



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/16



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

28 April 2017
Original: English

Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points

Rome, Italy, 29-31 May 2017

Agenda item 9: Other Specific Issues

Report on Specific Issues

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Explanatory Note by the Secretariat

The present Specific Issues Report brings to the attention of MED POL Focal Points four key processes addressing specific issues related to pollution reduction and prevention, in line with the MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2016-2017, COP19, 2016 (Decision IG. 22/20). These processes and related issues as described below, require guidance from the MEDPOL Focal points for follow up:

- (a) Implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM: Updated list of hotspots and sensitive areas; Investment Portfolio Funding criteria, Core NAP follow up indicators
- (b) Updated list of priority contaminants for monitoring purposes
- (c) Boosting of the implementation of ENI SEIS II South and Marine Litter MED EU funded Projects
- (d) Prospects of the new GEF funded MedProgramme: Pollution reduction and prevention component

Table of contents

	Page
1. Follow up of the implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM.....	1
1.1. Updated List of Hotspots and Sensitive Areas.....	1
1.2. National Action Plan (NAP) Investment Portfolio Funding criteria.....	3
1.3. Core NAP Follow up Indicators.....	7
2. Updated list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean	11
3. Implementation of ENI SEIS II South and Marine Litter MED EU funded Projects.....	14
3.1. ENI SEIS II South.....	14
3.2. Marine Litter MED.....	16
4. Preparation of pollution related projects under the new MedProgramme funded by GEF.....	19

List of Abbreviations / Acronyms

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
COP	Conference of the Parties
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EEA	European Environment Agency
ELV	Emission Limit Values
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EO	Ecological Objective
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
H2020	Horizon 2020
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
Info-RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
LBS Protocol	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea
ML	Marine Litter
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
NAPs	National Action Plans
PoM	Programme of Measures
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PoW	Programme of Work
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
QSR	Quality Status Report
REACH	Registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SAP-MED	Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities
SCP/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructure
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SPA/RAC	Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas
SSFA	Small-Scale Funding Agreement
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

1. Follow up of the implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM

Introduction

1. The updated NAPs endorsed by COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016, demonstrate a high level of commitment towards the pollution reduction/elimination-related obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the Regional Plans adopted in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol. The updated NAPs have fully streamlined the pollution and litter GES and related targets approved by the MAP/Barcelona Convention system in the framework of ecosystem approach roadmap implementation. It is expected that the successful and effective implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM measures and as appropriate, priority investment portfolios, will systematically contribute in a concrete manner to the achievement of pollution and litter related GES targets by 2020 and 2025 for a cleaner and healthy Mediterranean.

2. In parallel, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which are EU Member States undertook, in the framework of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the obligation to develop and adopt Programmes of Measures as part of their Marine Strategies, in view of achieving and/or maintaining GES. In order to reduce the administrative burden and avoid duplication of work, due to their relevance, it was decided that the EU MSFD PoM (the part addressing pollution related descriptors D5, D8, D9, D10) as well as, where appropriate, those elaborated under the EU WFD, would serve also as the updated NAPs, provided that they would take into consideration the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Regional Plans and ecosystem based GES and targets approved by COP Decisions of the Barcelona Convention.

3. The present section of the Specific Issues Report builds on the Working Document WG.426/3* “Synopsis of updated NAPs: Hotspots, sensitive areas, targets, measures, indicators and investment portfolios” submitted to the Regional Meeting on NAPs implementation held in Marseille, in October 2016 (presented as information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 439/Inf.16).

1.1. Updated List of Hotspots and Sensitive Areas

4. The present report has reviewed the information provided in the updated NAPs of 12 Contracting Parties. From the Contracting Parties that are EU Member States, only Cyprus NAP provides information on the updated hotspot list, and has been included in the present report. The list of hotspots and/or sensitive areas will be further updated by MED POL based on the publication of final PoM in English or French of the Contracting Parties which are Member States of the EU and the three Contracting Parties which have not yet concluded the NAP update process.

5. Based on the NAP Update Guidelines¹, the countries assessed the hotspots identified in the 2004-2005 NAPs following a set of criteria, and provided updated lists of hotspots. The criteria used for the assessment and update of hotspot lists are:

- (a) Public health
 - i. Population
 - ii. Wastewater treatment
 - iii. Drinking water quality
 - iv. Bathing water quality

- (b) Environmental Status and Pressures

¹ Guidelines for updating National Action Plans for the implementation of the LBS Protocol and its Regional Plans in the framework of SAP MED to achieve Good Environmental Status for pollution related ECAP ecological objectives (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.404/7 Annex IV)

- i. Organic matter
- ii. Nutrients and biological status
- iii. Contaminants
- iv. Marine litter

(c) Economics

- i. Economic activities (and ecosystem services underpinning them)
- ii. Investment

(d) Transboundary effects

6. On the basis of these criteria and a ranking system set out in the NAP Update Guidelines, the countries have distinguished in their updated NAPs three categories of hotspots, according to their importance:

- A. Priority Hotspots
- B. Hotspots (high risk areas)
- C. Potential hotspots/sensitive areas
- D. No Hotspot

7. A full list of updated hotspots for the assessed countries can be found in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/Inf.16.

8. This analysis reveals that in the 12 assessed NAPs there are in total 32 Priority Hotspots (category A), 36 hotspots/high risk areas (category B) and 37 potential sensitive areas (category C). The environmental issues characterizing these hotspots include large population growth, unregulated industrial activities and solid waste/marine litter management problems. These environmental issues are related to the three pollution related ecological objectives (EO 5, EO9, EO10) and in line with the common operational targets set out in the updated NAPs by the Contracting Parties.

9. As it was also highlighted by the Regional Experts Meeting on NAPs implementation (Marseille, October 2016), there has been significant achievement accomplished by the Contracting Parties in reducing the number of hotspots. However there remain a considerable number of hotspots of Categories A and B and every effort should be exercised to eliminate them. Strong synergies with H2020 investment component including MeHSIP and other relevant available mechanisms should be further strengthened and streamlined for that purpose (see chapter 1.2).

