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Agenda Items 3 and 4: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2020-2021 Biennium and Financial Report for 2018-2019 and 2020-2021

Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions

Overall Findings from the General Status of the Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Analysis of the Information Mentioned in the National Reports for the 2018-2019 Biennium

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2021

Note by the Secretariat

According to Article 18 (2) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), it shall be the function of the meetings of the Contracting Parties to keep under review the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and, in particular to consider the reports submitted by the Contracting Parties under Article 26. Under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, the Contracting Parties shall transmit to the Organization reports on: (a) the legal, administrative and other measures taken by them for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the recommendations adopted by their meetings, and (b) the effectiveness of the measures so taken, and problems encountered in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

By submitting their national implementation reports, Contracting Parties not only meet their reporting obligations pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant articles of its Protocols. They also provide to the meetings of the Contracting Parties an essential tool for keeping the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols under review.

In its Decision IG.23/1, the 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017) requested the Secretariat to submit to each meeting of the Contracting Parties, on the basis of an analysis of the information contained in the national reports, a report on the general advances made in the region, including at the legal and institutional levels, in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols along with proposals for further measures, as necessary.

In response to this request, the Secretariat and MAP Components have prepared the “*General Status of the Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Analysis of the Information Mentioned in the National Reports for the 2018-2019 Biennium*”, which is presented in document UNEP/MED WG. 515/Inf.12. The general status has been drafted on the basis of the information contained in the national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019, submitted by Contracting Parties through the new online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), as at 24 June 2021. It provides for the Barcelona Convention and each of its Protocols an overall assessment of the status of progress in implementation and associated main overall findings, which are presented in this document submitted to the Meeting of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points 2021 (Teleconference, 10-17 September 2021) for consideration and possible transmission to the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021)..

The main overall findings contained in this document should be understood within the limitations which arise from the fact not all Contracting Parties have submitted their national implementation reports for the 2018-2019 biennium, the limited number of Contracting Parties to some Protocols, and additionally, the difference in the amount of information submitted by Contracting Parties in their national implementation reports.

**Overall Findings from the General Status of the Progress in the Implementation of
the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Analysis of the Information
Mentioned in the National Implementation Reports for the 2018-2019 Biennium**

(as of 24 June 2021)

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1976 Barcelona Convention on the 2018/2019 biennium: 22
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1995 Barcelona Convention on the 2018-2019 biennium: 21
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties for the 2018-2019 biennium: 12

Main overall findings

- The precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle have been incorporated into domestic legislation in all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been achieved through core legal instruments for environmental protection as well as sectoral legislation regulating specific issues of environmental protection.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws and associated regulations are in place in all reporting Contracting Parties for activities or projects which are likely to cause a significant adverse impact on the marine environment.
- All reporting Contracting Parties indicated having put in place the legal and regulatory framework for the use of Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP), which has mainly translated into the adoption of industrial sectoral regulations.
- Environmental monitoring programmes have been established in all reporting Contracting Parties. In establishing such programmes, through general and/or sector-oriented acts, some reporting Contracting Parties refer to the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL) methodology and criteria, and the alignment of their national monitoring programmes with the MAP Ecosystem Approach (EcAP) and the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP), combined with the requirements under the relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
- Public access to environmental information is ensured in all reporting Contracting Parties through a variety of legal instruments ranging from laws on free access to information, to environmental framework laws or codes, to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws. This adds to the legislation transposing the Aarhus Convention, on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and relevant EU Directives, such as the Directive on Open Data and the Re-use of Public Sector Information (2019/1024/EU).
- Public participation and consultation in environmental legislation decision-making processes is ensured in all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been achieved through general laws protecting the environment, public participation and access to information laws, and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA) laws. In many reporting Contracting Parties public participation and consultation has been in practice through for instance the establishment of public consultative mechanisms in the framework of the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol.

- Cooperation mechanisms of notification, exchange of information and consultation among the concerned states in cases of transboundary EIA are in place in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly taken forward within the framework of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws and regulations, in addition to the action taken under the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo EIA Convention).
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) principles have been integrated into domestic legal and policy frameworks in all reporting Contracting Parties through a variety of instruments encompassing, laws ratifying the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol and national strategies and plans on marine and coastal management, as well as on marine spatial planning; and laws on the development, protection and conservation of the coast, including laws on protected areas, such as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs).
- The promotion of the research on, access to and transfer of environmental sound technology, including clean production technologies needs to be further reinforced, as only half reporting Contracting Parties have indicated action in this field, which mainly focus on preparedness and response to accidental pollution through cooperation agreements, climate change adaptation, or R&D Projects for the promotion of blue growth.
- Most reporting Contracting Parties have answered affirmatively to the question on the implementation of the Guidelines for the Determination of Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the Barcelona Convention are limited financial resources, administrative management and technical guidance capabilities.

