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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

20 January 2023
English only

Third (Interim) Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project

Istanbul, Türkiye, 8 February 2023

Agenda Item 3: Progress on Marine Litter MED II Project Implementation

Report of the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project

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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

27 September 2022
Original: English

Second Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project

Videoconference, 7 July 2021

Report of the Meeting

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Table of contents

Report of the Meeting1-5

Annex I: List of Participants

Annex II: Agenda of the Meeting

Annex III: Conclusions and Recommendations

Annex IV: Synergistic Execution of Activities Between Marine Litter MED I, II and WES Project
Relevant to SUPs and EPR

Introduction

1. The Second Steering Committee meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II project took place via videoconference, on 7 July 2022, at the kind invitation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and its Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL). The Marine Litter MED II project is funded by the European Union's (EU) Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV).
2. The overall objective of the Marine Litter MED II project is to reduce and prevent the generation of marine litter in the Mediterranean through an expanded implementation of key reduction and prevention measures as provided for in the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. This will be achieved through: (a) expanding the implementation of selected key marine litter reduction and prevention measures both in terms of geographical scope and impact; (b) contributing to the development of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 towards making it operational at country level; and (c) contributing in achieving the reduction environmental targets as agreed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona in 2016 during COP 18 as reaffirmed during COP 21 and referred to in its Naples Ministerial Declaration.
3. The Project Steering Committee reviewed: the progress achieved, revised workplan and budget, updated communication and visibility plan, and potential synergies with other projects and initiatives.

Participation

4. The Marine Litter MED II project Steering Committee Meeting was attended by representatives of Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as the European Commission DG ENV, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) along with the following Mediterranean Action Plan regional activity centres: the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).
5. The full list of participants including contact details is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II project was opened on Thursday, 07 July 2022 at 10:00 (Eastern European Time), by the UNEP/MAP MED POL Associate Programme Management Officer and the European Commission DG ENV Senior Expert in charge of the Project.
7. Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis, UNEP/MAP Associate Programme Management Officer, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the Marine Litter MED II project. He thanked the European Commission for the continuous support and contribution provided on issues related to the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and for strengthening marine litter management around the region. Mr Ioakeimidis made special reference to the important role the beneficiary countries are having in executing national activities, for this project addressing land- and sea-based sources, involving the whole MAP System (i.e., the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components), and most importantly for taking stock of the successful implementation of the previous phase of the project with the scope to expand the implementation of key reduction and prevention measures of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean adopted by COP22 in Antalya, Turkey (7-10 December 2021). Moreover, reference was made in the importance of establishing harmonized approaches as well as regional coordination mechanisms for marine litter prevention and management. Mr. Ioakeimidis stressed the Secretariat's efforts in

overcoming the problems and delays pertinent to the operationalization of the legal agreements with the countries and commented on the importance of strengthening project ownership at country level.

8. Mr. Michail Papadoyannakis, Senior Expert at the European Commission (DG ENV) thanked UNEP/MAP and MED POL for organizing and hosting the meeting and welcomed the broad participation. He stressed on the importance of the Marine Litter MED II project for the region, as it targets a litter free Mediterranean which will have a positive impact for the citizens in all countries around the Mediterranean. Mr. Papadoyannakis made special reference to the paramount importance for beneficiary countries to execute and expand implementation of the pilots planned in the framework of this project. He also stressed the fact on the observed delays in the implementation of the project and urged the Secretariat and the beneficiary countries to work closely to overcome them.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

9. Recalling the Terms of References (ToRs) and relevant mandate of the Steering Committee Meeting included in the project document, the MAP Coordinator invited all participants for a *tour de table* which allowed all participants to briefly introduce themselves to each other and to the organizations which they represent.

10. The Project Steering Committee reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda. The Meeting Agenda is included in **Annex II** to the present report.

11. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available during the Meeting.