10. Figure 1 provides a comparison between the number of priority hotspots, high risk areas (hotspots) and sensitive areas (potential hotspots) per country.

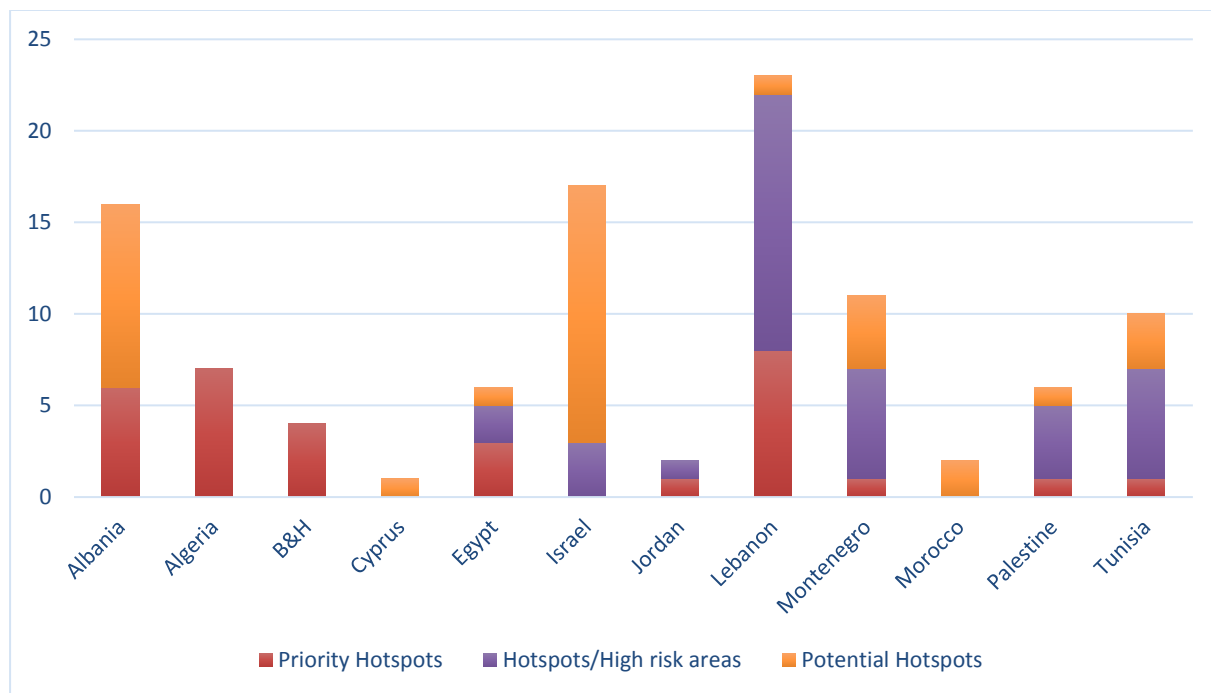


Fig. 1: Comparison of the number and types of hotspots for the assessed updated NAPs

11. This analysis and partial picture will and should be complimented with data and information from all Contracting Parties once officially submitted.

12. The Contracting Parties are invited to undertake similar analysis at national level and or provide the required information or indicate the source of information which would allow MED POL to prepare a Mediterranean list of hotspots/high risk areas/sensitive areas.

1.2. National Action Plan (NAP) Investment Portfolio Funding criteria

13. The implementation of updated NAP priority measures requires significant investments. It is important to prioritize as much as possible the identified NAP investment projects, in order to increase the funding opportunities. The concept of flagship projects, to be selected based on a screening process presented below as developed by UfM, could increase funding opportunities.

14. The screening process includes:

- (a) Pre-screening of Projects for socio-economic and environmental conditions
- (b) Assessment of Project cross-border impacts

15. Conditions and scoring criteria for flagship projects are presented in Tables 1, and 2.

Table 1. Pre-screening of projects for socio-economic and environmental conditions

STAGE I: PRE-SCREENING OF PROJECTS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS				
Prioritisation categories	Scoring criteria			
	4	3	2	1
Project targets critical infrastructures (municipal wastewater treatment facilities, reception facilities for solid waste and marine litter, BAT/BEP) alleviating impacts on the Mediterranean marine environment	Project includes wastewater treatment facilities or solid waste reception facilities or BAT/BEP that <u>directly</u> reduce discharge of pollutants to Sea	Project includes wastewater treatment facilities or solid waste reception facilities or BAT/BEP that <u>indirectly</u> reduce discharge of pollutants to Sea	Project includes <u>other types of infrastructure</u> (i.e. WWTP or reception facilities or BAT/BEP are not foreseen)	Consists mainly of <u>soft measures</u> with infrastructure construction budget of less than 50%
Project is effective in meeting the long-term provisions of the SAP; the legally binding measures of the regional plans and their implementation timetables; and GES targets ²	Project measures will fulfill <u>all</u> applicable legal requirements of the regional plans; hence reducing discharge of nutrients and BOD and/or heavy metals and/or quantity of marine litter from source by more than 75%	Project measures will fulfill <u>some</u> applicable legal requirements of the regional plans; hence reducing discharge of nutrients and BOD and/or heavy metals and/or quantity of marine litter from source between 50% and 75%	Project measures will fulfill <u>few</u> applicable legal requirements of the regional plans; hence reducing discharge of nutrients and BOD and/or heavy metals and/or quantity of marine litter from source between 25% and 50%	Project measures will <u>not</u> fulfill applicable legal requirements of the regional plans; hence reducing discharge of nutrients and BOD and/or heavy metals and/or quantity of marine litter from source less than 25%
Project incorporates measures to reduce climate change impacts	Climate change is mainstreamed into project design whereby related project measures are integrated into ongoing sectoral and development planning and decision-making	Project design includes mitigation and adaptation measures such as new technological advancements that alleviate impacts of climate change, but these measures are not tied to ongoing sectoral and development plans	Project design includes simple add-on measures with no significant impact on climate change	Project design does not demonstrate any aspect related to climate change

² The legally binding measures, adopted in the context of implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol, include plans and standards to reduce input of BOD, Mercury and POPs from municipal wastewater facilities and industrial facilities into the Mediterranean Sea. They also include a strategic framework and plan for marine litter management, in addition to criteria and standards for bathing waters quality.

