Abbreviations / Acronyms**

<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>IMAP</b>	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria
<b>MAP</b>	Mediterranean Action Plan
<b>MARPOL</b>	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
<b>MED POL</b>	Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PET</b>	Polyethylene Terephthalate
<b>PoW</b>	Programme of Work
<b>REMPEC</b>	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (hereunder referred to as the Regional Plan) was adopted in 2013 and entered into force in 2014. Since its adoption in 2013, the MAP Secretariat and its MAP components have implemented an ambitious number of activities aiming at supporting Contracting Parties' efforts for its implementation. The measures provided in the Regional Plan are of policy, legal, institutional, regulatory (including economic incentive instruments) and technical nature, addressing different aspects of marine litter prevention and management from land and sea-based sources. They impose clear obligations regarding the waste management hierarchy, closure of illegal dumping/dumpsites, shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns and circular economy, removal of existing marine litter using environmental sound practices, reporting on implementation of measures as well as enforcement of national legislation.

2. The Regional Plan has played an important role as an instrument for the definition and execution of measures that will significantly impact the situation of marine litter in the Mediterranean region. This important body of activities deriving directly from the Regional Plan includes efforts taken with resources mobilized with a number of donors; most importantly the European Commission and the Italian Government. It has also been complemented by the wider work undertaken by the MAP Secretariat in the context of other initiatives relevant to marine litter at the regional and global level (e.g. in the context of the UN Ocean Conference, the implementation of UNEA resolutions, the G7 Ministerial process and the G20, etc.).

3. A considerable number of the measures are to be implemented by the Contracting Parties by 2020, while a series of measures will progressively evolve till 2025. Six years after its adoption, evaluation of the Regional Plan will provide to the MAP Secretariat and to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention a clear picture about those provisions that have been successfully implemented and those for which further support is required.

4. To that extent, the evaluation and assessment of all Regional Plans, including Marine Litter, has been a priority for MAP Secretariat. This aspect is well reflected in the two COP Decisions (IG 21/7 of COP 18 and IG, 23/1 of COP 20). Decision IG 21/7 of COP 18 includes an Annex on Reporting on the Implementation of the Regional Plan providing for indicator-based reporting. Decision IG 23/1 of COP 20 stipulates the Revised Reporting Format of MAP Barcelona Convention including a detailed section on the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

## 2. EVALUATION ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL PLAN

5. The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean consists of 22 Articles. Articles 7 and 9 to 19 included concrete measures for evaluation as per Annex II of the Plan. These are:

- Article 7: Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans;
- Article 9: Prevention of marine litter;
- Article 10: Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal;
- Article 11: Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean;
- Article 12: Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme;
- Article 13: Research topics and scientific cooperation;
- Article 14: Specific guidelines;
- Article 15: Technical assistance;
- Article 16: Enhancement of public awareness and education;
- Article 17: Major groups and stakeholder participation;
- Article 18: Regional and international cooperation; and
- Article 19: Reporting.

6. In the absence of the official reporting elements as part of the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), for which the process is currently ongoing, evaluation of the different provisions of the Regional Plan was based on a number of alternative sources, namely:

- The 2015 and 2016 National Action Plans and relevant Programmes of Measures;
- Progress presented by the Contracting Parties during the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 Oct. 2018);
- The Sweep Net Report on Solid Waste Management;
- The different national reports in the framework of the EU Environmental Implementation Review (EIR); and
- Available literature to the MAP Secretariat from the implementation of various projects and processes coordinated by UN Environment/MAP like the EU-funded EcAp MED II and the Marine Litter MED projects.

7. Summary evaluation finding for each Article of the Regional Plan is presented below and reported as “Very Satisfactory”, “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory.” For each evaluation finding, objective evidence is included to substantiate the reported finding and conclusion. Detailed findings for each Article and its Provisions are presented in th Annex I to this evaluation report. Summary findings and conclusions are presented below.

### **3. EVALUATION FINDINGS OF THE REGIONAL PLAN**

#### **Article 7: Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans**

8. Provisions of Article 7 include updating the existing LBS national Action Plan guidelines, updating the existing LBS National Action Plans to integrate marine litter, developing a reporting format, and preparing national reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan.

9. The progress in the implementation of the provisions of Article 7 is found to be *Very Satisfactory*, as all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have prepared updated National Action Plans, including dedicated sections on marine litter and relevant reporting formats. Information provided in the national reports under Article 7 cannot yet be evaluated as the process is currently ongoing.

#### **Article 9: Prevention of marine litter**

10. Provisions of Article 9 include basing urban solid waste management on reduction at source; implementing adequate waste reducing/reusing/ recycling measures; exploring and implementing prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility, Sustainable Procurement Policies, voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets, fiscal and economic instruments, mandatory Deposits and Return and Restoration System; establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry; adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants; waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter; exploring and implementing Fishing for Litter, Gear marking, reduced ghost catches; preventing any marine littering from dredging activities; and closing existing illegal dump sites and enforcing this measure.