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1976 Dumping Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 21
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1995 Dumping Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 15
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2018-2019 biennium: 10

Main overall findings

- In most reporting Contracting Parties, the prohibition of dumping of wastes or other matter with the exception of those listed in Article 4.2 of the Dumping Protocol, as well as the establishment of the required permitting system has been mainly articulated through their laws ratifying the Dumping Protocol, in addition to their domestic laws and regulations protecting the environment, managing wastes, marine protected areas or aquaculture activities, regulating ports and/or maritime codes. This adds to the laws ratifying the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972 (London Convention) and its 1996 Protocol.

- It appears that there is a need to enhance the institutional structure to implement the Dumping Protocol, as only half of reporting Contracting Parties have responded positively to the question whether they have designated a competent national authority responsible for keeping records of the nature, quantities of the waste or other matter, dumping location and method.
- In most reporting Contracting Parties incineration is prohibited as per the Dumping Protocol.
- It seems that critical and force majeure dumping at sea as per the conditions set out in the Dumping Protocol are areas where further action is needed, as only a limited number of reporting Contracting Party has responded positively to the questions whether critical and force majeure dumping is conducted as required by the Dumping Protocol.
- Data received by reporting Contracting Parties shows that continued enhancement of data collection is key, by both continuing refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to avoid duplication of reporting, as well as exploring practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties in the collection and submission of data, subject to available resources.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the Dumping Protocol are the regulatory and policy framework, technical guidance capabilities and limited financial resources.

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1976 Emergency Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 21
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 17
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2018-2019 biennium: 9

Main overall findings

- Contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) have been adopted in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. Contingency plans range from national, to regional to local and/or port facilities.
- The national level of response equipment varies from country to country, and at regional level key actors are the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), with its Network of Stand-by-Oil Spill Response Vessels, and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), which has put in place mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and experts, mainly through cooperation agreements in the Mediterranean region.
- Regular training of both national operating level personnel and supervisory level personnel has been conducted through seminars, train-the-trainer courses and oil spill exercises. Training has taken place mainly at national level, although international training has been also conducted under REMPEC, the European Union (EU) Civil Protection Mechanism and EMSA. In that regard, a key training initiative from REMPEC was the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oils Spills at the West Mediterranean, that enable the countries of the

region to develop their respective self-assess of the level of their preparation to respond to oil spills.

- Monitoring and surveillance programmes to detect accidental or operational pollution are in place in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. This includes the aerial and satellite surveillance under the EMSA detection service CleanSeaNet, as well as at national level the surveillance carried out by the Coast Guard. In addition, maritime traffic control systems are also used.
- Reporting procedures to ensure that those required (e.g. ships, aircrafts, offshore installations, and Port Facility Authorities) report on actual or potential oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents to the designated national authority or authorities and, if so required, the nearest Coastal State are in place in most reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly achieved through relevant domestic legislation and national contingency plans' requirements.
- Communication to REMPEC and those Contracting Parties likely to be affected of information on actual or potential oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents is carried out by most reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly articulated through the national contingency plans or in a few reporting Contracting Parties through the POLREP system. To further encourage the use of the POLREP system or to establish a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean are options to consider.
- Conducting oil and HNS pollution incident assessments and taking every practical measure to prevent, reduce and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminate the effects of the pollution incident is part of the national contingency plans' requirements in most reporting Contracting Parties.
- In most reporting Contracting Parties, the legal and regulatory framework is in place to ensure that those required (e.g. ships, ports sea, and offshore installations) have contingency plans on board. This has been articulated through domestic legislation as well as laws ratifying the MARPOL Convention and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC).
- Port reception facilities are available in ports and terminals meeting the needs of ships, including pleasure crafts, in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. REMPEC Project on Port Reception Facilities has been one of the avenues to ensure proper Port Reception Facilities.
- Measures aimed at reducing the risks accidents or their environmental consequences have been taken by nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been articulated in different ways, including Vessels Traffic Systems (VTS), the designation and management of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) and national air surveillance systems.
- In most reporting Contracting Parties measures dealing with places of refuge for ships in distress have been adopted.
- The dissemination and exchange of information as per the requirements of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol has been mainly achieved through the official websites of the relevant Ministries (e.g. the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure or Ministry of Environment), as well as the REMPEC Country Profiles. The use and regular update of REMPEC Country Profiles should be further promoted among Contracting Parties.
- Responses strategies for marine pollution incidents, including policies for the use of dispersants, are in place in many reporting Contracting Parties.