STAGE I: PRE-SCREENING OF PROJECTS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS				
Prioritisation categories	Scoring criteria			
	4	3	2	1
Project promotes ecologically sound, socially just and economically robust developments	Project includes measures that address principal environmental issues; contributes to improvement of the livelihood of people otherwise socially marginalized; and contributes positively to better economic conditions of the local community	Project includes measures that address principal environmental issues and contributes positively to improving the economic conditions of the local community; but ignores aspects of social equity in addressing the needs of all segments of society (<i>i.e. project may be implemented in a well-off area, ignoring other poor areas with similar environmental conditions</i>)	Project focuses only on measures addressing principal environmental issues. It has no contribution on improving the economic conditions of the local community, nor does it touch on aspects of social equity	Project impacts are very localized with no significant contribution to resolving principal environmental issues, or for improving economic conditions of the local community, or for contributing to social equity among different segments of society
Project invests in building human capital, improving institutional structures and reforming national regulatory frameworks	Project includes accompanying measures for training employees of benefiting agency on operation and maintenance of new infrastructure facilities. Project includes also concrete measures for institutional restructuring of benefiting agency. In addition, project contributes in a concrete manner to sector reform (<i>e.g. reform of regulatory framework</i>)	Project includes accompanying measures for training employees on operation and maintenance of new infrastructure facilities, and attempts to carry out institutional restructuring of benefiting agency. No measures are carried out on the sector level	Project includes only special provisions for training employees of benefiting agency on operation and maintenance of new infrastructure facilities. No measures are carried out for institutional restructuring of benefiting agency or for sector reform	Project does not make any provisions for training of employees of benefiting agency, and does not propose any measure for institutional restructuring or sector reform

Table 2. Assessment of project cross-border impacts

STAGE II: ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT CROSS-BORDER IMPACTS				
Prioritisation categories	Scoring criteria			
	4	3	2	1
Project reduces environmental risks caused by hotspots on the Mediterranean marine environment	Project measures effectively eliminate <u>all</u> principal environmental issues identified in a hotspot or high risk area affecting the Mediterranean marine environment	Project measures do not eliminate <u>some</u> principal environmental issues identified in a hotspot or high risk area affecting the Mediterranean marine environment	Project measures do not address <u>any</u> principal environmental issue identified in a hotspot or high risk area affecting the Mediterranean marine environment	Project is geographically located <u>outside</u> identified hotspots or high risk areas affecting the Mediterranean marine environment
Attributes of cross-border impacts have been considered in designing project measures and planned activities	Project design incorporates measures that contribute <u>significantly</u> to the elimination of principal environmental issues identified cross-border to neighbouring countries (<i>e.g. eliminating discharge of <u>all</u> pollutants identified in a neighbouring country's border area as priority pollutants to be eliminated</i>)	Project design incorporates measures that contribute <u>moderately</u> to the elimination of principal environmental issues identified cross-border to neighbouring countries (<i>e.g. eliminating discharge of <u>some</u> pollutants identified in a neighbouring country's border area as priority pollutants to be eliminated</i>)	Project design incorporates measures that contribute <u>slightly</u> to the elimination of principal environmental issues identified cross-border to neighbouring countries (<i>e.g. eliminating discharge of <u>few</u> pollutants identified in a neighbouring country's border area as priority pollutants to be eliminated</i>)	Project design incorporates measures with <u>no</u> effective contribution to cross-border environmental impacts to neighbouring countries (<i>e.g. pollutants eliminated by project are <u>not</u> an issue or of concern for a neighbouring country's border area. Other pollutants have priority and these are not addressed by the project</i>)

16. The meeting of the MED POL Focal Points is invited to provide feedback and comments on the proposed criteria and advise the Secretariat accordingly.

1.3. Core NAP Follow up Indicators

17. Annex E of the NAPs update Guidelines (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.404/7) provided for a list of indicators including the H2020 Indicators, IMAP indicators and other indicators addressing the pollution related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and the Regional Plans. In accordance with these Guidelines, the Contracting Parties prepared a follow-up and reporting plan in order to track the performance of NAPs implementation.

18. The list of indicators presented in the individual NAPs does not offer a consistent way to benchmark performance among the various Mediterranean countries as these vary in content and scope. In order to systematically assess the progress in NAPs implementation, it is necessary to establish a set of core NAP indicators; one which can be used by all countries and MED POL to monitor the status of implementation of the NAPs, and to assess progress made in the realization of the programmes of measures and/or investment projects.

19. The following criteria were considered in the establishment of a common list of indicators:

- (a) Indicators should be in line with the common operational targets, regarding the three ecological objectives (EO5, EO9 and EO10) (see document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/Inf.16);
- (b) Indicators should, to the extent possible, be in line with IMAP common indicators already included in the NAP follow up Guidelines³;
- (c) Indicators should, to the extent possible, be in line the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators⁴;
- (d) Indicators should have been selected, if possible, by a number of countries in their NAPs (ideally over half the NAP countries); and
- (e) Total number of indicators should not exceed 15; covering all three ecological objectives (EO5, EO9 and EO10).
- (f) Indicators should establish a clear link between the measures, pressures and impacts/state.

20. Based on the above criteria, 15 core NAP indicators, divided into five indicators for EO5, five indicators for EO9, and five indicators for EO10, were thought to be proposed as core NAP follow up indicators to the attention of the MED POL Focal Points. (Tables 3, 4, and 5 respectively).

Table 3: Proposed core NAP indicators to fulfill the operational targets under EO5 and applicability to SDG and NAP-reported indicators, including IMAP and H2020 indicators

³ Decision IG.20/4. Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap.

⁴ Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1), Annex IV.