11. The progress in the implementation of the aforementioned provisions of Article 9 is found to be *Satisfactory* as many Contracting Parties have already put in place national legislation and policies for recycling (8 countries) and for reducing the use of single-use plastic bags (17 countries) tackling the major marine litter items found in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, important progress has been achieved with regards to the better management of sea-based marine litter, and particularly in relation to better management of marine litter in ports and marinas, as well as the implementation of Fishing-for-litter measures. Several relevant pilots are currently ongoing.

12. For EPR, several pilots are currently ongoing, the results of which will become available later in 2019; thus, its effectiveness cannot be yet evaluated. Under Article 9, further work is required by the Mediterranean Countries with regards to the establishment of sustainable procurement policies and voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets; development of national policies for other priority single-use marine litter items; reduction of the contribution of fisheries sector on marine litter; and the application of the voluntary guidelines for marking fishing gear.

13. The riverine inputs are addressed in the framework of the implementation of Adopt-a-beach pilots in nine different Mediterranean; the results of which will become available later in 2019. More effective enforcement mechanisms are required by the Countries with regards to the close of illegal dump sites as well as to regulate dredging activities.

#### **Article 10: Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal**

14. Provisions of Article 10 include removal of accumulated litter; identification of accumulations/hot spots of marine litter; implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns; Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices; Fishing for Litter practices; and charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities.

15. The progress in the implementation of Article 10 of the Regional Plan is found to be *Satisfactory* with regards to the implementation of the Adopt-a-beach measures (more than 20 pilots in 9 different countries) and the charge of reasonable costs (or No-Special-Fee system) for the use of port reception facilities. Work is on-going for the identification of the accumulation hotspots on marine litter, and with regards to participation in international coastal clean-up campaigns. On the latter, strengthening of ownership of such initiatives is required from the public communities and the Non-Governmental Organizations.

#### **Article 11: Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean**

16. Provisions of Article 11 include assessment of marine litter. Progress in the implementation of this Article of the Regional Plan is found to be *Very Satisfactory* as two assessment products are already available; the 2015 Regional Assessment on Marine Litter, and the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report which includes two dedicated chapters on marine litter. The next challenge for which the Contracting Parties should address is to prepare a regional assessment on marine litter fully based on national derived data.

#### **Article 12: Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme**

17. Provisions of Article 12 include establishment of expert group on regional Marine Litter Monitoring; preparation of guidelines on National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes; and integrating marine litter monitoring as part of IMAP; designing marine litter monitoring programmes; reporting on implementation of these programmes; and establishment of regional data bank on marine litter.

18. The progress in the implementation of Article 12 of the Regional Plan is found to be *Satisfactory*, as the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, and Relevant Assessment Criteria (IMAP) is in place since 2016 including two Common Indicators and a single Candidate Indicator on marine litter. Experts groups have been established, guidelines and reporting templates have been developed, and two meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group for Monitoring (CorMon) Marine Litter have been organized since 2016. Countries need to put more effort for preparation and development of the National monitoring programmes which are expected to be finalized in 2019 to be followed by good data flow for the IMAP marine litter indicators.

### **Article 13: Research topics and scientific cooperation**

19. The provisions of this Article include provision of assistance for scientific cooperation. The progress in the implementation of this Article of the Regional Plan is found to be *Satisfactory*. The Regional Plan includes a section on marine litter research priorities which comprises the basis for establishing cooperation. Several scientific conferences have been organized to further support this aspect, and the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean provides the facility for scientific cooperation. Further work is needed by the Countries to advance the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) for marine litter.

### **Article 14: Specific guidelines**

20. Provisions of the Article include preparation of specific guidelines stipulated in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan. The progress made in the implementation of this Article is found to be *Very Satisfactory*. Five regional guidelines for the implementation of marine litter measures (in line with Articles 9 and 10) have been prepared and submitted for adoption before end of 2019.

### **Article 15: Technical assistance**

21. The provisions of this Article include providing technical assistance and capacity building. The progress in the implementation of this Article of the Regional Plan is found to be *Satisfactory*, as technical assistance is and will continue to be provided by MAP Secretariat and its Components (Regional Activity Centres) to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention. This includes support through the establishment of several processes and initiatives, and the organization of several capacity building workshops, trainings and regional meetings. There is a need however to further support the Mediterranean Countries during 2019 and 2020 biennium to implement key reduction and prevention measures on marine litter, and to establish national monitoring programmes on marine litter.

### **Article 16: Enhancement of public awareness and education**

22. The provisions of this Article include undertaking in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and in partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities with regard to marine litter management.

23. The progress made in implementation of Article 16 of the Regional Plan is found to be *Satisfactory*. And even though development of the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter, which will significantly support and enhance public awareness and access to educational materials, is still in progress; however, two editions of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter were shared among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2016 and 2017.

### **Article 17: Major groups and stakeholder participation**

24. The provisions of this Article include ensuring appropriate involvement of various stakeholders (local authorities, civil society, private sector, etc.) to implement the measures provided for in the Regional Plan and other measures.