- National contingency plans cover both oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) in some reporting Contracting Parties.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the Prevention and Emergency Protocol are the regulatory and policy framework, administrative management and limited financial resources.

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1980 LBS Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 22
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1996 LBS Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 17
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2018-2019 biennium: 10

Main overall findings

- Legal and regulatory measures to eliminate Land-based Sources (LBS) pollution and phase-out Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are reported to be in place in nearly all the reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly articulated through broad domestic legislation (e.g. on environmental protection, water or coast), as well as specific legislation (e.g. on industrial emissions, sea bathing water quality, (urban) waste management and persistent organic pollutants (POPs)). This adds to the domestic legislation transposing the relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EC).
- In nearly all reporting Contracting Parties, discharges and pollutant releases are subject to the required authorization or regulation issued by the competent national authority. In general, legal instruments listed, mainly on water, on coast, and on environmental protection, establish a system which enables the competent national authority or authorities to issue a permit (e.g. water right permit, environmental permit) for any discharge or release into the sea or surface waters, provided that *inter alia* some specific limit values are met.
- Measures to reduce to a minimum the risk of accidental pollution are reported to be in place in all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly achieved through national contingency plans, in addition to the transposition into domestic legislation of the relevant EU Directives, including the SEVESO III EU Directive (2012/18/EU) and REACH Regulations.
- All reporting Contracting Parties indicated having in place a system of inspection to assess compliance with authorizations and regulations and to impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance. Such system rests on different authorities from country to country, ranging from Environmental Inspectors, to Judicial or Environmental Police, to Harbor Master's Inspectors and accredited Agencies and Networks; and cover sanctions such as fines, indictments, imprisonment, temporary suspension of work or activities.
- Environmental monitoring programmes are reported to be in place in most of the reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly articulated within the framework of the MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL), in consistency with the Ecosystem Approach (EcAP) and the Mediterranean Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), and in synergy with the relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and . Monitoring programmes in place vary in scope from country to

country, encompassing marine ecosystems, marine and coastal waters, bathing waters, land-based sources, marine litter, or industrial emissions. In addition, national institutions and networks for observation and monitoring underpin these programmes through the regular collection and assessment of data.

- Monitoring programmes to evaluate the effectiveness of action plans, programmes and measures under the LBS Protocol are reported to be in place in most reporting Contracting Parties.
- The limited amount of data received by reporting Contracting Parties shows the need to further refine the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to facilitate the submission of data, as well as to articulate practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties through capacity building activities, subject to available resources.
- Data received by reporting Contracting Parties shows that continued enhancement of data collection is key, by both continuing refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to avoid duplication of reporting, as well as exploring practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties in the collection and submission of data, subject to available resources.
- Technical assistance and capacity building activities should be strengthened in synergy with relevant MEAs and other stakeholders, to further advance in the implementation of the regional action plans.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the Land-based Sources Protocol are the regulatory framework, administrative management and limited financial resources.

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1982 SPA Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 21
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1995 SPA/BD Protocol on the 2018/2018 biennium: 17
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2018-2019 biennium: 11

Main overall findings

- Nearly all reporting Contracting Parties have designated Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), as well as the measures for their protection, preservation and sustainable management. This is a living process, with ongoing work as new SPAs are being established.
- Management Plans for SPAs are reported to having been developed by most reporting Contracting Parties. In addition, as specifically indicated by some reporting Contracting Parties, though management plans are not in place for some SPAs, measures for the protection of those SPAs have been articulated through other means. As regards the effective management of SPAs, it seems that further work is needed in that area.
- In nearly all reporting Contracting Parties, measures are indicated having been taken to regulate scientific research in their SPAs. Nearly all reporting Contracting Parties indicated the adoption of measures regulating offshore activities and most reporting Contracting Parties noted the adoption of measures in their SPAs regulating the taking of species, dumping activities and the passage and anchoring of ships. Measures include those taken under the SPAs and or SPAMIs management plans.