Common operational targets under EO5	Proposed NAP indicators under EO5	Type of indicator and reference			
		NAP Guideline Ref. No. ⁵	IMAP ⁶ Ref. No. ³	SDG Ref. No. ⁴	Reported in NAPs
Provide XX% of agglomerations in excess of 2000 inhabitants with wastewater collection and treatment [2019 to 2025]	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural)	WW01		6.2.1 ⁷	6
	Volume of wastewater collected, of which volume of wastewater treated (in population equivalent)	WW02			4
	Wastewater treated (in population equivalent)	WW03		6.3.1 ⁸	7
Reduce by XX% of BOD discharged to water bodies [2018 to 2021]	Total loads of BOD5, Total nitrogen, Total phosphorus discharged to the Mediterranean Sea from urban wastewater treatment	WW05			5
	Concentration of key nutrients in the water column	WW06	5.1.1		5

Table 4: Proposed core NAP indicators to fulfill the operational targets under EO9 and applicability to SDG and NAP-reported indicators, including IMAP and H2020 indicators

Common operational targets under EO9	Proposed NAP indicators under EO9	Type of indicator and reference			
		NAP Guideline Ref. No. ⁵	IMAP ⁶ Ref. No. ³	SDG Ref. No. ⁴	Reported in NAPs
Reduce discharge of hazardous substances from industrial plants (apply BAT/BEP) by XX% or dispose in a safe manner [2020 to 2025]	Number of substances covered by national standards (ELV), for point source discharges into water or air	IND05			5
	Concentration of key harmful contaminants in the relevant matrix (biota, sediment, seawater)	IND01	9.1.1		5
	The amount of hazardous wastes environmentally soundly managed or exported by Y categories and by disposal/recovery operation (D-disposal, R- recovery, as well as	HW02			3

⁵ UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.404/7

⁶ It should be noted that in cases where an IMAP indicator is identified and added to the table, it is the same indicator as the one used in the NAP Guideline indicator column.

⁷ SDG indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand washing facility with soap and water

⁸ SDG indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of wastewater safely treated

Common operational targets under EO9	Proposed NAP indicators under EO9	Type of indicator and reference			
		NAP Guideline Ref. No. ⁵	IMAP ⁶ Ref. No. ³	SDG Ref. No. ⁴	Reported in NAPs
	treated in waste to energy facilities)				
	Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment			12.4.2 ⁹	
	Share of contaminated sites with toxic, persistent and liable to accumulate substances in the coastal area which have been closed/remediated including spills from industrial accidents	IND06			4

Table 5: Proposed core NAP indicators to fulfill the operational targets under EO10 and applicability to SDG and NAP-reported indicators, including IMAP and H2020 indicators

Common operational targets under EO10	Proposed NAP indicators under EO10	Type of indicator and reference			
		NAP Guideline Ref. No. ⁵	IMAP ⁶ Ref. No. ³	SDG Ref. No. ⁴	Reported in NAPs
Provide for the collection of XX% of solid waste [2019 to 2025]	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities			11.6.1 ¹⁰	
Construct XX municipal solid waste landfills [2019 to 2025]					
Adopt good practices in solid waste management including waste reduction, sorting, recycling, recovery, and reuse [2020 to 2025]	Share of recycled, landfilled and incinerated municipal waste with respect to collected amount	MW05		12.5.1 ¹¹	5

⁹ SDG indicator 12.4.2: Hazardous wastes generated per capita and proportion of hazardous wastes treated, by type of treatment

¹⁰ SDG indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities

¹¹ SDG indicator 12.5.1: National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

Common operational targets under EO10	Proposed NAP indicators under EO10	Type of indicator and reference			
		NAP Guideline Ref. No. ⁵	IMAP ⁶ Ref. No. ³	SDG Ref. No. ⁴	Reported in NAPs
Regulate/reduce usage/ discharge of XX% of fraction of plastics [2015 to 2025]	Amounts/trends of marine litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines, including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source.	MW01	10.1.1		6
	Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density			14.1.1 ¹²	
Close/ remediate XX% of illegal solid waste dump sites [2019 to 2020]	Share of existing illegal solid waste dumpsites on land that have been closed (in past 10 years) with respect to the total number	MW07			5

21. To further substantiate the selection of the 15 core NAP indicators, an effort was made to examine whether the NAP priority measures (see document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/Inf.16) would provide the necessary data and information for determining these indicators.

Table 6: Cross-link between the common priority investment measures and the core NAP indicators

EO	Proposed core NAP indicators	Common priority measures
EO5	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural)	Build/ extend sewage networks
	Volume of wastewater collected, of which volume of wastewater treated (in population equivalent)	
	Wastewater treated (in population equivalent)	Build/ expand/ upgrade municipal wastewater treatment plants
	Total loads of BOD5, Total nitrogen, Total phosphorus discharged to the Mediterranean Sea from urban wastewater treatment	
	Concentration of key nutrients in the water column	
EO9	Number of substances covered by national standards (ELV), for point source discharges into water or air	Build/ expand/ upgrade IWWTP
	Concentration of key harmful contaminants in the relevant matrix (biota, sediment, seawater)	
	The amount of hazardous wastes environmentally soundly managed or exported by Y categories and by disposal/recovery operation (D-disposal, R- recovery, as well as treated in waste to energy facilities)	Build/ expand/ upgrade hazardous waste landfill facility
	Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	

¹² SDG indicator 14.1.1: Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density

EO	Proposed core NAP indicators	Common priority measures
	Share of contaminated sites with toxic, persistent and liable to accumulate substances in the coastal area which have been closed/remediated including spills from industrial accidents	Remediate contaminated industrial sites
EO10	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	Establish/ reinforce collection of municipal waste
		Construct/ upgrade municipal solid waste landfills
	Share of recycled, landfilled and incinerated municipal waste with respect to collected amount	Strengthen waste collection and disposal systems
	Amounts/trends of marine litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines, including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source.	
	Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	
Share of existing illegal solid waste dumpsites on land that have been closed (in past 10 years) with respect to the total number	Close and rehabilitate illegal dump sites	

22. In conclusion, it can be stated that the proposed core NAP indicators (compiled in a single list in Table 6), constitute a feasible list of indicators for follow-up by the Contracting Parties and MED POL on NAPs implementation progress. Therefore, it is recommended that this list, further reviewed and adjusted for a better integration with the relevant SDG indicators, can be used as a monitoring and follow-up tool for benchmarking work progress among the various Mediterranean countries on the implementation of the NAPs and of H2020.