25. The progress in the implementation of Article 17 of the Regional Plan is considered as *Satisfactory*. The Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean has been established since 2016 aiming to support major groups and stakeholder participation. However, the ownership of several initiatives by stakeholders, as appropriate, should be further enhanced.

### **Article 18: Regional and international cooperation**

26. Provisions of this Article include establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives, and direct cooperation of Contracting Parties to address trans-boundary marine litter cases.

27. The progress in the implementation of Article 18 is *Very Satisfactory*. The Mediterranean has been showcased in various fora as one of the best examples worldwide with regards to effective marine litter management. MAP Secretariat/ MED POL has played a leading role in coordinating and facilitating these processes on the regional and international levels. Moreover, MAP Secretariat is following the European Regional Seas Coordination Meetings where the evaluation of the Regional/Actions Plan on Marine Litter is taking place, cooperation and synergies are enhanced and lessons learnt, and best practices are shared. Strong links have been also established between the MAP Secretariat and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC), with MAP actively supporting BSC to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea Region, which is adopted since October 2018.

#### **Article 19: Reporting**

28. Provisions of Article 19 include reporting biannually on implementation of the Regional Plan; regional reporting; and review of final status of the Regional Plan.

29. The progress in the implementation of Article 19 is found to be *Satisfactory*. National biennial reporting of the Regional Plan is in progress. Evaluation report is presented herein; and final report is due in 2021.

#### **4. CHALLENGES**

30. Further to the evaluation of the aforementioned articles, the following challenges in implementation of the Regional Plan are identified:

- Further work is required by the Mediterranean Countries with regards to the establishment of sustainable procurement policies and voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets; development of national policies for other priority single-use marine litter items; reduction of the contribution of fisheries sector on marine litter; and the application of the voluntary guidelines for marking fishing gear.
- More effective enforcement mechanisms are required by the Countries with regards to the closure of illegal dump sites as well as to regulate dredging activities.
- Sea-based sources should be further addressed, and the work for the effective management of marine litter in ports and marinas should be further advanced with the finalization of the pilots within 2019.
- Further guidelines, addressing additional reduction and prevention measures should be developed and the existing ones should be updated as appropriate.
- Countries need to put more effort for preparation and development of the National monitoring programmes which should be finalized in 2019 to be followed by good data flow for the IMAP marine litter indicators.
- Further work is needed by the Countries to advance the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) for marine litter.
- Strengthening of ownership of initiatives for reducing marine litter is required from the public communities and the Non-Governmental Organizations.

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

31. Further to the findings of the evaluation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, it is concluded that four Articles are implemented to a *very satisfactory* level;

whereas Eight Articles are implemented in a *satisfactory* manner. This entails good progress in implementation of the plan.

32. The following recommendations are suggested for enhancing implementation effectiveness of the Regional Plan:

- Expanding and concluding pilot projects on key marine litter prevention/reduction measures throughout the Mediterranean;
- Finalizing the socioeconomic analysis on marine litter best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles, including an overall analysis for the whole Mediterranean basin, with a specific focus on pilot areas.
- Continuing the support to the Contracting Parties to establish national monitoring programmes on Marine Litter with the view to having them operational at country level;
- Concluding the work on marine litter indicators (process/response linked with H2020/NAP) to complement IMAP state/impact indicators;
- Further work for updating marine litter baseline data at the sub-regional level;
- Concluding the work on the guidelines related to the: i) implementation of the “Adopt-a-beach” measures at regional level and related best practices; ii) reduction of single-use plastic bags; and iii) provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes;
- Conducting capacity building and sharing of best practices (Sub-regional, Regional Workshops);
- Pursuing ongoing coordination with European Regional Seas; and following-up with Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Joint Secretariat and their Regional Centers to maximize synergies;
- Strengthening collaboration with the UN Environment GPA and GPML with a focus on the #CleanSeas and #BeatPlasticPollution campaigns;
- Contributing as appropriate to the G7 and G20 Action Plans to Combat Marine Litter;
- Improving knowledge and enhance effective management on microplastics in the region; and
- Strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

**ANNEX I**  
**DETAILED FINDINGS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN ON**  
**MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

## **Article 7: Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs)**

### Update the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines:

1. The process for the update of existing National Action Plans (NAPs) in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), has been completed since 2016. The guidelines for the update of the NAPs in the framework of the LBS were updated and reviewed by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting in Malta, in 16-19 June 2015. The Guidelines have been made available to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the NAPs were updated accordingly.

### Update the existing LBS National Action Plans to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan National Stakeholder Workshop and consultancy:

2. All updated NAPs of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are well-addressing marine litter management, taking into account the relevant guidelines as presented during the 2015 MED POL Focal Points Meeting. In particular, nineteen (19) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in the framework of the LBS Protocol, have prepared and submitted to MAP Secretariat their updated NAPs and Programmes of Measures (PoMs), with dedicated sections on marine litter, all addressing marine litter management in accordance with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The updated NAPs were endorsed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Decision IG 22/8 – Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016).

