



UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention :
Latest assessments and recent legal instruments
regarding Waste Management including
Marine Litter

Erol Cavus,
Pollution Control Officer,
UNEP/MAP-MED POL



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

South-East Europe Pollution Platform:
Western Balkans Regional
Waste Conference
26-27 March 2024, Vienna

UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention

Regional action for environment and development bringing together the 21 Mediterranean countries and EU.

- Regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (UN Treaty and Protocols)
- Redesigned to align the system with UN sustainable development agenda
- Addressing a broad spectrum of issues of marine and coastal environment and sustainable use of resources

48 years of regional collaboration to fulfill the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast that underpin sustainable development in the Mediterranean.



Albania



Algeria



Bosnia
Herzegovina



Croatia



Cyprus



Egypt



France



Greece



Israel



Italy



Lebanon



Libya



Malta



Monaco



Montenegro



Morocco



Slovenia



Spain



Syria



Tunisia



Turkey



The European
Union

MAP - Barcelona Convention: Overview

The Convention adopted in 1976

The Convention is complemented by seven Protocols:

- Dumping Protocol
- Land Based Source Protocol (LBS)
- Prevention and Emergency Protocol;
- Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol
- Offshore Protocol
- Hazardous Wastes Protocol
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

UN
environment
programme



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

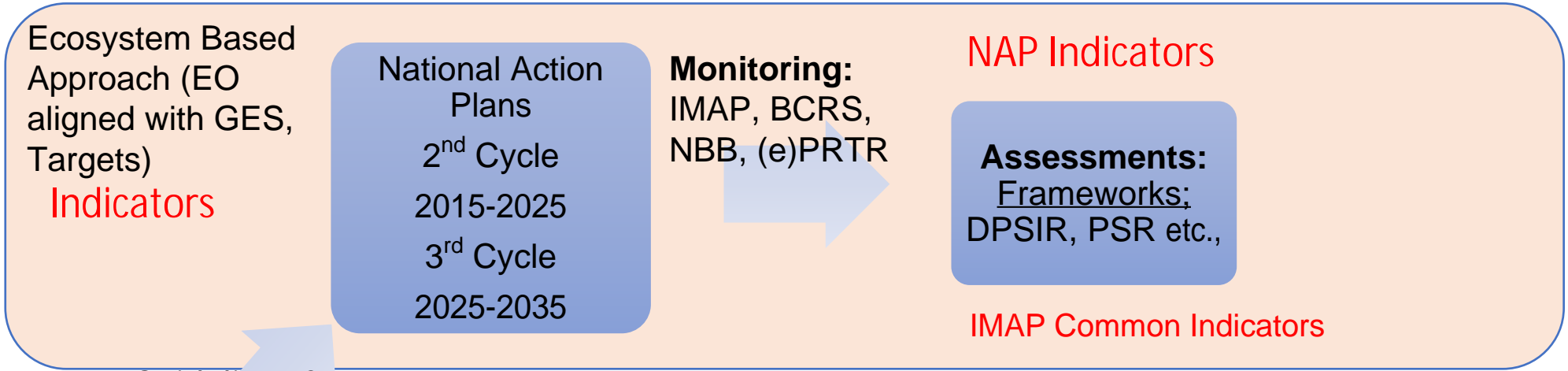
The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is a platform for regional cooperation in protecting and enhancing the marine and coastal environment while promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

“Progress towards a healthy, clean, sustainable and climate resilient Mediterranean Sea and Coast with productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, where the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its SDGs are achieved through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the benefit of people and nature”

MTS 2022-2027 Structure – Main Programmes

Thematic programmes	1. Towards a pollution and litter free Mediterranean sea and coast embracing circular economy	4 Outcomes	6 Indicators/Targets
	2. Towards healthy Mediterranean ecosystems and enhanced biodiversity	4 Outcomes	7 Indicators/Targets
	3. Towards a climate resilient Mediterranean	4 Outcomes	4 Indicators/Targets
	4. Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy	4 Outcomes	6 Indicators/Targets
Foundational programme	5. Governance	5 Outcomes	6 Indicators/Targets
	6. Towards monitoring, assessment, knowledge and vision of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast for informed decision-making	3 Outcomes	5 Indicators/Targets
Enabling programmes	7. For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education and communication	3 Outcomes	6 Indicators/Targets

Streamlining of respective MAP legal, policy, strategic and Ecosystem Approach related objectives and commitments throughout



Guidelines for Implementation

Regional Plans/Legally Binding Measures

MTS Vision
PoW
Activities

LBS Protocol

Update LBS Annexes, COP 22

Assessment Reports leading to Policy advice

SoED Report (2020)
H2020 Report (2020)
QSR Reports (2023)
MedECC (2020)



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



Assessment Reports

This United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) report provides the most comprehensive assessment of the state of the environment and development in the region. It includes a set

SoED
State of the Environment
and Development
in the Mediterranean



**CLIMATE AND
IN THE MED**
Current situation
First Mediterranean Assessment
by MedECC (Mediterranean Experts)



Towards a cleaner Mediterranean
Monitoring



The First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) prepared by the independent network of

Executive Summary
2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

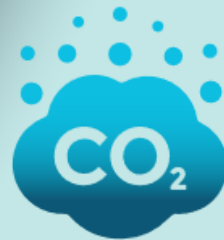


The first Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean – MED QSR (2017)
In the context of implementing the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2008, the MAP system had delivered in 2017 the first ever Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean **2017 MED QSR**, with support also from the EcAp MED II project. This is the first MAP assessment product based on the Ecosystem Approach and the respective MAP Ecological Objectives and IMAP Indicators; it builds upon existing data and is complemented with inputs from numerous diverse sources where appropriate. It is an important and innovative development for assessing the status of the Mediterranean ecosystem and the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES).

The Mediterranean subject to multiple forms of pollution



Soil, Water and Sea Pollution



Insufficient contribution to the overall objectives of reducing CO₂ emissions (produces around 2 Gt of CO₂ = 5% world emissions)



2/3 of Mediterranean countries exceed the global WHO recommended threshold for air pollution from particulate matter and ozone

Air Pollution



Up to over **100** µg/m³ in some Med areas
 World average (39.6 µg of PM_{2.5} m³)
 EU average (14.2 µg of PM_{2.5} m³)



The Med is one of the world's most affected regions. 50% of marine litter on the seabed is plastic. Concentration of microplastics on the surface of the Med Sea exceeds the maximum threshold and reaches more than 64 million floating particles per km²



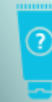
Use of fertilizers and pesticides above the world average in more than half of the Med countries



49% of coastal water bodies in Mediterranean do not achieve good environmental status



184 million tonnes of solid waste/year (i.e. 370kg/capita/year, with low recycling rates)



Presence of "emerging contaminants" with poorly understood life cycles and impacts, potentially toxic and not treatable by conventional wastewater treatment plants (pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, flame retardants, plastic additives, etc.)



Noise pollution at sea is a danger for some species, such as cetaceans



Pollution due mainly to heavy metals combined with the continuous discharge of treated and untreated wastewater, effluents from the production and processing of metals, energy production, treatment and production of pulp and paper, chemical industry, intensive farming and aquaculture

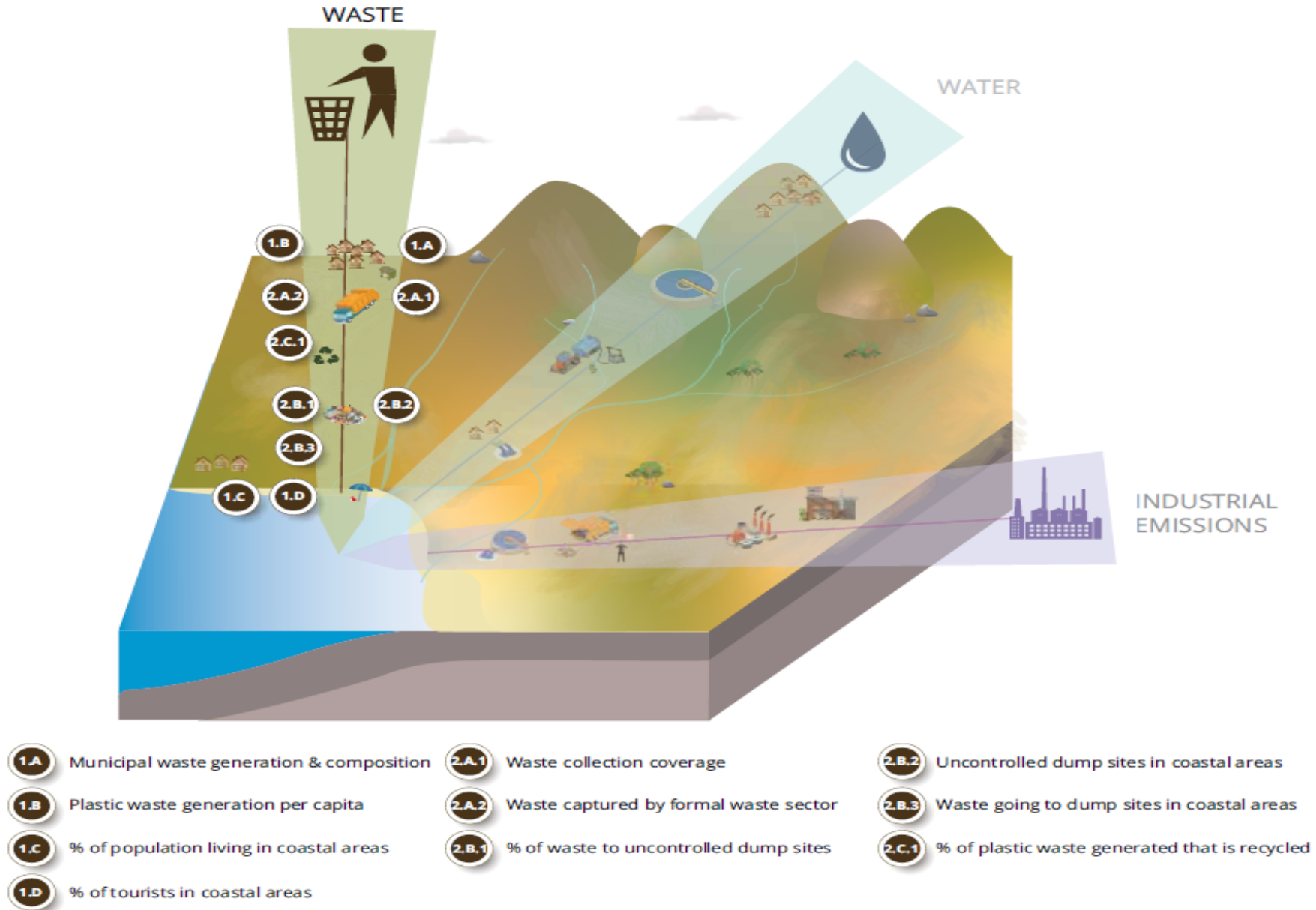


Bright spot

Mediterranean = among the busiest sea lanes in the world, but records a decrease in oil spill accidents at sea despite increased traffic