- Appropriate training for the technical managers and other qualified staff of SPAs were established by many reporting Contracting Parties. This has been taken forward in different ways, including SPA/RAC training courses.
- Some reporting Contracting Parties noted their programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in the Protocol Areas' ecosystems and of the impact of human activities. Only a few reporting Contracting Parties reported measures in place for the involvement of local communities in the process of managing protected areas.
- Most reporting Contracting Parties indicated the diverse funding mechanisms for the management and promotion of protected areas or income-generating activities that are compatible with the protection measures.
- It seems that the monitoring of the Biodiversity related Ecological Objectives within the framework of the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP) requires strengthening collective and national efforts on EO2 (Non-indigenous species) and EO6 (Sea-floor integrity).
- The List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) currently consists of 39 sites. Within the 2018-2019 biennium, four new SPAMIs were included.
- Regulatory protection measures for endangered or threatened species are reported to be in place in many reporting Contracting Parties.
- Inventories of the components of the biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use are indicated to be in place in many reporting Contracting Parties, with particular emphasis on marine areas. This has been mainly achieved by transposing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol), as well as relevant European Union Directives, such as the Habitats Directive where applicable.
- Many reporting Contracting Parties mention listing species that are endangered or threatened at national level, or the ongoing updating of existing lists and identification of their distribution in the zones subject to Party's jurisdiction.
- Measures and plans concerning the ex-situ reproduction or reintroduction of wild protected fauna are indicated having been established in many reporting Contracting Parties.
- Many reporting Contracting Parties have indicated the adoption of measures dealing with the deliberate or accidental introduction into the wild of non-indigenous or genetically modified species.
- Regional Action Plan on Cartilaginous Fishes: Data synchronization and submission, preparation, collection and submission of data on pelagic shark catches, development and adoption of national Shark Action Plans are areas which appear to require further action to progress on the implementation of this Plan.
- Regional Action Plan on Invasive Species: It seems that further efforts should be made to effectively address the threats that invasive species represent to the marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. In particular, action should be reinforced as regards coordination among Contracting Parties and populating the Marine Mediterranean Invasive Species (MAMIAS).
- Regional Action Plan on Bird Species: Significant efforts have been made in advancing in the implementation of this Plan by reporting Contracting Parties.
- Regional Action Plan on Cetaceans: Significant efforts have been undertaken by Contracting Parties in implementing this Plan. Room for improvement appears to be in the area of acoustic mapping to build a comprehensive picture of the spatial and temporal distribution of anthropogenic noise sources.

- **Regional Action Plan on Marine Vegetation:** It appears that there is a need to increase efforts to advance in the implementation of this Plan, by developing national action plans according to new priorities.
- **Regional Action Plan on the Conservation of the Monk Seal:** Efforts made by Contracting Parties for the conservation of the monk seal are linked to the presence of this species in their national waters. It is worth pointing out that some reporting Contracting Parties are developing several projects and programmes aimed at protecting the Mediterranean Monk Seal.
- **Regional Action Plan on Turtles:** It appears that efforts should be intensified in the following areas to further advance in the implementation of the plan: Setting up and/or improving long-term monitoring programmes, establishment of cooperative research projects of regional importance and training courses.
- **Regional Action Plan on Dark Habitats:** A few initiatives have been put in place in some reporting Contracting Parties, which indicate the need to continue and strengthen efforts to further advance in the implementation of this Plan.
- **Regional Action Plan on Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions:** Actions taken by reporting Contracting Parties signal a positive signal progress in implementation. To further enhance implementation, it seems that focus should be put on habitat data modelling and on designing an integrated monitoring and assessment program for the assessment of the state coralligenous/maërl assemblages.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the SPA/BD Protocol are the policy framework, limited financial resources and technical capabilities.

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 7
- Number of reporting countries on the 2018-2019 biennium: 6 (2 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Main overall findings

- Measures aimed at reducing to a minimum or where possible eliminating the generation of hazardous wastes are at the heart of the domestic legislation on waste management adopted in all reporting Contracting Parties, as per the requirements of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol.
- All reporting Contracting Parties indicated having adopted measures to reduce to a minimum and possibly eliminate the amount of hazardous wastes subject to transboundary movement, as required by the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, and in synergy with the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention).
- The notification procedure sets out in Article 6 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol in cases of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes is reported to be in place in all reporting Contracting Parties.

- Restrictions on the export and import of hazardous wastes either for final disposal or recovery are indicated to be in place in many reporting Contracting Parties.
- Data received by reporting Contracting Parties shows that continued enhancement of data collection is key, by both continuing refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to avoid duplication of reporting, as well as exploring practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties in the collection and submission of data, subject to available resources.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the Hazardous Wastes Protocol are the policy and regulatory framework, limited financial resources and technical capabilities.