### Development of reporting format:

3. The development of the reporting format has been concluded in two consecutive steps in 2013 and 2017. In 2013, during the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), an annex about reporting on the implementation of the Regional Plan by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, providing for indicator-based reporting, was approved (Decision IG 21/7 - COP 18). Furthermore, the revised reporting formats were developed by MAP Secretariat, including detailed section on the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan, and were subsequently approved by the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Decision IG 23/1 - Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). The revised reporting formats have been shared with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and based them, the Mediterranean Countries are expected to report to MAP Secretariat within 2019 on the progress in the implementation of the Regional Plan.

### National reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan:

4. The process is still ongoing and all national reports from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, are expected to be submitted to MAP Secretariat during the first quarter of 2019. For the time being, only one report has been received.

## **Article 9: Prevention of marine litter**

### To base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal:

5. UN Environment/MAP, through its MED POL Programme and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), is implementing several projects to support Contracting Parties in enhancing their capacities related to prevention and recycling of marine litter. Significant progress can be reported at regional level with 8 countries having included relevant

provisions in their national laws and policies (i.e. SwitchMed beneficiaries: national SCP plans, including waste management).

Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/ recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery:

6. A number of activities related to the enhancement of the regulatory framework on the non-single use of plastic bags and the promotion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), have been assigned to the UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC). The national regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags has been assessed in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, also aiming to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for other single-use products. Following the assessment results, technical assistance is provided to the countries with the aim to minimize the use of single use items (i.e. plastic packaging in Morocco and Algeria, and single-use plastic bags in Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon).

7. In close consultation with several Contracting Parties, and further to interviews carried out with experts supported by extensive desk work, SCP/RAC prepared, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, a “Reference document” outlining the state of the art of the legal framework regulating the production/consumption of single use plastic bags in each of the countries as well as case studies of voluntary and regulatory measures to reduce the use and production of single-use plastic bags.

8. In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) support is currently provided to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro with regard to the enhancement of the regulatory framework to promote non-single use plastics (single-use plastic bags and PET bottles); improve the collection and recycling of plastic PET bottles; as well as enhance local and national capacities and raise awareness of stakeholders.

9. Within the IMELS Cooperation Agreement, a number of activities have been assigned to SCP/RAC with the objective of improving the policy framework and engaging with the food and beverage industry in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro for tackling plastics packaging value chains in a circular economy. This set of activities aims at contributing to the identification and prioritization of preventive measures that tackle plastic packaging in the food and beverage industry, by improving the relevant policy framework and strengthening the engagement of businesses and business support organizations.

10. Furthermore, in February 2016 (COP 19), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan for the Mediterranean, which constitutes a forward-looking framework to move towards a circular economy in the region. Within the EU-funded SwitchMed project, national SCP Action Plans have been elaborated in the participating countries. Furthermore, the project has contributed through different components to support industry towards more sustainable patterns (including plastic value chain industry), as well as to support green entrepreneurs in the region through capacity building, access to finance and markets. An important amount of these green businesses deals with plastic waste.

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity:

11. Pilot actions are implemented in Morocco and Algeria in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. Several other projects (e.g.

H2020, Act 4 Litter and Plastic Busters MPAs) are also contributing to this objective. The results from these pilots will be made available in late 2019.

12. Within the EU-funded SwitchMed project, a study was conducted in Morocco to find out about collection and recycling routes in the country, as well as related socioeconomic aspects. This is an important basis to explore EPR schemes in the country and could be applied in the region.

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products:

13. An evaluation of prevention measures related to Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products, will be undertaken in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS in three Adriatic countries (i.e. Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro).

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers:

14. The final version of the regional guidelines on single-use plastic bags clearly addressed this type of voluntary agreement and provide clear steps on how to implement it. Within the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, this type of agreement shall be sought in Egypt and Lebanon. Within the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, voluntary agreements will be sought across the food and beverage sector to reduce plastic packaging in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro. In order to prepare this and focus the target, the policy gap and material flow analysis implemented in the countries support the identification of priority areas of intervention.

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption:

15. The final version of the regional guidelines on single-use plastic bags clearly addressed this type of voluntary agreement and provide clear steps on how to implement it. Within the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, this type of instrument shall be sought in Egypt and Lebanon. In addition, within the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, technical assistance and recommendations have been formulated to the authorities in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in charge of plastic bags economic instruments, where they are already in place.

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector:

16. No specific pilots are currently implemented to this regard. Specific pilots need to be designed and the GEF-7 project proposal may contribute towards this direction.

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling:

17. Pilots are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. In Morocco, this system will be explored as part of the study for the adoption of EPR at the national level. In Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro this option will be explored, and technical assistance provided to the countries if so is decided.

Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro plastics:

18. During the current biennium (2018- 2019) up to 3 pilot projects are planned related to marine litter prevention, particularly focused on plastics and micro plastics in cosmetics and the food and beverage plastic packaging sector in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro within the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS.

Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter:

19. No evaluation undertaken to date for the implementation of these measures

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

20. Activities related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas are assigned to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). These activities, implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter-MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, focus on measures related to the better management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean, more specifically the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system; and the provision of port reception facilities as well as the delivery of ship-generated wastes.

21. Pilots in 7 Mediterranean countries (expected to be finalised in 2019) are currently implemented and coordinated by REMPEC in selected major ports and marinas within the framework of the EU-funded “Marine Litter-MED” project (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia). Pilots in 5 other Mediterranean countries are still to be confirmed (Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Libya). A study (No-Special-Fee system) was presented during the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (9-10 Oct. 2018, Izmir, Turkey) and the final versions of a guidance document (No-Special-Fee system) as well as operational guidelines (waste handling) will be presented during the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (8-10 April 2019, Seville, Spain).

22. REMPEC has ensured the necessary inter-linkage and synergy when implementing the respective pilots and national meetings within the framework of the EU-funded “Marine Litter-MED” project, which will be facilitated in southern Mediterranean countries, in coordination with similar activities supported by IMELS and undertaken in five Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention of the Adriatic region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia).

Explore and implement to the extent possible the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate cleanup of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears

23. Fishing-for-litter pilot projects have been designed with MEDPOL’s support in five countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia), in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. Pilot projects are ongoing, expected to be finalized by Sept. 2019.

Explore and implement to the extent possible “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced ghost catches through the use of environmentally neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept”, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector:

24. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is in charge for the preparation and development of the guidelines for the marking of fishing gear. A technical consultation meeting on the marking of fishing gear was organized in Rome, Italy, 5–9 February 2018, during which the draft guidelines on the marking of fishing gear were discussed. The next step is to design pilot project to test the guidelines. The new GEF-7 project proposal includes relevant provisions for the implementation of pilots to test the FAO the voluntary guidelines.

Apply the cost-effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention:

25. “Updated Guidelines in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, adopted by COP 20; Prevention of marine littering from dredging activities fully considered.

Take the necessary measures to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land in the area of the application of the Regional Plan:

26. The need to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land has been prioritized in NAPs. H2020 Indicators also consider these measures.

Take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan:

27. Enforcement of measures to combat illegal dumping of litter on beaches and sewage disposal in the coastal zone has been identified as a priority of the NAPs. This will be further addressed in the framework of the ongoing process for development of 6 new regional plans.

#### **Article 10: Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal**

Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to EIA procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol:

28. Activities are planned for 2018-2019 in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS.

Explore and implement to the extent possible the identification in collaboration with relevant stakeholders’ accumulations / hotspots of marine litter and implementation of national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal

29. In the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, MAP Secretariat and its MED POL programme have established a cooperation with HELCOM Secretariat and the EU-funded MARELITT project, in order to apply the methodology developed for the Baltic region in the Mediterranean needs. Certain adaptation should be required for its use in the Mediterranean, and the corresponding elements are under review by MAP Secretariat. The methodological tool is expected to be developed by Sept 2019.

Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis:

30. Approximately 20 Adopt-a-beach pilots, in 9 different Mediterranean countries (i.e. Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia) are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. The pilots include a clean-up component. In addition, a relevant activity is envisaged in the 2018-2019 joint work plan of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean.

Explore and implement to the extent possible the participation in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes:

31. The Secretariat is promoting the participation of the Mediterranean Countries and MAP Partners in all regional and/or international clean-up events. A relevant activity is envisaged in the 2018-2019 joint workplan of the Regional Cooperation Platform under the leadership of several members of the platform.

Explore and implement to the extent possible the application as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management:

32. Approximately 20 Adopt-a-beach pilots, in 9 different Mediterranean countries (i.e. Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia) are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, aiming to enhance public participation through the involvement of numerous NGO's around the Mediterranean. Preliminary results are already available and national capacity building workshops have been organized for 6 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco) to support and facilitate the implementation of the AaB pilots.

Explore and implement to the extent possible the application of the Fishing for Litter practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter:

33. Fishing-for-litter pilot projects have been designed with MEDPOL's support in five countries (i.e. Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia), in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. Pilot projects are ongoing, expected to be finalized by Sept. 2019. In four countries (i.e. Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia) FfL pilots are ongoing and national capacity building workshops for three countries (Egypt, Libya, Morocco) have been organized to support and facilitate the implementation of the FfL pilots. Pilots are expected to be finalized by Sept. 2019.

Explore and implement to the extent possible charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable application of No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10:

34. Pilots in 7 Mediterranean countries (expected to be finalised by Sept. 2019) are currently implemented and coordinated by REMPEC in selected major ports and marinas within the framework of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" project (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia). Pilots in 5 other Mediterranean countries are still to be confirmed (Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Libya). A study (No-Special-Fee system) was presented during the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (9-10 Oct. 2018, Izmir, Turkey) and the final versions of a guidance document (No-Special-Fee system) as well as operational guidelines (waste handling) will be presented during the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (8-10 April 2019, Seville, Spain).