Figure 3.1 H2020 indicators for waste and marine litter, used to inform progress across the source-to-sea continuum



NAP Indicators and Indicator Methodological Factsheets

Indicators	Sub-indicators				
IND 3. Access to Sanitation	3.1 Share of total, urban and rural population using improved sanitation systems	IND 1. Municipal Waste Generation	IND 1.A Municipal waste composition		
	3.2 Proportion of population using improved sanitation systems (SMSS)		IND 1.B Plastic waste generation per capita		
			IND 1.C % of population living in Coastal Areas		
			IND 1.D % of Tourists in Coastal Areas		
IND 4. Municipal Wastewater Management	4.1 Municipal wastewater treatment capacity	IND 2. “Hardware” of waste management	IND 2.A Waste Collection IND 2.A.1 Waste Collection Coverage IND 2.A.2 Waste Captured by the formal waste sector		
	4.2 Direct use of treated municipal wastewater		IND 2.B Environmental Control IND 2.B.1 % of waste to uncontrolled dumpsites IND 2.B.2 Uncontrolled dumpsites in Coastal Areas IND 2.B.3 Waste going to dumpsites in Coastal Areas		
	4.3 Release of nutrients from municipal wastewater treatment plants		IND 2.C Resource Recovery IND 2.C.1 % of plastic waste generated that is recycled		
IND 5. Coastal and Marine Water Quality	5.1 Nutrient concentrations		IND 3. “Software” of waste management	3.A MARINE LITTER & WASTE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK IND 3.A.1 Is there a National Assessment for ML and its impacts? IND 3.A.2 Is there a National Plan or Strategy for ML? IND 3.A.3 Is there a National Plan or Strategy for Waste Management? IND 3.A.4 Is there a National Law on Waste? IND 3.A.5 Is there a national plan or target to close the dumpsites before 2030? IND 3.A.6 Is there a National Information system for waste management in place?	
	5.2 Bathing water quality			3.B RESOURCE RECOVERY IND 3.B.1 Is there a National Plan or Strategy for Waste Prevention? IND 3.B.2 Are there mandatory targets for recycling - recovery of packaging waste? IND 3.B.3 Are there EPR or Deposit- Return schemes for packaging waste? IND 3.B.4 Are there national policies to eliminate or reduce single-use plastics? IND 3.B.5 Are there financial incentives for reuse – resource recovery activities?	
IND 6.1. Release of nutrients from industrial sectors	6.1.1. Total BOD load discharged to the Mediterranean marine environment				
	6.1.2. Total Nitrogen load discharged to the Mediterranean marine environment				
	6.1.3. Total Phosphorus load discharged to the Mediterranean marine environment				
IND 6.2. Release of toxic substances from industrial sectors	6.2.1. Total heavy metals load discharged to the Mediterranean marine environment				
	6.2.2. Furans and dioxins load discharged to the Mediterranean marine environment				
	6.2.3. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons load discharged from industrial installations to the Mediterranean marine environment				
	6.2.4. Volatile organic compounds load discharged from industrial installations to the Mediterranean marine environment				
IND 6.3. Industrial hazardous waste disposed in environmentally sound manner	6.3.1. Total quantity of generated hazardous waste				
	6.3.2. Quantity of industrial hazardous waste disposed in environmentally sound manner				
IND 6.4. Compliance measures aiming at the reduction and/or elimination of pollutants	6.4.1. Number of industrial pollutants discharged to the total number of industrial pollutants				
	6.4.2. Number of environmental enforcement authorities in place				

- Developed and agreed NAP Indicators for Pressures;
- Aligned with MSSD, SDGs and data collection tools such as (e)PRTR
- Agreed Methodologies for Indicator calculations and estimations

Indicators were tested in data calls:

- 4th cycle of NBB (National Budget Baseline);
- H2020 data call

Figure 3.5 Waste composition in the Mediterranean countries, latest year available (%)