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

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1994 Offshore Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 7
- Number of reporting countries on the 2018-2019 biennium: 9 (3 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the Offshore Protocol)

Main overall findings

- Offshore activities are subject to prior authorization, appropriate legal and regulatory measures for granting the construction and operation of installations as required by the Offshore Protocol in all reporting Contracting Parties. This authorization or permitting system has been mainly articulated through laws governing the offshore exploration and exploitation of mineral resources and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws and environmental permitting laws.
- In some reporting Contracting Parties, the use and storage of offshore chemicals is approved by the competent national authority on the basis of the Chemical Use Plan as requested by Article 9 of the Offshore Protocol. It seems that further work is needed in this area, in particular about the content of the chemical use plan, its assessment and its continuous monitoring.
- A number of difficulties have been indicated in relation to the disposal of harmful or noxious substances and materials, including challenges related to the regulatory framework, technical guidance capabilities and administrative management.
- The limited data submitted regarding authorization permits, number of offshore installations and enforcement measures, shows that continued enhancement of data collection is key, by both continuing refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to avoid duplication of reporting, as well as exploring practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties in the collection and submission of data, subject to available resources.
- Difficulties most frequent reported in implementing the Offshore Protocol are the policy and regulatory framework, and administrative management.

Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol)

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol on the 2018/2019 biennium: 11
- Number of reporting countries on the 2018-2019 biennium: 8 (6 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol)

Main overall findings

- ICZM projects have been common throughout the Mediterranean, and all reporting Contracting Parties report their value in supporting the implementation of ICZM principles embedded in the ICZM Protocol. In this, CAMP projects are highlighted by all Contracting Parties as the most relevant.
- Most reporting Contracting Parties have adopted a national ICZM or coastal strategy while none of them has established a specific ICZM centre, which would guarantee the sustainability of the ICZM effort. Still, the process of strategy preparation and implementation trigger the establishment of intersectoral bodies for coastal management; the same at a lower level where this kind of bodies are established for plans and programmes.
- Legal measures for controlling urban development along the coastline are defined in all the reporting Contracting Parties. The setback zone of 100 or more meters is legally established through Coastal Laws or Physical/Spatial Planning Acts. Also, the non-building zones are defined in spatial plans that integrate requirements of other sectorial laws (nature protection, water, protection of cultural heritage, agriculture land protection, forestry, etc.). However, setback zones are proving to be a challenge in practice (with the 100 m setback as a minimum).
- Institutional and legal/policy frameworks for coastal inventory and monitoring result in a majority of cases fragmented as there are no specific institutions for coastal zone monitoring and responsibilities are divided among several bodies. Although the majority of Contracting Parties report some activity it appears to be little focus on their coastal zones and there is a lack of a specific coastal observatory. CAMP and other ICZM projects, as well as the work on IMAF indicators are seen as key monitoring/observation tools, while for the EU Member States monitoring obligations according to MSFD and MSP are equally important.
- The use of indicators for coastal management is limited, in particular when it comes to indicators to evaluate economic impacts on the coastal zone. One could conclude that this is in close relation with the lack of national coastal observatories. However, when there is a national ICZM or coastal strategy (some) indicators are used for assessing the progress in implementing the ICZM Protocol.
- Protection measures in all fields (biodiversity, sensitive areas, landscape, land-based cultural heritage) appear to be the most developed. On the contrary, only few countries have taken measures to restore and reactivate the positive role of coastal wetlands.
- Mechanisms for management of coastal land in the public domain exist and are operational in the majority of the reporting Contracting Parties. Most of the coastal land is public property and the responsibility for management is either on Government or local authorities.
- There is legislation in all the reporting Contracting Parties regarding the EIA process, which is widely used. The use of SEA is regulated in almost all the reporting Contracting Parties,

as well as the obligation for transboundary environmental assessment, either according to the national law, the ESPOO Convention or the EU MSFD.

- Risks and emergency situations seem to be of a major concern for a large majority of the reporting Contracting Parties that have established national contingency/emergency plans. Progress is to be noticed in terms of integration of climate change into coastal and marine strategies and planning schemes. However, there is still a considerable scope for increasing the resilience and the capacity of the coast to adapt to changes, first of all to sea level rise.
- Awareness raising, education, training and international cooperation are deemed crucial for making progress with such a complex approach as ICZM. The annual Mediterranean Coast Day is seen as a key awareness raising event while EU Directives (e.g. MSFD), Strategies (e.g. EUSAIR) and funding instruments (e.g. INTERREG Programme), as well as the GEF-funded initiatives are instrumental for boosting cooperation.