## **Article 11: Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean**

### Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean:

35. The 2015 UN Environment/MAP Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean provides data on waste and plastic inputs to the sea for each Mediterranean country. It specifies the most important sources of litter; changes in their composition; and transport patterns presenting updated results of modelling; and includes a comprehensive review of existing data for the four compartments of the marine environment (beaches, surface, seabed, and ingested litter). It provides updated data and information on microplastics, on derelict fishing gear and their impact. The assessment presents general reduction measures focusing on those which are especially important for the Mediterranean Sea.

36. In 2015, the UN Environment/MAP also published a Regional Survey on Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear and Ghost Nets.

37. The latest assessment product of the UN Environment/MAP is the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR). The 2017 MED QSR includes two dedicated chapters on marine litter (EO 10) under the Land and Sea-based Pollution core theme. The marine litter-related chapter is dedicated to IMAP Common Indicator 22 (i.e. Beach marine litter) and to IMAP Common Indicator 23 (i.e. Seafloor and floating marine litter including microplastics). In addition, a number of national case studies on marine litter from around the Mediterranean are supplementing the main marine litter chapters in order to provide a more comprehensive insight about the status of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

## **Article 12: Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme**

### Establishment of an Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme:

38. The Informal Online Working Group on Marine Litter was established in 2014. Two reports have been prepared addressing marine litter monitoring elements. Since then, four CORMON Marine Litter meetings have been held addressing marine litter monitoring elements.

### Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations:

39. IMAP Indicator Factsheets for the three Common and Candidate Indicators were developed to facilitate a coherent monitoring, and concrete guidance and references to the Contracting Parties to design and support the implementation of their revised national monitoring programmes towards the overall goal of implementing the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean Sea and achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine litter in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, metadata reporting templates were prepared for beach and seafloor marine litter and related Data Standards and Data Dictionaries have been also prepared for beach, seafloor and floating marine litter. Within the ongoing process for development of IMAP Pilot Info System the Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for Marine Litter were submitted for review to the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) Marine Litter (4 April 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro) with the view of their finalization and integration into IMAP Pilot Info System.

### Preparation of the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme

40. Decision IG.22/7 on IMAP contains a well-developed section on marine litter through three common indicators as follows:

- Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);

- Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor (EO10);
- Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (EO10)

41. The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) also agreed on a set of marine litter baseline values (contained in Annex II of the Decision IG 21/7) against which the implementation of Regional Plan programmes of measures should be assessed for indicative purposes. Such values will be subject to periodic adjustment based on additional new data originating from implementation of the National Marine Litter monitoring programmes, as well as their specification where appropriate at sub regional and/or national levels.

For the purpose of the Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol Design National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter:

42. The initial phase of IMAP implementation up to date (2016-2018) showcases a high level of progress by all Contracting Parties. In line with the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019, as well as with the support of the EU-funded EcAp-MED II and Marine Litter MED Projects, and most recently the GEF Adriatic Project, the development of respective national integrated monitoring and assessment programmes (national IMAPs) for marine is currently progressing in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Montenegro, Libya, and Morocco. A new national IMAP based monitoring programme has been successfully prepared for Israel, whilst completion of activities in Egypt, Libya and Morocco, within implementation of respective SSFAs, is expected by June 2019. Detailed information about the state of play of IMAP implementation related to marine litter (EO10) and its further developments can be found under WG.466/Inf.4 of this Meeting.

43. In addition, a set of H2020/NAP indicators with methodological specifications on solid waste including marine litter was developed for marine litter and waste management interfaces

Report, in accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, on the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme

44. As indicated in the previous section, work is ongoing by several Contracting Parties to implement or to develop marine litter monitoring programmes. The first set of monitoring data is extended in 2019.

Establishment of the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter

45. Info MAP system and the corresponding MED POL Data Bank are under development, expected to be finalized in 2019. Metadata templates for Beach and Seafloor Marine Litter have been approved in 2017. Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for beach and seafloor marine litter, as well as for floating microplastics have been developed in 2019, to support the ongoing process for development of IMAP Pilot Info System, with the view of their finalization and integration into IMAP Pilot Info System” by 2019.

**Article 13: Research topics and scientific cooperation**

Assistance for scientific cooperation:

46. Assistance for scientific cooperation is provided. The marine litter research priority list is adopted in COP 18 as an annex to Decision IG 21/7 and may require further prioritization. In addition, Chapter 6 of the 2015 Mediterranean Assessment on Marine Litter elaborates elements related to “Synergies and collaboration with several scientific projects addressing marine litter”. Scientific

Cooperation and participation are also enhanced through the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean with the participation of several research institutes around the Mediterranean. The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) should be further advanced for marine litter. Moreover, MAP Secretariat and MAP Components have participated in several scientific conference for marine litter (e.g. International Conference on Microplastic Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea” (μ MED), Capri, Italy, 26-29 Sept. 2017; PolyTalk 2018 – Zero Plastics to The Oceans, St Julian’s, Malta, 26-27 April 2018; 28th SETAC Europe Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy, 13-17 May 2018).