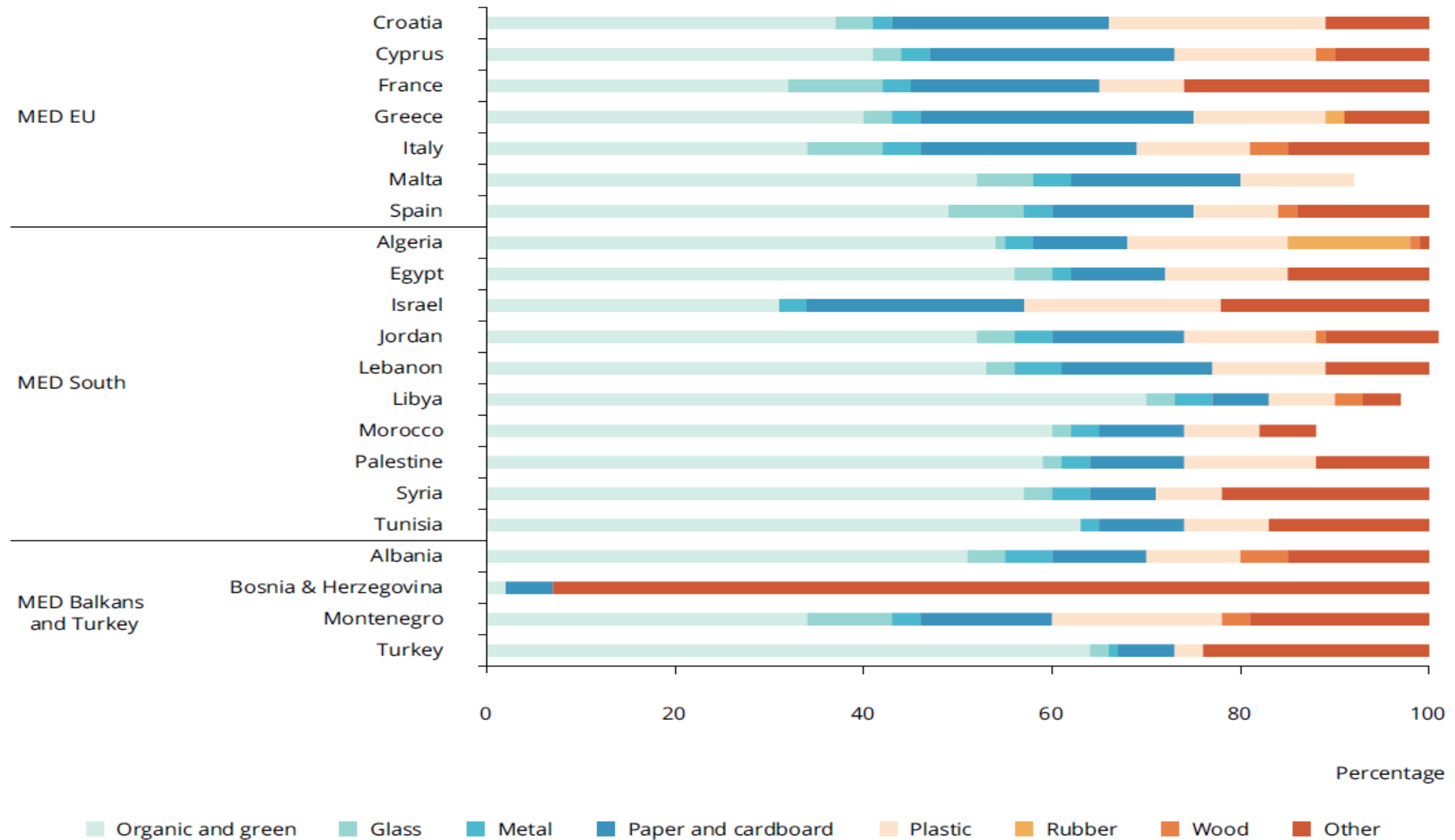
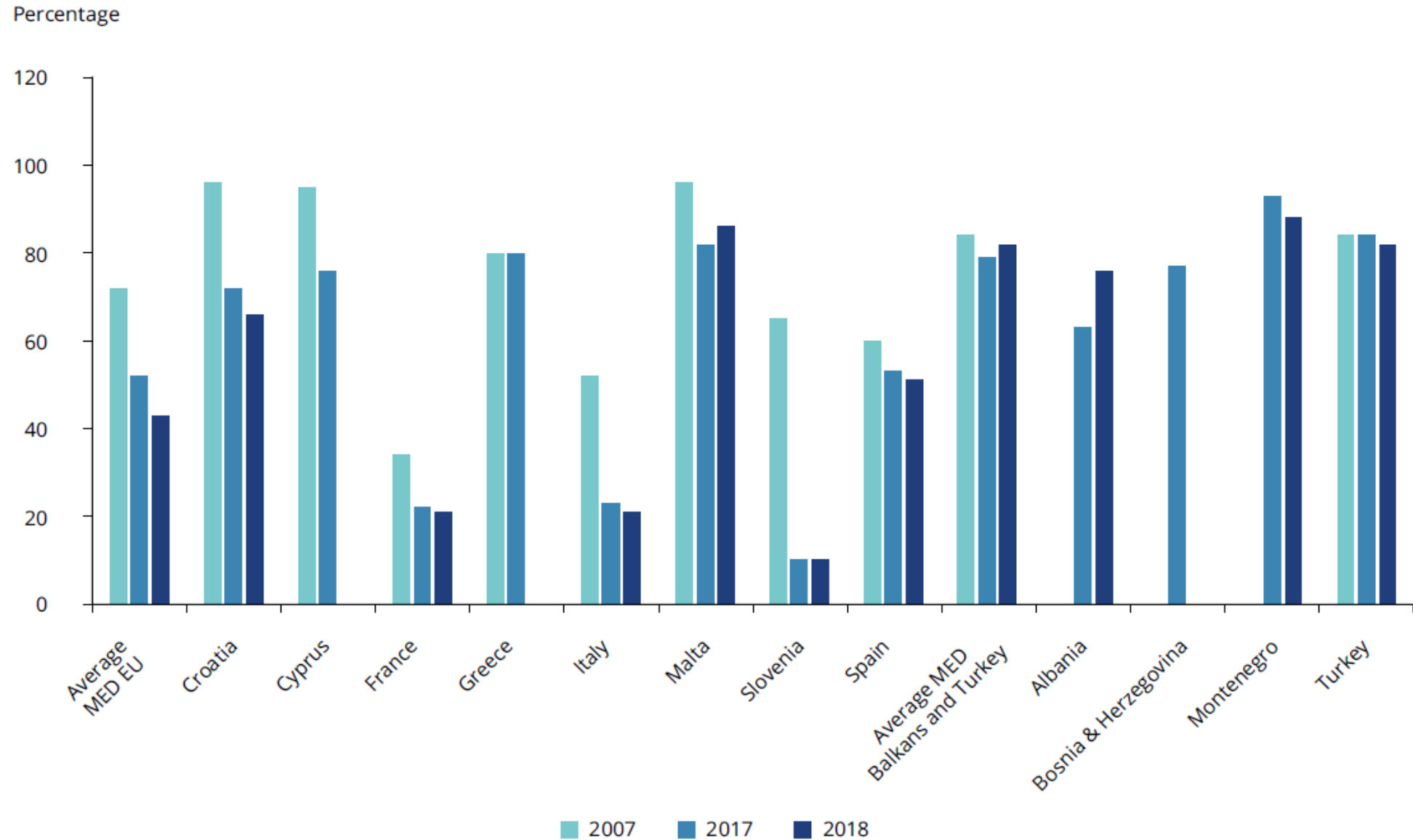
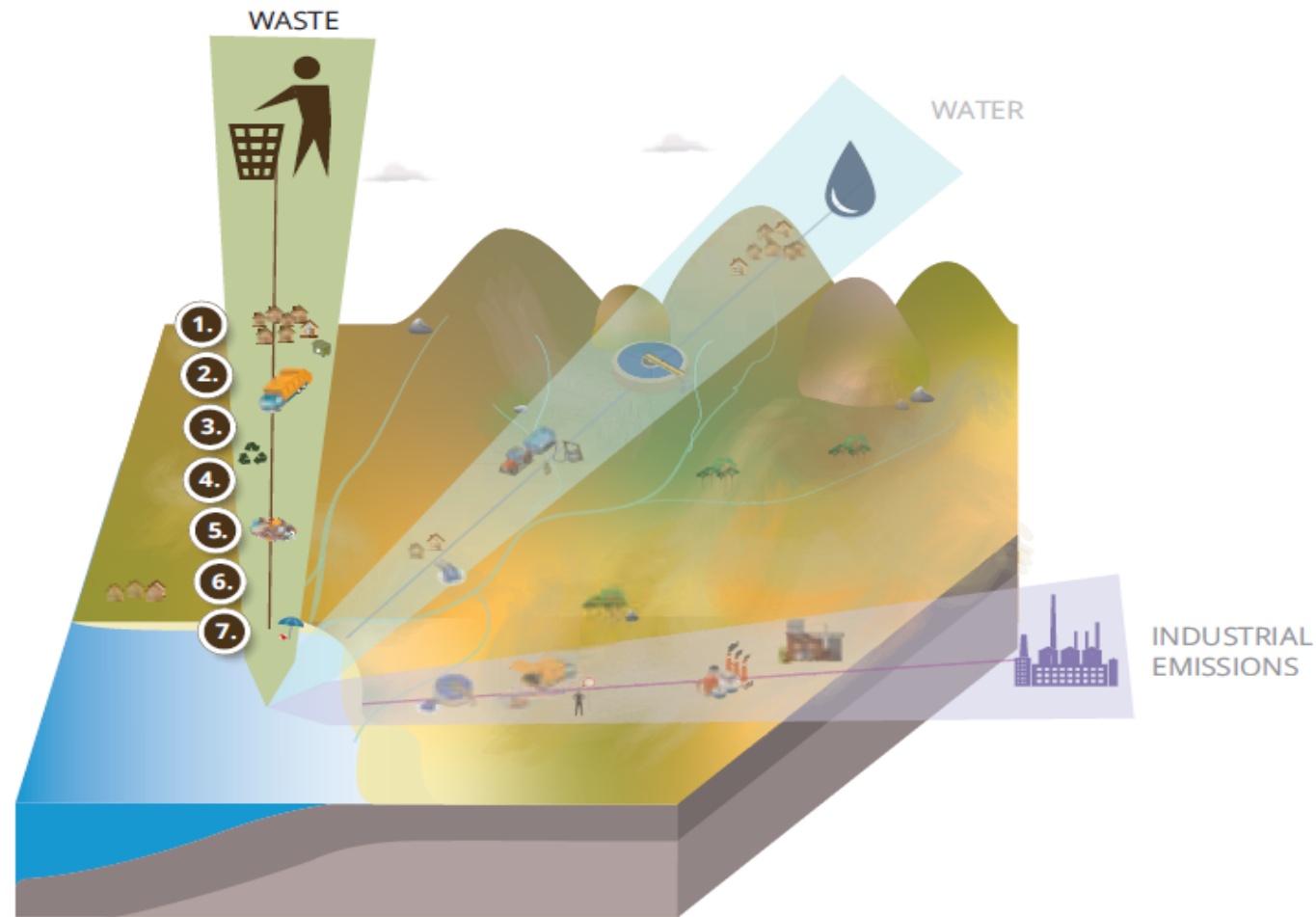


Figure 3.12 Share of waste disposed in landfills (and other) of total municipal solid waste generated in MED EU, MED Balkans and Turkey (%)



Source: Eurostat, 2020b.





Figure 3 Key messages for the waste and marine litter thematic area



1. Municipal solid waste generation has been increasing across the whole region since 2014, a trend which is expected to continue in the absence of any evidence of decoupling from economic growth
2. Plastic fraction of municipal solid waste generated varies widely within the region and seems to be increasing
3. Coastal population and tourism, associated with take-make-waste economic models, are the main drivers of plastic waste and marine litter generation

4. Landfill remains the main means of disposal of municipal solid waste across the region although data only includes the formal sector
5. Landfill remains the main means of disposal of municipal solid waste across the region although, in some MED South countries most of the waste ends up in open dumps
6. No trends can be derived for marine litter although the growing trend in waste generation, together with insufficient waste management efforts, would probably lead to more inputs and accumulation of litter in the sea
7. Capacity to monitor and enforce the implementation of waste legislation remains an issue in MED South countries

Findings of Midterm NAP Evaluation (2020)






Legends on the criteria for outlook	
	Based on the current information and trends (Indicators) in 2015-2020, there is a need for significant focus and substantive investment to implement the requirements until 2025
	The requirements are highly likely to be implemented until 2025.
	Despite perturbances, the requirement could be implemented until 2025, however, it will need some focused efforts as well as investment.
	No data is sufficiently available to have a conclusive evidence-based evaluation.