23. The meeting of the MED POL Focal Points is invited to provide feedback and guidance on this proposal taking into account the work undertaken in the framework of the SEIS Project.

2. Updated list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean

Introduction

24. The advancement of the methods and extraction techniques in environmental analytical chemistry in the latest two decades has favored the detection and quantification of hundreds of new chemicals in the environment. In this context, the international conventions and organizations are also evaluating periodically these lists of harmful substances on a risk-based approach for both the environment and human health protection. The lists include a number of priority chemicals for action and substances of concern or candidate chemicals to be followed up.

25. The MED POL Focal Points meeting held in Malta in June 2015 discussed the updating of the priority list of contaminants and presented an initial proposal (UNEP(DEPI)/MED.417/4 and WG.417/Inf.13). The LBS Protocol and SAP-MED lists of contaminants were reviewed and compared with requirements/ lists of the relevant UN Conventions, OSPAR, HELCOM, EU WFD, MSFD, REACH as well as with available research results in an attempt to compile a more pertinent and up to date list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean for further policy actions and monitoring.

26. The 2015 MED POL Focal Points meeting concluded that substances identified in almost all of the reviewed lists –referred to as the Group 1 substances in the UNEP(DEPI)/ MED WG.417/4 – merited strong attention and further actions by the Contracting Parties in the framework of the LBS Protocol implementation. For the other two groups (substances necessitating additional scientific information and those included in the WFD priority list of substances) the meeting concluded it was too early to require their inclusion in the monitoring programmes and recommended additional analyses to be carried out.

27. The Secretariat was requested to follow relevant developments in the region and to provide periodical updates and feedback to the Focal Points. In this respect, a further review was conducted of the priority environmental chemicals lists and the know-how to this regard in the Mediterranean Sea to allow proposing a candidate list of additional chemicals (mostly, synthetic organochlorinated compounds, phenols, pharmaceuticals, hormones and metals/elements) in light of the evidences of their environmental occurrence in the marine environment. The aim of this chapter of the Specific Issues Report is to provide in a summarized manner the rationale for the selection of candidate chemicals to be included in the monitoring in the Mediterranean Sea under IMAP and the MED POL Programme for the coming years. The full report is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/Inf.11.

28. For the selection of the candidate substances the following points have been considered:

- (a) Recommendation as per other RSCs and relevant organisations;
- (b) Research studies pointing to potential threat to the marine environment;
- (c) Public health importance;
- (d) Budget of production, uses and/or emissions;
- (e) Analytical Quality Assurance frameworks;
- (f) Laboratory (analytical methods) considerations;
- (g) Target mussel and sediment matrices (current MED POL monitoring strategies).

Conclusions and Recommendations

29. Following are conclusions and recommendations on the updated list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean:

- (a) A candidate chemical list, as presented below, has been proposed as a complementary target for inclusion in the monitoring programme in the future;
- (b) Some of the proposed chemicals are under the lists of different Regional Seas Conventions and relevant environmental organisations worldwide;
- (c) The majority of the proposed substances could be determined with low to medium input into current analytical procedures, and/or improve the current ones;
- (d) In parallel to the analytical determination of new chemicals, quality assurance and standardized methodologies for sampling, sample processing, determination and quantification should be observed;
- (e) The inclusion of these substances in monitoring programmes should provide with further environmental information of the threats posed in the marine environment;
- (f) The availability of information, including toxicity, will allow to take action on programmes of measures for their control and/or ban.
- (g) The proposed list takes into consideration the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED) and the revised National Action Plans (NAPs) in line with the adopted road map for the implementation of the Ecosystem

Approach (EcAp) and the Good Environmental Status (GES) overall target in the Mediterranean Sea.

- (h) In this way, a circular environmental management is established between the emissions/releases of harmful substances and their environmental monitoring (ca. MED POL Programme) under the SAP-MED, to enter in action.

Table 7. Proposed Candidate Chemicals List (2017) (see Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/Inf.11)

Categories	Substances (and primary target matrices)
Organohalogenated compounds	Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) – b, s
	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) – b, s
	Perperfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) – b, s
	Perfluorobutanesulfonate (PFBS) – b, s
	Tetrabromobisphenol (TBBP-A) – b, s
	Dicofol (pesticide) – b, s
	Hexabromocyclododecanes (HCDs) – b, s
	Endosulfan (pesticide) – b, s
	Hexachlorocyclohexane isomers (HCHs) – b, s
	Methoxychlor (pesticide) – b, s
	Pentachlorophenol (PCP) (pesticide) - b, s
Trifluralin (pesticide) – b, s	
Organic nitrogen compounds	4-(dimethylbutylamino)dyphenilamin (6PPD) – b, s
Organic ester	Neodecanoic acid, ethenyl ester – w, b, s
Environmental phenols	Nonylphenol/Ethoxylates (NPs/NPEs) – w, s
	Octylphenol/Ethoxylates (Ops/OPEs) – w, s
	2, 4, 6-tri-tert-butylphenol – w, s
Pharmaceuticals	Clotrimazole – w
	Triclosan (phenol) and by-products – w, b
	NSAIDs (e.g. Diclofenac) – w, b
	Other antibiotics, bactericides, etc. – w, b, s
Hormones	Estrone (E1) – w
	17 β Estradiol (E2) – w
	17 α Ethylinestradiol (EE1) – w
Phtalate esters	Dibutylphthalate (DBP) - s
	Diethylhexylphthalate (DEHP) – s
Synthetic musks	Musk xylene
	Tonalide (AHTN) - w, b, s
	Galaxolide (HHCB) – w, b, s
Plastic additives (BVUSs)	Benzotriazoles (e.g. UV-P, UV-320, UV-326, UV-327, UV-328) – b, s
Metals/Elements	Arsenic – b, s
	Barium – b, s
	Iron – b, s
	Manganese – b, s
	Molybdenum – b, s
	Nickel – w, b, s
	Vanadium – w, b, s
Organometallic compounds	Organic mercury (e.g. methylmercury) – b (fish)

Note: w-seawater, b-biota and s-sediment

3. Implementation of ENI SEIS II South and Marine Litter MED EU-funded projects

3.1. ENI SEIS II South

30. As indicated in the Progress report (Paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/3), EEA and UN Environment /MAP are jointly implementing the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism Project (hereinafter referred to as SEIS II).