#### **Article 14: Specific guidelines**

##### Preparation of specific guidelines for measures listed in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan:

47. Guidelines for the implementation of Fishing-for-Litter measures were adopted in 2016 (COP 19). A list of existing marine litter management guidelines, and potential guidelines to be developed, were identified in 2016 and 2017.

48. In this respect, MAP Secretariat is currently working to develop the final versions of the following four regional guidelines:

- i. Guidelines for the implementation of the Adopt a beach measures in the Mediterranean;
- ii. Guidelines to phase out single-use plastic bags in the Mediterranean;
- iii. Guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system in the Mediterranean; and
- iv. Operational guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in the Mediterranean.

49. The final versions of the regional guidelines will be presented during the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (8-10 April 2019, Seville, Spain).

50. During the current 2018-2019 biennium, a socioeconomic analysis is under development by UN Environment/MAP Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre with the scope to further support the implementation of selected number of marine litter measures and the implementation of the corresponding guidelines.

#### **Article 15: Technical assistance**

##### Technical assistance, including capacity building provided:

51. With the support of the EU-funded EcAp MED II and Marine Litter MED projects, and in the framework of the Cooperation agreement with the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), technical assistance and support are being provided to several Contracting Parties in the form of pilot projects to implement selected measures provided under Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan i.e. “Prevention of Marine Litter” and “Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal”.

52. Capacity building workshops to support national implementation of IMAP and related criteria for marine litter, in cooperation with the IMAP Cluster of Pollution, as well as to facilitate the implementation of the “Adopt-a-Beach” and “Fishing-for-Litter” measures, were organized in Egypt (Alexandria, 26 – 28 February 2018), Morocco (Rabat, 19-20 February 2018) and Libya (Tunis, Tunisia, 12-15 March 2018). The workshops addressed the methodological and practical aspects related to monitoring and assessment of marine environment with regards to marine litter IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23. The IMAP monitoring protocols and assessment methods, sample processing, metadata, reporting templates, as well as the examples of existing national monitoring

schemes and capacities compared to IMAP requirements and the guidance factsheets have been presented and extensively discussed.

53. A training workshop on IMAP EO10 Marine Litter was organized in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 22 November 2018, in the framework of the GEF Adriatic Project, for national experts from Albania and Montenegro dealing with marine litter monitoring.

54. In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, training workshops focusing on the implementation of the AaB pilots at national level, with the scope to support the development of the national monitoring programmes on marine litter, and in particular on beach marine litter, were organized in Budva, Montenegro (23 November 2018), in Tirana, Albania (17-18 December 2018), and in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (6 February 2019).

55. Important exchange between the Contracting Parties took place in the Regional Meeting on IMAP Implementation: Best Practices, Gaps and Common Challenges (Rome, Italy, 10-12 July 2018).

56. The EU-funded Marine Litter MED project also focuses its work on reducing the impact of marine litter and microliter in the biota with a particular focus on the endangered species. The project objective is to improve the knowledge related to IMAP and its Candidate Indicator 24. This task has been assigned to the UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

57. Two special training sessions on sea turtles litter ingestion were organized during the 2017-2018 biennium, in cooperation and in synergy with the EU-funded INDICIT project. The first, English-speaking, training session for sharing technical skills on marine litter ingested by or entangled by sea turtles was successfully organized in Portici, Naples on 6 July 2017, with the participation of experts in sea turtle from Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel. A second, sub-regional, French-speaking, training session was organized in the rescue centre of Monastir, Tunisia, in 1-2 November 2018, with the participation of 10 experts in sea turtle, veterinarians and scientists from Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Both training sessions addressed a number of issues such as the observation of necropsy and dissection of a digestive tract for the collection of debris ingested by a loggerhead turtle, as well as different steps of collecting the marine litter from the oesophagus, stomach and intestines. The trainings also included practical sessions to perform some operations on intestines and samples, and to classify and identify all the types of marine litter in accordance with the most recent monitoring protocol(s). Both training sessions aimed at providing tools for technicians who will carry out the monitoring of marine litter ingested by sea turtles in the Mediterranean.

58. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Horizon 2020 Initiative, recognizes the importance of solid waste including marine litter as one of the three priority areas causing major pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. Reduction of marine litter at source requires effective solid waste management in land which will subsequently minimize the input of litter ending up in the marine and coastal environments. Sound information about the waste generated in land will assist the Mediterranean countries to set realistic quantifiable reduction targets.

59. Technical assistance is also provided, within Marine Litter Med project, on single-use plastic bags (Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon) and EPR (Morocco, Algeria). Furthermore, three technical workshop have been organized on H2020/NAP indicators and their methodological specifications on solid waste including marine litter within 2017-2018.

60. Two progress reports for the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan prepared (Oct. 2018 and Apr. 2019).

#### **Article 16: Enhancement of public awareness and education**

Undertaking, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and in partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production:

61. Further support is required with more targeted actions towards this direction. Two marine litter side events were organized at COP 19 and COP 20, and a side on marine litter for the Mediterranean was organized during UNEA 2.