The general conclusions are summarized for each EO:








EO5 : Eutrophication

EO9 : Contaminants

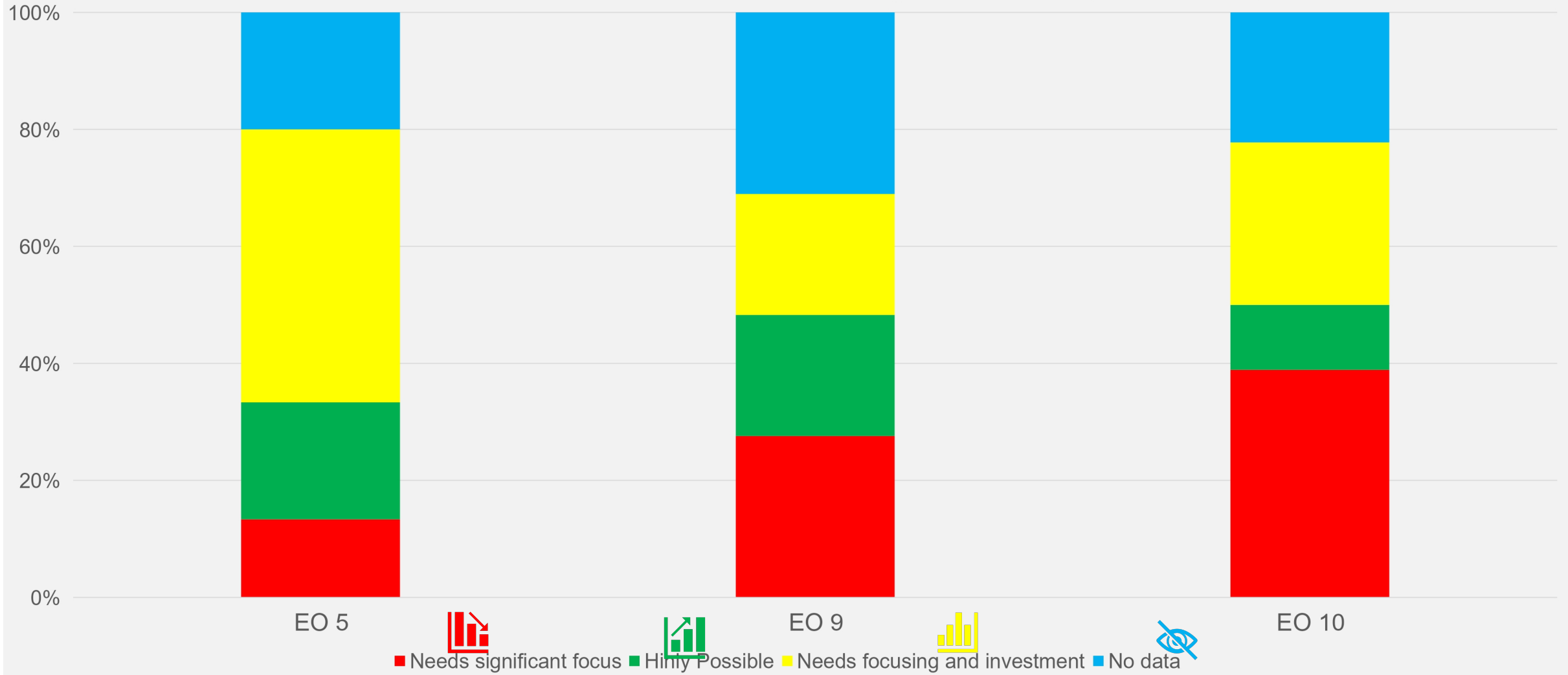
EO10 : Marine Litter

Requirements in NAPs/POMs (Responses/Actions)		Effect of the Response/Actions on <u>Decrease on “Pressures” or/and Improvement on the “State”</u> (2015-2020)	Outlook (2020-2025)
Policy	Adopt preventive measures to minimize inputs of plastic in the marine environment	Efforts has been made by majority of the Contracting Parties which are starting to set policies for preventing plastic waste and marine litter. Most of the legislations are in place, especially in the Contracting Parties which are also member states to EU, as well as Israel and Turkey. However, enforcement seems to be problematic in southern countries coupled with slow transition to circular economy for the whole region.	
	Enforce measures to combat illegal dumping including littering on beaches and illegal sewage disposal in coastal zones and rivers	Uncontrolled dump sides still pose a threat to the environment in Mediterranean, especially the south countries, considering 54% of the MSW is deposited in open dump sides these includes Egypt and Lebanon, where the issue still needs further improvement, especially in the later. Unfortunately, the available data, complemented with estimations is indicating that for the southern the waste is normally discharged into open dumps, creating considerable negative impacts on the environment and human health. Although almost all south countries have some policies that dictate how waste should be managed, there are several factors that constrain the waste management system, such as missing or weak legislation and enforcement.	
	Seek direct cooperation with other Contracting Parties, with assistance of the MEDPOL or competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary marine litter cases <i>[As appropriate]</i>	No data is available to measure the effect of this actions. Trans-boundary cooperation remains challenge and this transboundary cooperation between Contracting Parties should be promoted to address trans-boundary marine litter cases.	
Legal and institutional	Report on the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme [On a biannual basis]	Contracting Parties continues to report the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan in BCRS. However, the data is scarce and very limited. The situation is expected to improve, considering the development in NBB/PRTR Methodologies and especially in IMAP.	
	Design National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter	The some of the Contracting Parties have developed National Monitoring Programmes on Marine Litter. The remaining Contracting Parties are developing/finalizing/adopting the National Monitoring Programmes on Marine Litter. However, the monitoring programme are not fully implemented, in some countries rather in design stage. Under IMAP, there has been a lot of efforts to support Contracting Parties on developing monitoring programmes on ML, however, implementing of these developed monitoring programmes would require significant funding and capacity building.	

	Requirements in NAPs/POMs (Responses/Actions)	Effect of the Response/Actions on <u>Decrease on "Pressures" or/and Improvement on the "State"</u> (2015-2020)	Outlook (2020-2025)
	Establish Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter	A fully fledged data regional data bank is not established yet in the regions which will include all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. There are significant efforts to establish such data bank under IMAP	
Pollution prevention and control	By the year 2025 at latest, to base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, separate collection, recycling, composting and environmentally sound disposal in all cities and urban agglomerations exceeding 100.000 inhabitants and areas of concern	Waste collections systems are established in almost all big cities in the Mediterranean, (exceeding 100,000). And the collection rates are improving over time. Reduction at source and separate collection, are not at the desired levels especially in south countries. However, it should be noted that the majority of the Contracting Parties are vigorously moving towards zero waste initiatives to reduce (at least on pilot scale) the waste at source and ensure separate collection followed with appropriate waste management final disposal.	
	Reduction of fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration	Recent laws have been put in place to restrict plastic bags in some south Contracting Parties, as well as for broader single-use plastics in the Contracting Parties, which are also EU member states. The fraction of plastics in the municipal solid waste generated varies widely between Contracting Parties which are also EU member states, and the data shows an increase in plastic packaging waste in recent years. No trends for south and Balkans & Turkey are possible although we can infer that plastic waste generation increased with higher municipal solid waste generated generation. It should be noted that the Mediterranean region is taking a step to ban single use plastic or introduce economic mechanisms to reduce their usage, for instance, by introducing a price for plastic bags.	
	Ensuring adequate urban sewer systems, WWTP and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of Marine Litter	Wastewater and waste collection system are in place in vast majority of the Contracting Parties in big urban agglomeration. However, in some countries it is failing to accommodate the ever-growing population and urban sprawl. Collection and treatment in rural agglomerations continues to be a problem. leading to a accumulation of unregulated dumpsites which are obvious leakage points for marine litter entries to the marine system	
	Application of cost-effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities	Most of the Contracting Parties, does not have any specific regulation to avoid marine litter from dredging activities. There are only couple of Contracting Parties who established monitoring of the marine litter during dredging operations. The issue is handled by ad-hoc decisions making mostly for macro-litter which are found in the dredged materials by dredgers. MEDPOL has developing best practices on establishing coherent monitoring for dredging and disposal operation of the dredged material.	
	Implement programmes on regular removal and sound disposal of accumulations/hotspots of marine litter	No data to evaluate.	