31. The Project has four main expected outcomes as presented below:

- R1: The H2020 indicators set is established, refined and complemented in order to be able to serve multiple purposes, as well as to ensure that the progress of achieving H2020 objectives is properly measured, while also contributing to assessing compliance with commitments under the Barcelona Convention;
- R2: The in-country processes for organizing sharing of data sets underlying the H2020 indicators are established;
- R3: The infrastructure for reporting offered by the EEA (Reportnet) and UN Environment (UN Environment/MAP InfoMAP platform including the MED POL Infosystem) is more widely used;
- R4: Indicator-based H2020 report(s) and assessments are produced in line with good practices from the EU region. This will be complemented by similar reports developed for the EU and West Balkan countries under the upcoming MSFD reporting cycle (2018) in order to come up with a comprehensive picture of the whole Mediterranean region and align the various reporting processes.

32. Work under SEIS Project is structured under four clusters (water, waste, industrial emissions and cross-cutting issues) and around 6 Work Packages:

- WP1: In country support (MED POL with the countries)
- WP2: Indicators and Assessments (MED POL and Plan Bleu)
- WP3: Data and Statistics (MED POL and Plan Bleu)
- WP4: Infrastructure and Data Management (Info-RAC and MED POL)
- WP5: Communication and Visibility (all the three involved MAP components)
- WP6: Management and Coordination (all the three involved MAP components)

33. Important activities of relevance to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting are those foreseen in the framework of the Work Package 1 on in-country support. With a total budget of 681.000 Euros, this Work Package aims at providing support to the nine SEIS partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia) in enhancing their monitoring and assessment systems and infrastructure in line with SEIS principles, with an emphasis on the institutionalisation and better interaction of existing SEIS/H2020 national structures and committees.

34. In this respect, the Secretariat will develop and sign with the countries tailored legal agreements to respond to the specific needs of the countries. In doing so, there is a prior need for the countries to prepare concrete national work plans, indicating priority national activities to be supported as appropriate by the SEIS project. National SEIS Focal Points have been nominated in the partner countries, which are responsible for coordinating the implementation of SEIS Project at national level. Strong coordination with MED POL Focal Points is required.

35. In the initial work plans presented in the SEIS 1st Steering Committee Meeting, PRTR activities in most of the cases were missing. It is very important that most –if not all- of the national work plans include PRTR activities (development of PRTR legislation and implementation of PRTR pilots) in line with the regional objectives and MED POL priorities. It is expected therefore, that the updated national work plans will take this point into account.

36. Other activities that can be supported through the WP1 include the recruitment of a national SEIS coordinator; development of national policy/regulations on data sharing among different institutions; development of national protocols on data collection and reporting including quality assurance; refinement of national H2020 indicators, data flows, quality assurance and related assessments to fit reporting under NAP implementation and SDG related to pollution from land based sources; establishment of national assessment indicator facts sheets for all indicators etc.
37. In the light of important assessment reports foreseen for the period up to 2019 including the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR), the 2019 State of Environment and Development Report and the second H2020 assessment report in 2019, important activities are foreseen under the Work Package 2. Indicators and Assessment to ensure increased convergence of reporting processes and related assessment work (links with NAPs/LBS, Regional Plans, IMAP and MSFD implementation processes).
38. UN Environment/MAP (MED POL and Plan Bleu) is leading the work on waste and industrial emissions related indicators.
39. In order to facilitate the work on mainstreaming indicators and reporting obligations, the 1st SEIS Steering Committee and H2020 Review and Monitoring meeting agreed on the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group on indicators. Five partner countries volunteered to run this Working Group and the first meeting was set for 17-18 May 2017. A main objective of this Working Group coordinated by EEA and UN Environment/MAP is to review different sets of indicators including the NAPs, H2020, IMAP, MSSD, and SDG indicators in order to come up with a list of common indicators aiming to support the countries in monitoring progress against different targets and streamlining different reporting requirements. MED POL Focal Points are strongly encouraged to be member and/or represented in this group.
40. A summarized Work Plan for the Project implementation can be found in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Summarized updated ENI SEIS II South Work Plan

Activities / outputs	Responsible Division	2017	2018	2019
WP1. In country support				
Development and signature of SSFAs with countries	MEDPOL/CPs			
Implementation of the national work plan activities, through the SSFA, including recruitment of national coordinator, PRTR pilots and development of PRTR legislation	MEDPOL/CPs			
Regional activities to support implementation of national work plans (regional consultant, PRTR Guidelines etc.)	MEDPOL			
WP 2. Indicators and Assessment				
Development of new indicators on industrial emissions, nutrients and ML	MEDPOL/ PB			
H2020 indicator-based assessment national report and peer review, analysis and methodological documents on NAP and IMAP indicators and national capacity building activities on indicators and assessment	MEDPOL/ PB			
WP 3. Data and Statistics				
Joint methodology and assessment to take stock of gaps, tools, methodologies, quality assurance and infrastructure status related to data flows/data gathering on H2020 indicators	MEDPOL			
Methodology for countries to implement data and reporting and quality assurance system applied	Plan Bleu			
Technical workshops at national and regional level on data production, methodology, harmonisation and quality	MED POL/ PB			
WP 4. Infrastructure and data management				
Identification of the state of national databases and infrastructure for SDI and data management	Info-RAC			
Revision and adjustments to the regional data infrastructure and extension of MED POL info system	MED POL/ Info-RAC			
Development of data policy documents and SDI initiation at country level	Info-RAC			
Training of national experts on relevant IT aspects	Info-RAC			
WP 5. Communication and Visibility				
Development of standard templates, preparation of communication material, newsletters, and other relevant activities	MED POL/ PB/ Info-RAC			
WP 6. Management and Coordination				
Project management, participation in relevant meetings, and reporting on progress of implementation	MED POL/ PB/ Info-RAC			

3.2. Marine Litter MED

41. As indicated in the progress report (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG 439/3) the Marine Litter MED project was launched in July 2016 during the meeting “Enhancing the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean”, held in Tirana, Albania, 19-21 July 2016.