62. The two editions of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter were shared among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2016 and 2017.

63. The under-development Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter (exp. to be finalized in first half of 2019) is expected to further assist the effectiveness in the implementation of Article 16, as will further include educational material and relevant information.

#### **Article 17: Major groups and stakeholder participation**

Ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Regional Plan and other measures

64. Broad participation of stakeholders including NGOs and civil society, private sector etc. in the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter. The MAP Environment Friendly City Award includes strong criteria on marine litter management.

#### **Article 18: Regional and international cooperation**

Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives

65. At the initiative of UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat, a Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter was established in the Mediterranean in 2016. The Platform is an open-ended group established on a voluntary basis, composed of over 20 regional and international organisations. Three meetings of the Cooperation Platform have been organized in 2016, 2017 and 2018. A joint 2017 work plan has been agreed and reviewed. Furthermore action-oriented activities have been agreed for 2018-2019 and are currently implemented.

66. Cooperation among the European Regional Sea Conventions on marine litter has been a priority for MAP Secretariat. The fifth Coordination Meeting to review the progress in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter was organized and hosted by UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat (Vrachati, Greece, 4-5 July 2018).

67. UN Environment/MAP established in the past few years a very strong cooperation link with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC). An agreement was also established with the BSC to support the implementation of a number of activities regarding the development of a Monitoring Programme and an Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea Region, as well as to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two Secretariats. The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea Region was adopted in October 2018, by the Black Sea countries. The next step will be the endorsement of the corresponding monitoring programme for marine litter for the Black Sea region (exp. within 2019).

68. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), in the framework of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), is

establishing Regional Nodes on Marine Litter to coordinate, assist, and facilitate the establishment of cooperation mechanisms at regional level. In that respect, GPA/GPML is financially supporting UN Environment/MAP to establish a Regional/Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter which aims to support the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter will be hosted by the GPML Platform and its child-site will be presented during UNEA 4 (11-15 March 2019, Nairobi, Kenya).

69. Furthermore, in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS the enhancement of coordination at Regional Seas level is supported with the view to further contributing to the G7 agenda on marine litter, including:

- i. Mapping of processes, initiatives, and mandates to set common goals and ensure better coordination of the collective responses to marine litter;
- ii. Harmonization and standardization of methodologies in particular for monitoring and assessment and reporting; and
- iii. Communication of activities to enhance awareness raising and involvement of stakeholders, and to promote partnerships, including with the private sector;

70. UN Environment/MAP works in close cooperation with the UN Environment Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), benefiting and contributing to the Manila Declaration, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), and also supporting the #CleanSeas and #BeatPlasticPollution Campaigns and related marine litter initiatives.

71. The Secretariat brought to the attention of the G7 and G20 the important progress and related work that has been undertaken on marine litter in the Mediterranean under the coordination of the UN Environment/MAP.

72. Within the framework of the 2017 Italian G7 Presidency, a Workshop on Marine Litter was organized in April 2017 in Rome by the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), in collaboration with UN Environment/ MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat. The aim of the Workshop was to review the relevance of the work of the Regional Seas Programmes and their contribution to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter. For the first time, the G7 countries' representatives; the Regional Sea Programmes where G7 countries were present; some of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations; numerous partners including research and academia; and government and private sectors reviewed together the state of implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter; the relevance of the regional activities with regards to the progress of their implementation; lessons learned and shared priorities.

73. The main considerations and conclusions of the G7 Workshop on Marine Litter are included in the document entitled "*The way forward - the relevance of the regional dimension in the implementation of the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter*". These conclusions were further brought to the attention of the 2017 G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting, held in Bologna on 11-12 June, and contributed to the preparation of the Marine Litter Chapter of the G7 Communiqué. The 2017 Bologna Communiqué acknowledges, among others, the role of the Regional Seas Programmes in establishing and implementing coherent and coordinated regional basin-wide approaches to combat marine litter. In addition, the 2018 Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities includes a specific reference, under the Ocean Plastics Charter, highlighting the role of the Regional Seas Programmes in accelerating the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.

74. During the G20 High Level Conference on Marine Litter, the outcome of which was the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter, the Secretariat stressed the need for translating the Action Plan into real practical measures; defining targets and monitoring mechanisms; leveraging political will and resources; and developing projects and joint messages in international fora. In addition, it was

highlighted that much work is already implemented on marine litter and that it is crucial to build on the added value of the G20 in terms of political and financial mobilization, cooperation and technical assistance, dissemination of knowledge and partnership-building.

Direct cooperation of Contracting Parties, with assistance of the MED POL or competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary marine litter cases:

75. Progress is expected within 2019: Reports are expected to be sent to MAP Secretariat during first quarter of 2019, as part of biannual annual implementation reports.

#### **Article 19: Reporting**

National biennial reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan:

76. BCRS reporting in progress.

Regional report on the implementation of the Regional Plan:

77. This evaluation document addresses this requirement.

Review the status of the implementation of the Regional Plan:

78. Final report is expected in 2021.