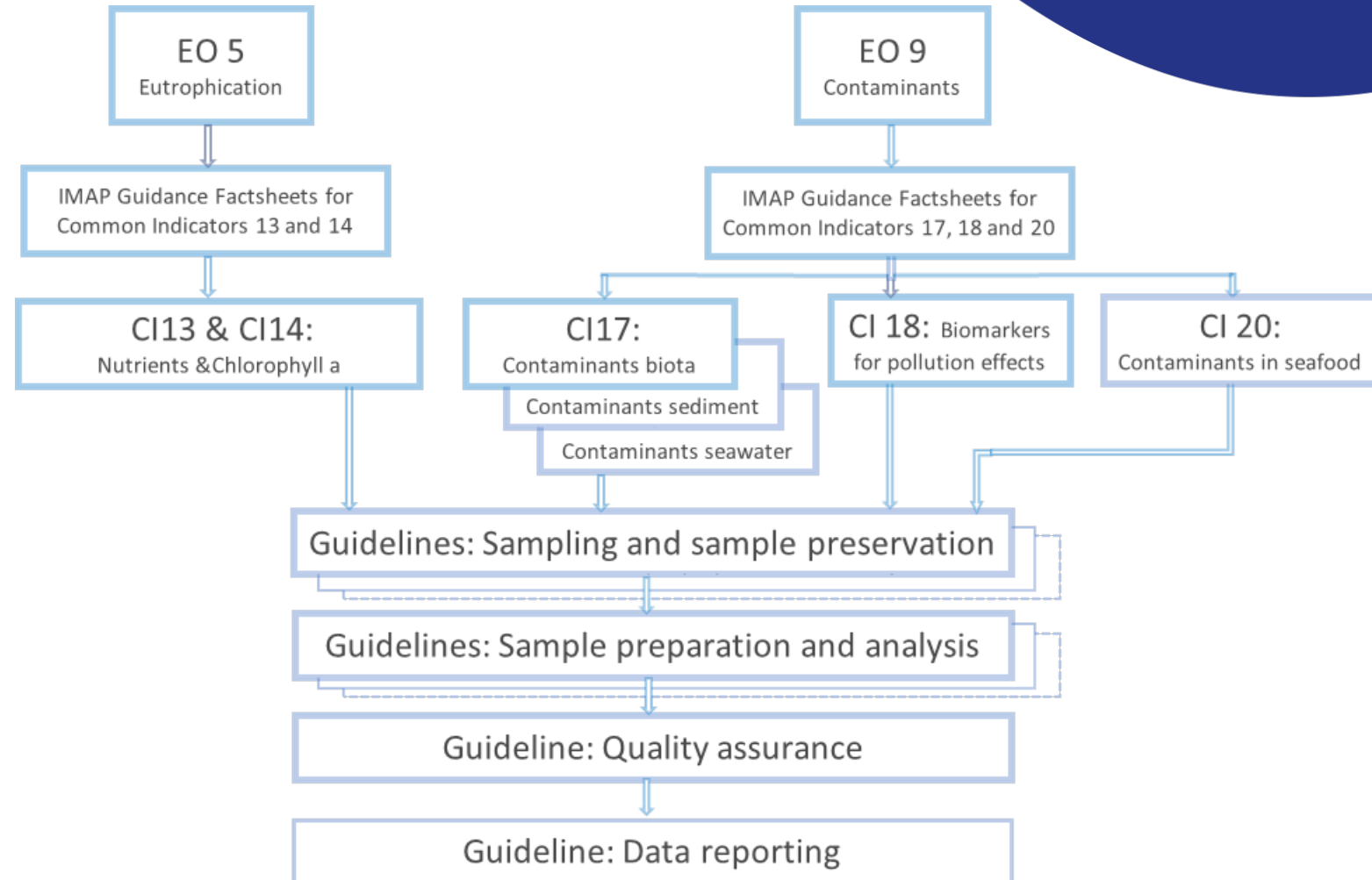
Requirements in NAPs/POMs (Responses/Actions)	Effect of the Response/Actions on <u>Decrease on “Pressures” or/and Improvement on the “State”</u> (2015-2020)	Outlook (2020-2025)
Close to the extent possible existing illegal solid waste dump sites	Despite all efforts, the closure of existing illegal dumping sites are not going as expected in the south and east region. There are improvements in Israel, however, in the south and eastern countries the data indicates that still substantive amount of collected waste is not disposed in sanitary conditions, meaning they are dumped illegally. Although data on uncontrolled dumpsites are very limited in EU, there is evidence on breaches to Landfill Directive by Italy, Greece, Slovenia, and Spain. In Balkans & Turkey, for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina need to align with the EU Landfill Directive by closing or rehabilitating non-compliant landfills.	
Remove existing accumulated litter from Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species	No data to evaluate	
<p>Control of impacts of litter on marine life to the maximum extent practicable</p> <p>Explore and implement National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns; participate in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes; apply “Adopt-a-Beach” or similar practices; and apply “Fishing for Litter” practices</p> <p>Urban solid waste management is based on reduction at source with the following waste hierarchy: prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, and environmentally sound disposal</p> <p>By the year 2025 at latest, to base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, separate collection, recycling, composting and environmentally sound disposal</p>	<p>No clear data to evaluate this response/action. In Europe, there are sizeable gaps in the data on litter on the seabed, in the surface layer and water column, micro-litter and effects on marine species (especially entanglement). The MSFD is tackling the urgent need to coordinate monitoring methodologies at national, regional and EU levels.</p> <p>Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns are being implemented in all Contracting Parties. The countries, supported by UNEP/MAP, have also explored and implemented fishing-for-litter schemes, as well as improved port reception facilities, including the application of charges at reasonable costs and no-special-fee systems. In addition, five Mediterranean countries have joined the CleanSeas campaign. Policy action by sub-national authorities, industry-based solutions and large-scale green economy initiatives support the transition towards a more sustainable economy, promoting the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies to industry, policy changes and incentives to enable the circular economy, providing innovative and long-term solutions. Public participation in issues related to marine litter management is quite widespread in all Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Contracting Parties are trying to implement specific measures to prevent marine litter from reaching the Mediterranean marine environment such as separating sewage and storm water networks, constructing traps to prevent riverine inputs of marine litter. Also common is the establishment of institutional structures needed to prevent marine litter and developing policies and strategies for reducing marine litter, such as recycling schemes, EPR, etc.</p> <p>This measure is far from being achieved in almost half of the Contracting Parties. Recycling and composting are symbolic and presenting actual room for improvement, while landfilling and illegal dumping are still the major waste management alternatives in several Mediterranean countries.</p>	   
<p>Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Characteristics of litter in the marine and coastal environment <input type="checkbox"/> Impacts of litter on marine life</p>	<p>The presence of litter has been confirmed in all compartments of the marine environment (shoreline, water column and seafloor). Plastic items are the most abundant component of marine litter. Single-use plastics represent 50% of all European beach litter items by count, and fishing gear containing plastics accounts for another 27%.</p> <p>Ingestion of plastic by marine species is also widespread in the European seas: 85% of the turtles assessed in the Mediterranean Sea had ingested litter.</p>	

Outlook for NAP/PoM Measures at Regional Level (as of 2020)



Monitoring Guidelines for EO5 and EO9

- MED POL Programme has prepared the Monitoring Guidelines related to IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20.
- The Monitoring Guidelines for EO5 and EO9, containing 98 specific monitoring protocols, present coherent manuals for competent laboratories of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the standardized and harmonized monitoring practices related to a specific IMAP Common Indicator.



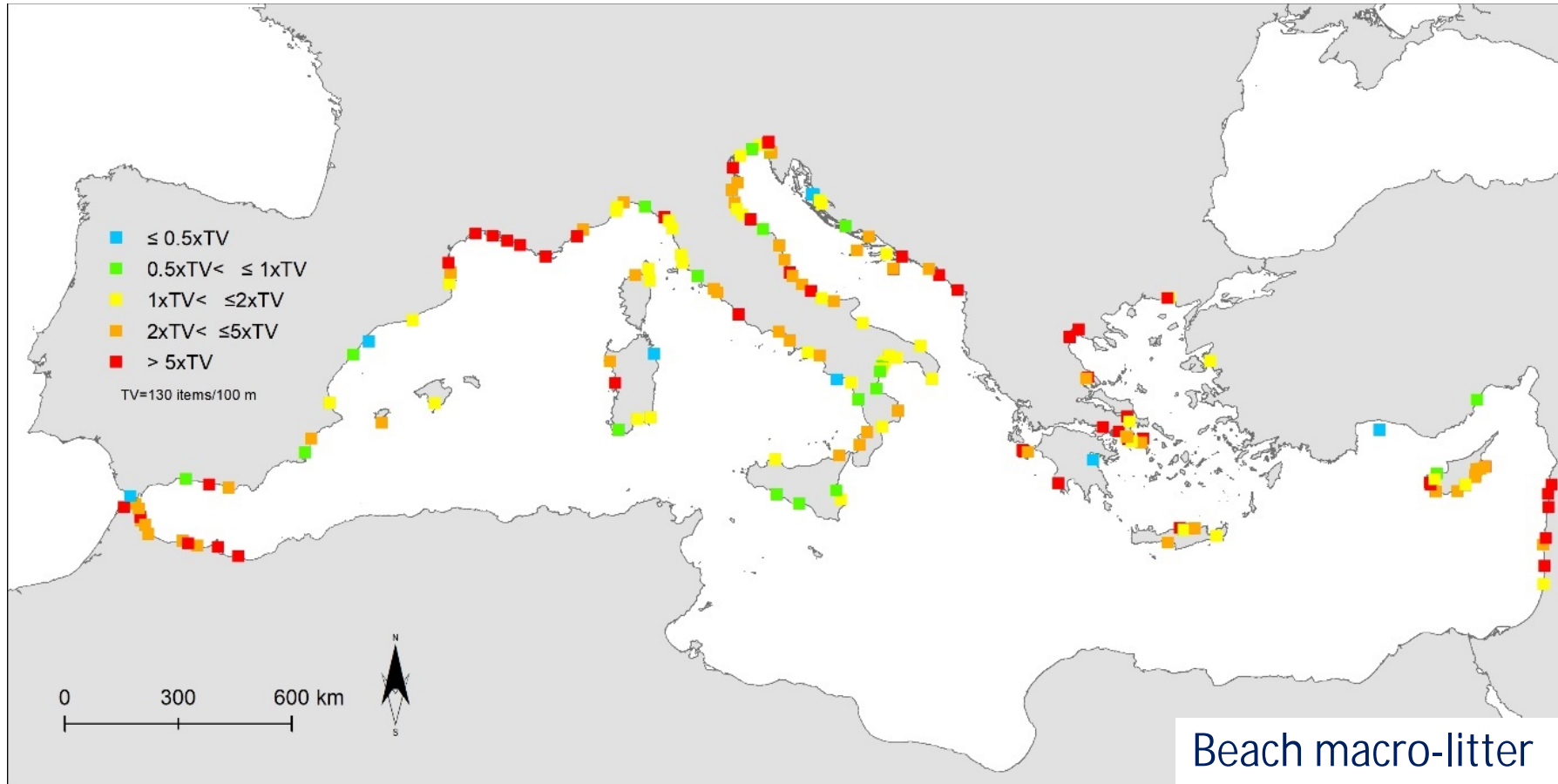
Assessment Criteria for Marine Litter

Updated BV and Establishment of TV for CI22 approved by COP22 (Dec. 2023)

IMAP Indicators	Categories of Marine Litter	BV-2021	TV-2021
CI22	Beach Marine Litter	369 items/100m	130 items/100m

IMAP Indicators	Categories of Marine Litter	BV-2016	Updated BV-2023	Proposed TV-2023
CI23	Seafloor Macro-litter	130-230 items/km ²	135 items/km ²	38 items/km ² -
CI23	Floating Microplastics	0,2–0,5 items/m ²	0.044338 items/m ²	0,000845 items/m ²