42. The main achievements in the framework of the implementation of Marine Litter MED project, are presented below:

- i. Implementation of “Fishing-for-Litter” and “Adopt-a-beach” pilots to achieve the marine litter reduction targets agreed in COP 19, in the pilot areas. “Fishing for Litter” pilots are planned in Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco. “Adopt a beach” pilots are planned in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Israel, Libya, and Morocco. SSFAs and related legal agreements have been finalized and signed with Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, and Israel, and in some cases funds have already become available to start implementing the pilots. SSFAs drawn up between UN Environment/MAP and Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya are still under negotiations and need to be finalized. The pilots are expected to start in early summer 2017;
 - ii. The development of the IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 has been assigned to RAC/SPA in consultation with UN Environment/MAP and its MED POL Programme. An SSFA has been developed, signed and funds have been already become available to RAC/SPA to start the implementation of the activities. The first step is already completed i.e. the report titled “*Definition of the most representative species for the Candidate Indicator 24 of IMAP*”, available in English and French. The following steps are to develop a specific protocol on monitoring the amount of litter ingested by or entangling the selected species to harmonize methods and data collection, capacity building on monitoring of sea turtles, and assess available data to propose GES targets with regards to the amounts of litter ingested by or entangling the sea turtles;
 - iii. The development and promotion of the legal framework for the banning of single-use plastic bags and sharing of best practices on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), have been assigned to SCP/RAC in consultation with UN Environment /MAP MED POL. An invitation to express interest has been addressed to the eligible countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon) and upon finalization of this process, further steps are already planned towards the implementation of the corresponding output activities;
 - iv. The application of charges at reasonable cost and, when appropriate, no-special fee system for the use of port reception facilities has been assigned to REMPEC;
 - v. The implementation of the activities at national level is still in a preparatory phase and haven’t yet started, due to difficulties faced for transferring the funds to the countries.
43. A summarized and updated work plan for the Marine Litter MED project is provided in the below listed table 9:

Table 9. Summarized updated Marine Litter MED Work Plan

Output / Activities	Responsible Division	2016	2017		2018		2019
A. Assisting the implementation of the ML Regional Plan at sub-regional levels with a particular focus on the up to five most common ML measures provided in the updated NAPs		S2	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1
“Fishing-for-Litter” and “Adopt-a-beach pilots (Activities: 3, 4.9-4.13).	MEDPOL and CPs						
Port Reception Facilities: application of charges at reasonable cost and/or No-Special-Fee system (Activities: 4.1-4.4).	REMPEC						
Promote non-single use plastic bags and EPR (Activities: 4.5-4.7).	SCP/RAC						
Develop a risk assessment tool for identifying accumulation areas of ghost-nets in the Mediterranean Sea (Activity: 4.8).	MEDPOL						
Develop IMAP Candidate Indicator 24(Activities: 4.14-4.17).	RAC/SPA MEDPOL						
B. Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional level to reduce and prevent ML generation from land-based and sea-base sources including pilot preventions (EU countries to participate on a no-cost basis)							
Draft Guidance Document to determine the application of charges at reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable of No-Special-Fee system, and Operational Guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes (Activities: 2-3).	REMPEC						
Draft Guidelines on “Adopt-a-beach” best practices (Activity: 4).	MEDPOL						
Draft template of legislation/regulation on the non-single use of plastic bags and Extended Producer responsibility (Activity: 5).	SCP/RAC MEDPOL						
Draft specific guidelines, awareness and training material to prevent the generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter with a particular focus on non-single use of plastic bags (Activity: 6).	SCP/RAC						
Organise regional and sub-regional expert meetings to review the guidance documents/guidelines for submission to MAP decision making bodies (Activity: 7).	MEDPOL And RACs						
C. Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the ML Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, with a particular focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission							
Establish and support a Mediterranean ML regional Coordination Group(annual meetings) (Activity: 1).	UNEP/MAP MEDPOL						
Support the establishment of an interregional ML coordination and consultation mechanism with the other European Regional Seas (annual meetings) (Activity: 2).	MEDPOL						
Strengthen the database of existing tools, expert networks, associations and organisations addressing ML management and of programmes of measures implemented in the Mediterranean (Activity: 3).	MEDPOL						

Output / Activities	Responsible Division	2016	2017	2018	2019
Establish bilateral collaboration with Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (biannual meeting), support the development of the Black Sea ML RP and a ML monitoring programme (Activities: 4-6).	MEDPOL				
Implement/organise joint activities with other EU Regional Seas Programmes to exchange experience and best practices on the implementation of the ML Regional Plan and development of common tools (Activity: 7).	UNEP/MAP MEDPOL				

44. It is important to actively participate in both Projects' activities taking into account that several outputs of the SEIS and Marine Litter MED projects are very much in line with the MTS, MAP and MED POL priorities.

45. The timely preparation of SEIS national action plans is crucial to operationalize the in-country support for the eligible countries. Preparation of the adequate legal instruments should be efficient and implementation of national activities should involve the relevant stakeholders.

46. In addition, every effort will be made to extend the scope of the work under both projects at Mediterranean level in line with the MAP Programme of work and priorities.

4. Preparation of pollution related projects under the new MedProgramme funded by GEF

47. Two child projects under the 1st component of the GEF Programme (i.e. Reduction of Land-Based Pollution in Priority Coastal Hotspots, and measuring progress to impact), are related to the Pollution Control and Prevention theme of the MAP PoW.

Child Project 1.1

(a) National

48. The scope of the activities of the first child project covers (i) the disposal of stock piles of POPs, two demonstration pilots on decontamination of sites (POPs hotspots) and prevention/reduction of POPs in terms of released in the industrial sector and landfills by implementing BAT, BEP and in the intentional use of POPs in products and activities.