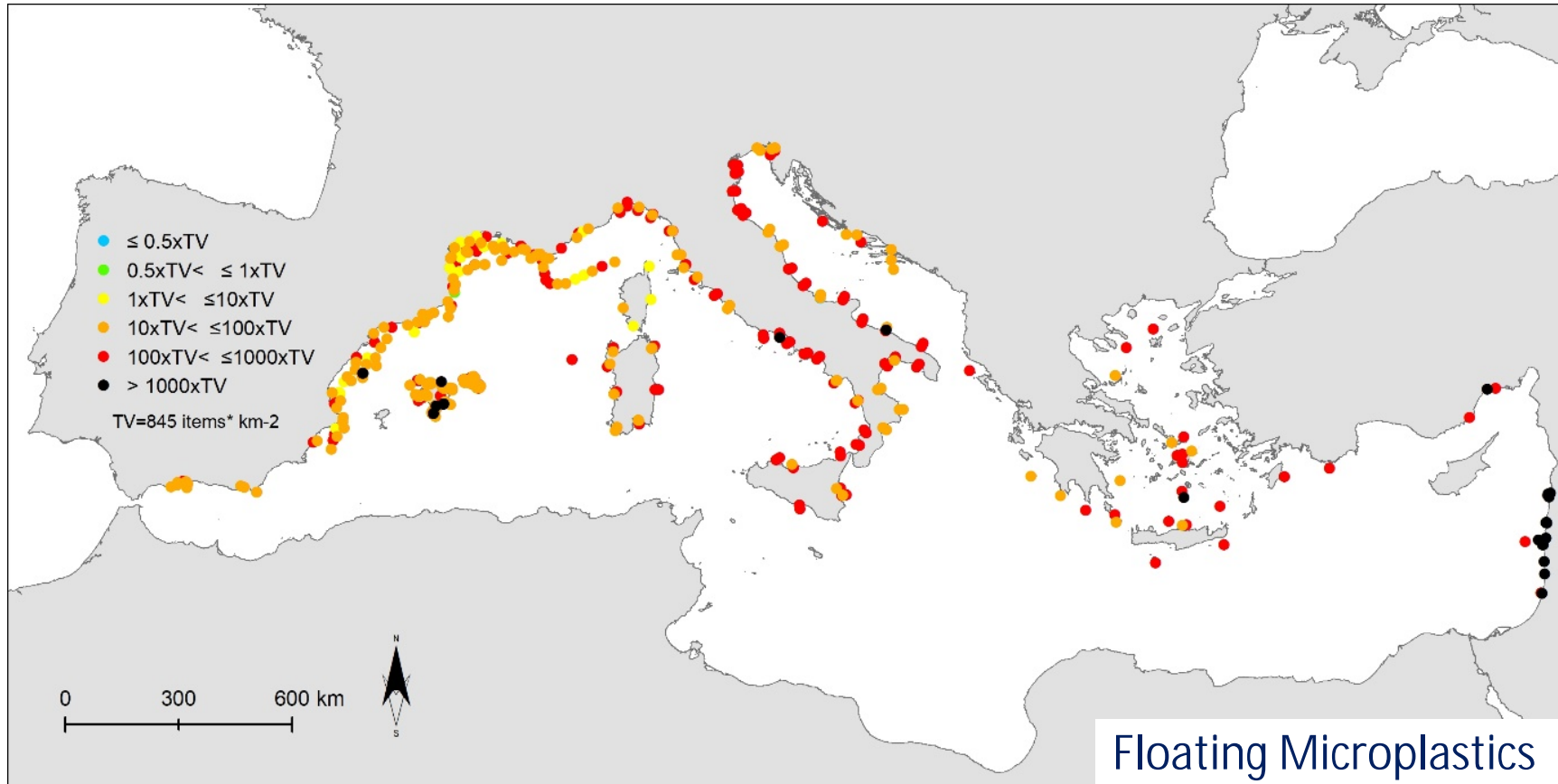
The Marine Litter Chapter of the 2023 MED Quality Status Report (QSR)



Beach macro-litter

Mediterranean Region			
Boundary limits	GES- nonGES classes	No of Beaches	% of Beaches
≤ 0.5xTV	HIGH	10	5
0.5xTV < ≤ 1xTV	GOOD	23	11
1xTV < ≤ 2xTV	MODERATE	49	24
2xTV < ≤ 5xTV	POOR	59	29
> 5xTV	BAD	51	25
			16% GES
			79 % nonGES

The Marine Litter Chapter of the 2023 MED Quality Status Report (QSR)

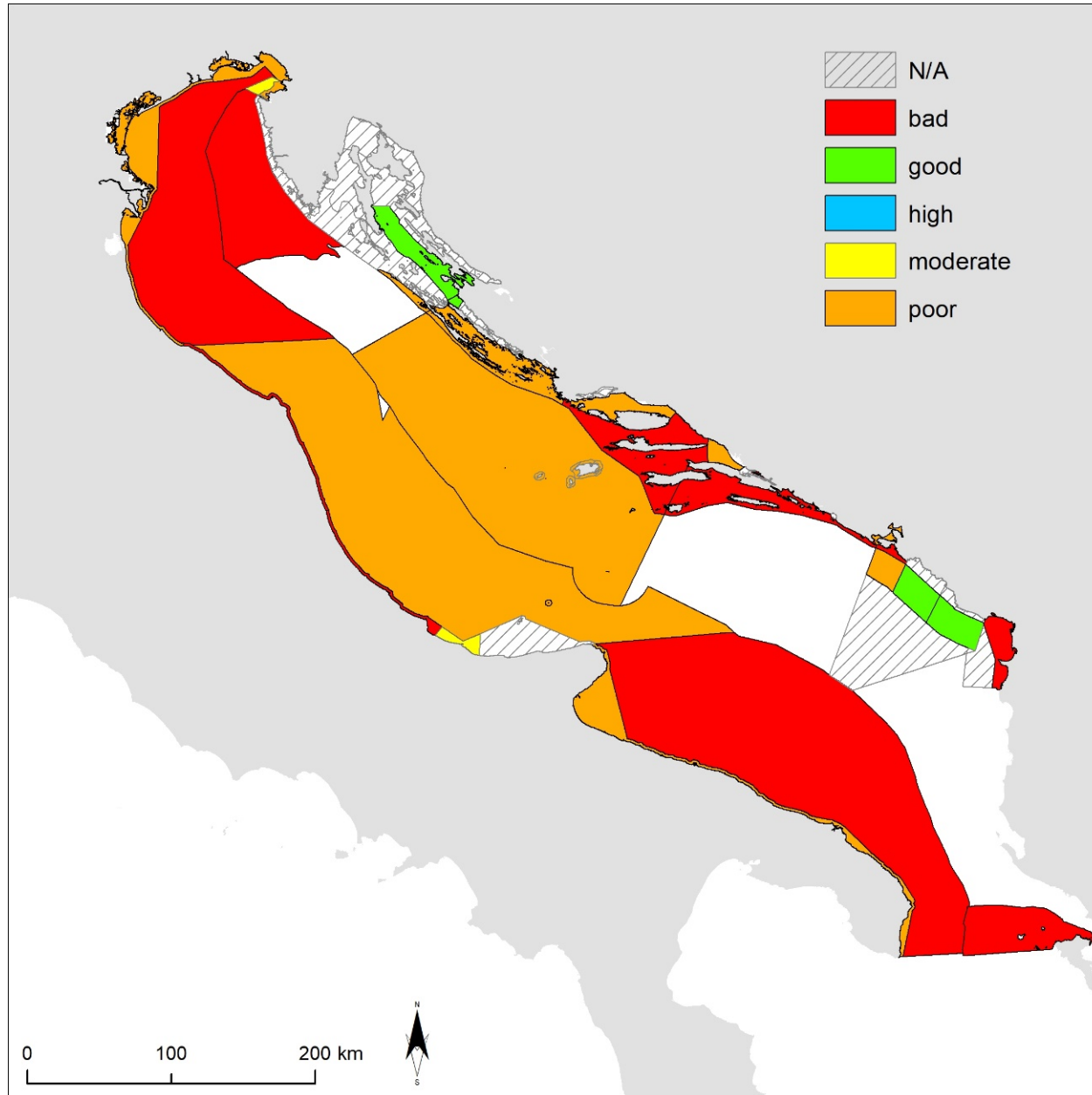


Floating Microplastics

Mediterranean Region

Boundary limits	GES- nonGES classes	No of stations	% of stations	
≤ 0.5xTV	HIGH	4	1	1 % GES
0.5xTV < ≤ 1xTV	GOOD	1	0	
1xTV < ≤ 10xTV	MODERATE	40	6	99 % non-GES
10xTV < ≤ 100xTV	POOR	297	44	
100xTV < ≤ 1000xTV	BAD	306	45	
>1000x TV	VERY BAD	31	5	

The Marine Litter Chapter of the 2023 MED Quality Status Report (QSR)



Aggregated-integrated assessment for E010 in the Adriatic sub-Region following the NEAT assessment methodology

	GES		non-GES		
IMAP – traffic light approach	Good	Moderate	Bad		
NEAT tool	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
	$0 < \text{meas. conc.} \leq \text{BAC}$	$\text{BAC} < \text{meas. conc.} \leq \text{GES}/\mu\text{GES threshold}$	$\text{GES}/\mu\text{GES} < \text{meas. conc.} \leq \text{moderate/poor threshold}$	moderate/poor threshold $< \text{meas. conc.} \leq \text{max. conc.}$	
Boundary limits and NEAT scores	0 $1 < \text{score} \leq 0.8$	$0.8 < \text{score} \leq 0.6$	$0.6 < \text{score} \leq 0.4$	$0.4 < \text{score} \leq 0.2$	Score < 0.2 Max. conc.
Thresholds CI22; CI23 SFL	$\frac{1}{2} \text{TV}$	TV	2TV	5 TV	
CI23_MPs	$\frac{1}{2} \text{TV}$	TV	10TV	100 TV	
CHASE+ tool	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
Thresholds CI22; CI23 SFL	$\frac{1}{2} \text{TV}$	TV	2TV	5TV	
CI23_MPs	$\frac{1}{2} \text{TV}$	TV	10TV	100 TV	
CHASE+ Scores	$0 < \text{CR} \leq 0.5$	$0.5 < \text{CR} \leq 1$	$1 < \text{CR} \leq 2$	$2 < \text{CR} \leq 5$	$\text{CR} > 5$

Mediterranean Response

Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (updated in 2021- COP22)

integration measures (reduction & prevention) removal actions
disposal monitoring & assessment research & science
guidelines capacity building cooperation awareness raising
education stakeholder & civil society engagement reporting

Biennium 2020-2021: Update of Legal Framework, endorsed by COP 22, Antalya, Turkiye (December 2021)

Decision IG.25/8: Regional Plans on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the LBS

The Regional Plan on UWWT is regulating the **collection, treatment, reuse and discharge of urban wastewaters** and the pre-treatment and **discharge of industrial wastewater entering collecting systems** from certain industrial sectors.

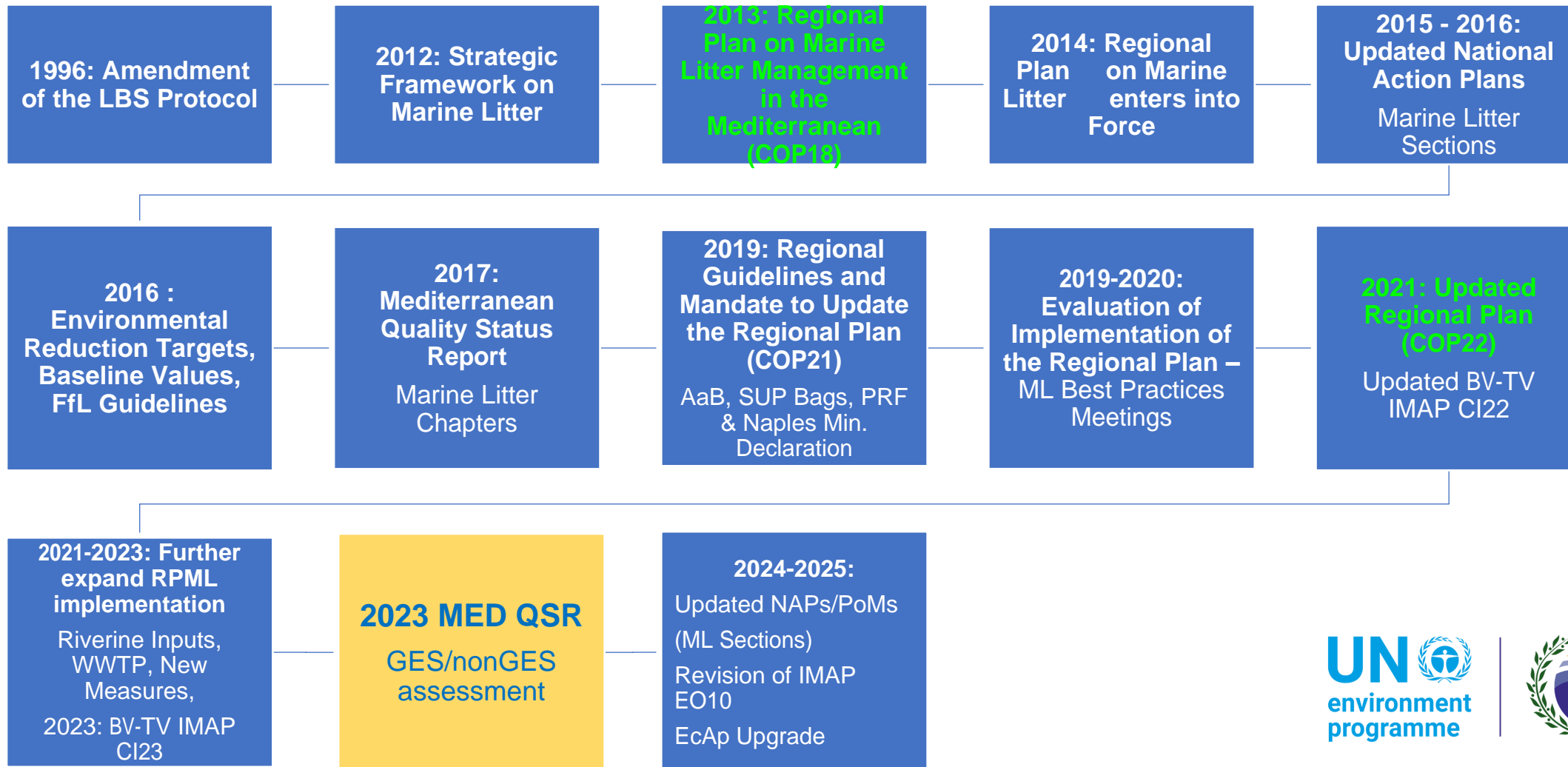
The Regional Plan on Sludge is to ensure effective **reuse of beneficial substances and exploitation of energy potential of sewage sludge**, while preventing harmful effects on human health and the environment

Decision IG.25/9: Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol

Regional Plan is to **improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment**, aiming to:

- a) **Prevent and reduce to the minimum marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean and its impact on ecosystem services**, habitats, species, public health and safety, as well as reduction of the socioeconomic costs it causes;
- b) **Remove to the extent possible already existent marine litter** by using environmentally sound methods;

MAP/Barcelona Convention System: Advanced Policy and Regulatory Framework for Marine Litter



Advanced links of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management with the Global Agenda

- ✓ United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions on (i) marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.1/Res.6; UNEP/EA.2/Res.11; UNEP/EA.3/Res.7; UNEP/EA.4/Res.6); (ii) Single-use plastic products pollution (UNEP/EA.4/ Res.9); (iii) global treaty on plastic pollution (UNEA/EA.5/Res.14);
- ✓ UNEA 5.2: Resolution aims to establish an **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** with a mandate to negotiate a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution with the objective of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment by covering all stages of the plastic life cycle and by adopting a circular economy approach to plastics.
- ✓ UNEP Marine Litter Partnerships and Initiatives: Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and Clean Seas Campaign
- ✓ IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships
- ✓ Basel Convention - Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP)
- ✓ EU Policies on Marine Litter and Plastic: MSFD, EU Plastics Strategy, New Circular Economy Action Plan, Single-use Plastic Directive, European Green Deal Policy Framework, Waste Framework Directive

Additional principles and measures addressed by the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Phases out single-use plastic items and promote reuse options;
- Sets targets for plastic recycling and other waste items;
- Introduces economic instruments such as environmental taxes, bans and design requirements; EPR (land and sea-based sources);
- Promotes new technologies and measures for the removal of marine litter;
- Supports the application of prevention measures to achieve a circular economy for plastics;
- Reduces packaging;
- Promotes voluntary agreements with industry;
- Takes measures to integrate the informal sector into regulated waste collection and recycling schemes;
- Strengthens measures related to SCP programmes;



Additional principles and measures addressed by the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Phases-out chemical additives used in plastic products, in particular those under Stockholm Convention;
- Introduces concrete measures on microplastics reduction;
- Implements measures to prevent and reduce marine litter in MPAs;
- Minimizes the amount of marine litter associated with fishing and aquaculture;
- Establishes marine litter monitoring programmes as part of IMAP EO10 including riverine inputs and those coming from WWTP;
- Enhances public awareness and education;
- Includes measures in the SPAMIs to combat marine litter.



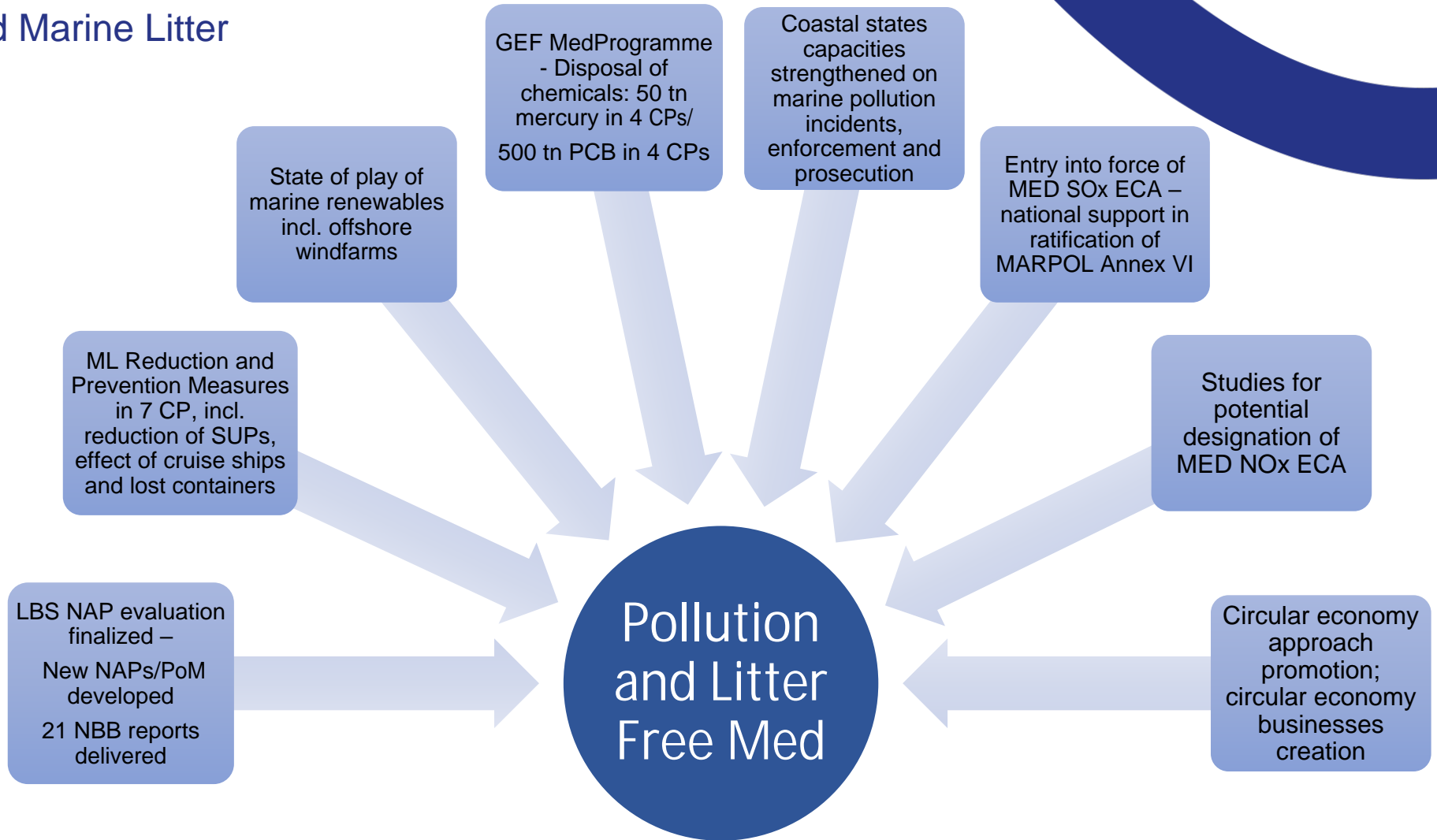
Programme of Work for 2023-2025 (current Biennium)