49. The above activities will be supported through the application of relevant tools to enhance capacities in the targeted sectors with regard to (i) ESM disposal, management prevention and enforcement; (ii) reduction of mercury from the combustion sector and the cement sector; (iii) management plans for chlor-alkali conversion and closure of mines; Decontamination of sites management plans; mercury stockpiles elimination; (iv) prevention of mercury use in laboratories.

(b) Regional

50. This activity will specifically support (i) the update of the baseline situation (TDA) after over 10 years from the previous diagnostic, combined with a State of Environment report for the Mediterranean, fully integrating the findings of the Climate Change and Variability project, the Coastal Aquifer Supplement and Action Plan, and (ii) improved integration and sharing of existing monitoring and research data, through common protocols, reporting templates, data agreements for sharing data, linking and sharing of databases, strengthening the science and policy-making interface, training and capacity building of data institutions and ensuring greater access to data, comparability and more scientific/data driven assessments.

- (c) Expected Outcomes
- i. In coastal hotspots, measurable reduction of wastes and hazardous chemicals (POPs, Mercury) impacting human health and coastal habitats, through innovative practices, techniques and regulatory approaches.
 - ii. Update of the baseline situation (TDA), harmonization of monitoring protocols, methodologies and procedures in compliance with IMAP, including design of offshore reference network and gender assessment.
- (d) Project Targets
- i. Reduction/disposal of 2000 tons of POPs
 - ii. Reduction/disposal of 30 tons of Mercury
 - iii. Baseline TDA is updated by the end of the Programme.
 - iv. By the end of the Programme, report on progress to impacts and on the achievement of relevant SDGs.
 - v. Definition of minimum 20 locations for offshore reference monitoring stations.
 - vi. Data sharing regional policy prepared as an input for the deliberation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
- (e) Countries

National: Albania, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.
Regional: all GEF Countries.

Child Project 1.2

51. In line with National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the SAP-MED on land based pollution reduction, and in consistency with priorities and coastal management strategies emerging from the results of MedPartnership, this project will include major innovative investments, among the priorities listed below, in Mediterranean coastal areas at risk of groundwater over-exploitation, loss of coastal habitats and eutrophication. Besides the project will supply an additional constant source of water that can be used in agriculture and/or forestry and thus reducing the pressure on the already scarce water sources. GEF funding will support the selection and design of the investments, and the capacity building related to them.

(a) National Actions

- i. WWTP Extension and upgrade including treated wastewater reuse/reinjection (MAR)
Activities in this area will result in a reduction of organic pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea and causing coastal ecosystem degradation. Expected interventions in this area will include:
 - Extension in capacity of WWTPs in areas with important population growth so that the increasing wastewater amount can be treated.
 - Analysis of demand and options for reuse of treated wastewater (e.g. irrigation) and sludge (e.g. digestion for energy production)
 - Definition of the technical options to achieve the required level of wastewater and sludge treatment in WWTPs to meet the requirements for reuse as well as minimize the operation costs.
- ii. Depollution catchment area
Activities in this area will take a holistic approach to the depollution and water resources management at the level of catchments which are draining into the Mediterranean, in order to improve the human and environmental and health situation and reduce the contaminants loads entering the Mediterranean Sea. Expected interventions in this area will include:
 - Identification of point and diffuse sources of pollution at the catchment level to prioritize the environmental and health risks

- Definition of technical options for investment in depollution infrastructure (WWTP, solid waste landfills etc.)
- Definition of water resources management options with all stakeholders at the watershed level to guarantee sustainable use of resources.

iii. Treatment of industrial emissions and remediation of former industrial areas

Activities in this area will result in a reduction and control of chemical and organic pollution from past and present industrial activities in coastal areas impacting human health and livelihoods, and coastal ecosystems, thereby reducing pollution discharges to the Mediterranean sea. Expected interventions in this area will include:

- Construction of WWTP for industrial areas or units (e.g. tanneries, slaughterhouses, textile etc.)
- Remediation of soil and groundwater in contaminated industrial sites representing a health hazard

iv. Reduction of Mercury releases

Activities in this area will result in the preparation of pre-investment studies for Mercury decontamination and conversion of industrial processes that will unlock investments to reduce/dispose 20 tons of mercury.

(b) Regional Actions (UN Environment/MAP)

Development of common environmental standards with regards to desalination. Aquaculture, and waste water and sludge management and reuse prepared as an input for the deliberation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

(c) Expected outcomes

- i. In coastal hot spots, water security, human and ecosystem health, and climate resilience improved through investments on:
- ii. WWTPs upgrade and reuse of treated wastewater (including MAR);
- iii. Depollution of catchment areas;
- iv. Mercury emissions reduced.
- v. Remediation of former industrial areas;
- vi. Common environmental standards with regards to desalination, aquaculture, and wastewater treatment developed.

(d) Targets

- i. Risk reduction in at least two coastal hotspots.
- ii. Reduction of 20 tons of Mercury
- iii. At least 4 WWTP built or rehabilitated
- iv. At least 150,000 m³/d of additional waste-water treated to secondary level
- v. At least 20,000 m³/d of additional treated wastewater reused
- vi. At least 20,000 m³/d of additional sludge digested
- vii. Risk reduction in at least two coastal hotspots.
- viii. Common regional standards on waste water and sludge management and reuse prepared as an input for the deliberation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

(e) Countries

National: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia
Regional: all GEF Countries

52. Child project 1.1 is under the responsibility of CU through MED POL, while child project 1.2 is under the responsibility of EIB.

53. Based on the information provided above on both projects it is obvious that their linkages with IMAP and NAP implementation are very strong and project activities will substantively contribute to the implementation of the MTS 2016-2021.

54. The preparation phase of the projects has started. It is expected to present the project proposal and document to GEF by June 2018 at the latest for the first project. It is important to design a realistic project in collaboration with the countries and make sure that regional activities and required consultation processes are fully in line with the MTS priorities and decision making process.

55. The Secretariat will hold an inception meeting with all project partners in mid-May 2017. It is expected that the MED POL Focal Points will be involved and support the preparation of the project documents addressing national and regional activities.

56. More information will be presented to the MED POL Focal Points meeting on the process and modalities of the preparation of these projects.