Key Outcomes

Programme 1. Pollution and Marine Litter

Main objectives and key outcomes

- Integrated responses (Local, national, subregional and regional actions) for prevention and reduction of plastic pollution and marine litter, including emerging sources
- Synergies with regional/global instruments, incl. Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution
- Support for entry into force of MED SOx ECA – preparatory work on MED NOx ECA
- Updated NAPs/POM under LBS Protocol
- Transformational change embracing circular economy and contributing to implementation of the One Health Approach

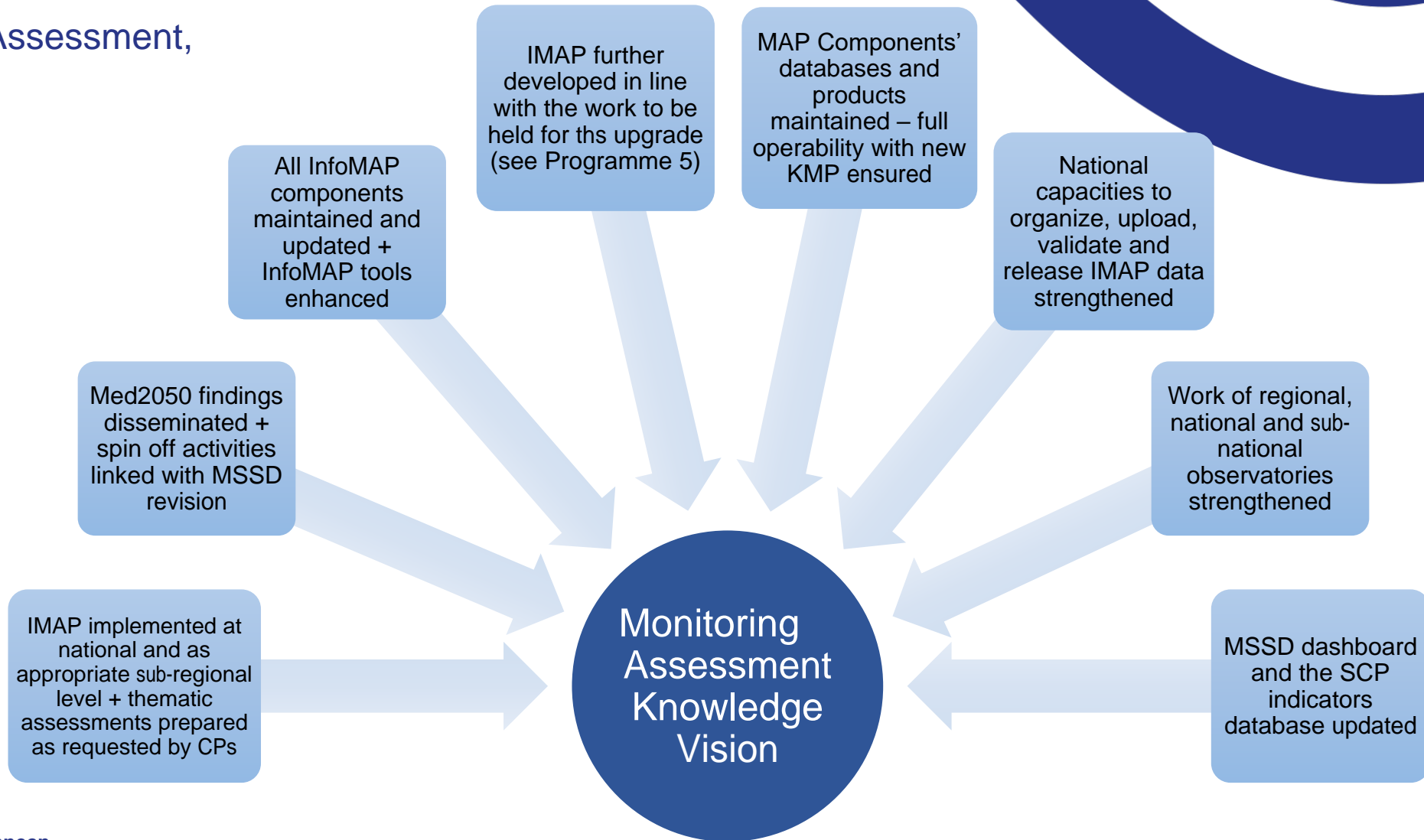


Key Outcomes

Programme 6. Monitoring, Assessment, Knowledge and Vision

Main objectives and key outcomes

- Enter into a new phase of updated IMAP for GES assessment, based on 2023 MED QSR outcomes
- Strengthen the Environment and Development Observatory in support of CPs decision-making.
- Strengthen the information system for IMAP including with the integration of assessment tools
- Deliver an integrated Knowledge Management Platform for the MAP system.



Preparation of National Action Plans 2025-20235

Outline of the Updated National Action Plans (2025-2035)

1) Preparation of a Benchmarking:

- National Baseline Budget tool (NBB)
- Marine Environment Monitoring Reports
- Updating the hotspot list according to a new methodology
- Review of the implementation of the 2015 NAP

National Midterm Assessment report

2) Identification of Regional and National Measures:

- Present NAPs 2015-2025
- New 6 Regional Plans and
- MED QSR 2023 Summary (key findings and recommendations)

National Current status report

3) Identifying Gaps:

- Business as usual scenario and alternative scenario

4) Prioritizing the Gaps

- Prioritizing will be based on degree of impact on the environment and society as well as the cost-benefit analysis. Based on the impact on various factors: public health, environmental status and pressures, economics, trans-boundary effects and climate change – extreme weather events.

Prioritizing the GAPS

5) Detailed Implementation plans : (Sectoral Plans or EO Based Planning)

- Selection of the main topics for which a detailed gap closing plan will be built, the plan will include (i) “Operational Targets” and “Quantifiable Objectives”, (ii) outlined goals (iii) structured system for consistent updates, (iv) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Implementation Plans

6) Monitoring Programme

- Establishing Monitoring of Programme for identified in the NAPs/PoMs.
- Indicators will be selected to monitor the environmental situation and track the progress of the detailed plans.

7) Capacity Building

7) Drafting the NAP document :

- In close coordination with MEDPOL

8) Endorsement:

- At national level and at MAP and COP 24

NAP Drafting

Thank you

Erol Cavus

Pollution Control Officer

**UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)**

Barcelona Convention Secretariat
Vas. Konstantinou 48, Athens 11635, Greece
Telephone: + 30 210 7273123

erol.cavus@un.org

[Twitter: @UNEPMAPNews](https://twitter.com/UNEPMAPNews)

www.unepmap.org



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

Definition of the Hotspots

- (1) Point sources on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea which potentially affect human health, ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability or economy in a significant manner. They are the main points where high levels of pollution loads originating from domestic/urban or industrial sources are being discharged;
- (2) Defined areas where the marine ecosystem is subject to pollution from one or more point or diffused sources from the Mediterranean coast which potentially affect human health in a significant manner, ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability or economy.

Update in the criteria's categories for assessment

More quantitative approach when applying updated criteria

Current Assessment Criteria in Hotspot Methodology

PUBLIC HEALTH	ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS and PRESSURES	ECONOMICS	TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS
Population Wastewater treatment Drinking water quality Bathing water quality	Organic matter Nutrients and biological status Contaminants Marine litter	Economic activities (and ecosystem services underpinning them) Investment	Transboundary effects.

New Proposal for Assessment Criteria

PUBLIC HEALTH	ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS	ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES	ECONOMICS	TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS	CLIMATE CHANGE Effect
Population Wastewater treatment Bathing water quality	Assessing status of deterioration by applying IMAP Indicators	Assessing the pollution loads' trend with NAP Indicators	Economic activities (and ecosystem services underpinning them) Investment	Transboundary effects.	extreme weather events, raise of sea water level, changes in coastal line

Marine Litter MED PLUS Project

Objective: To further support and expand the implementation of the **updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**, the **Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for Marine Litter (EO10)** including its upgrade, as well as to enhance interregional cooperation for enhanced and effective marine litter management across the seas.

✓ It builds on the successful outcomes of the two previous phases of the project (Marine Litter MED - 2016-2019 | Marine Litter MED II - 2020-2023)

Project Identity:

Beneficiaries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and the Black Sea Commission

Budget: USD 1,382,677 (EC: 1,200,000 + MTF: 182,677)

Lifespan: 36 months (Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2027)