Agenda item 3: Progress on Marine Litter MED II Project Implementation:

12. The MED POL Associate Programme Management Officer, Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis, presented the Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.536/2 “Progress Report on the Implementation of Marine Litter MED II Project” and UNEP/MED WG.516/3 “Updated Work Plan and Budget 2022-2023”, and informed the Project Steering Committee of the progress achieved during the period September 2021 to June 2022. Its presentations covered the following topics:

A. Progress on Project implementation covered the following topics:

- a) Development and finalization of the 2 National Strategies/Monitoring Programmes for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 for Tunisia¹ and Lebanon² and their validation at national level, including elements on data generation;
- b) The preparation of the first draft of Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DS) for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) Candidate Indicator 24 (Ingestion and Entanglement on Marine Turtles)³, and its review by the CORMON Marine Litter Meeting (31 May 2022);
- c) Preparatory work for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, including the exchange and collection of data from EU-funded projects and the preparation of a data inventory;
- d) Adoption of the updated BV and the establishment of TV for IMAP CI22 by COP22 (Antalya, December 2021), and the ongoing work to update and establish relevant values (i.e., BV and TV) for IMAP CI23 (seafloor macrolitter and floating microplastics);

¹ UNEP/MED WG.534/Inf.5: National Operational Strategy for Monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 in Tunisia.

² UNEP/MED WG.534/Inf.4: National Operational Strategy for Monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 in Lebanon.

³ UNEP/MED WG.534/3: Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DS) for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) Candidate Indicator 24 (Ingestion and Entanglement on Marine Turtles).

- e) Preparation of draft guidelines for monitoring riverine inputs of marine litter⁴ and their review by the CORMON Marine Litter Meeting (31 May 2022);
- f) Preparation of 2 assessment reports⁵ and a working document⁶ focusing on an overview of measures and instruments to prevent, control and manage marine litter generation from wastewater treatment plants, aquaculture activities, riverine inputs, and shipping, presented during the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Seville, Spain, 17-18 May 2022);
- g) Ongoing work relevant to the preparation of ToRs for a regional expert with for developing a protocol for monitoring inputs of microplastics coming from wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs);
- h) Execution of Adopt-a-beach and Fishing-for-Litter pilots in Morocco and the close to finalization work for having the agreements signed and operation with Algeria and Tunisia;
- i) Advancement on the work on single-use plastic items in Tunisia and Lebanon, as well as on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Algeria and Morocco, including an overview of activities between the previous and current phase of the Marine Litter MED and the WES project;
- j) Recruitment of a regional expert to support the execution of activities in ports and marinas, and the preliminary steps for the execution of the said pilots in Morocco.
- k) Exchange between UNEP/MAP and GFCM regarding the development of the joint workplan;
- l) Advancements in the framework of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter, the new memberships and the approved workplan for 2022-2023;
- m) Compliance with the reporting requirements (i.e., 2021 annual report and ENRTP/GPGC ENRTP Traffic Light System Reports);
- n) Engagement of the project manager as of 1st October 2021 and the relevant developments pertinent to the engagement of the project assistant (UNV modality and process for G5 recruitment);
- o) Preparation of legal instruments and relevant administrative developments;
- p) Update of project's [mini-site](#);

B. Updated workplan and budget:

- a) Presentation of the revised workplan and budget for 2022 – 2023 by the Secretariat as reflected in document UNEP/MED WG.536/3 “Updated Work Plan and Budget 2022-2023”, including a proposal for extension of specific project’s activities;
- b) Proposing no budget re-allocation or budget shift;
- c) Detailed discussion regarding the execution of the project’s pilots, stressing the importance for finalizing the relevant agreements the soonest possible, certainly within summer 2022.

13. In response to the presentations of the Secretariat, several Contracting Parties and the European Commission DG ENV Senior Expert in charge of the Project took the floor and raised a number of issues.

14. For updating the BV and establishing the TV for CI23, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to confirm the approach that will be followed (i.e., presentation and review of the values by a series of UNEP/MAP institutional meetings) as well as whether a similar approach as for CI22 will be followed including a COP approval. In response, the Secretariat confirmed that a similar approach will be

⁴ UNEP/MED WG.534/4: Draft Guidelines for Monitoring Riverine Inputs of Marine Litter.

⁵ (a) Report on measures/instruments to prevent, control and monitor of marine litter undertaken for wastewater treatment plants; aquaculture activities; riverine inputs and ships, with a focus on microplastics, emerging pollutants and packaging waste management in the Mediterranean. (b) Report on sources for plastic pollution and measures to prevent and reduce generation of plastic waste management in the Mediterranean.

⁶ UNEP/MED WG.526/3: Overview of measures/instruments to prevent, control and manage marine litter generation from wastewater treatment plants, aquaculture activities, riverine inputs, and shipping.

followed (i.e., presentation and review of the values by CORMON Marine Litter, MED POL Focal Points and EcAp Coordination Group Meetings), and a possibly a COP Decision to be confirmed towards the end of 2022.

15. For the preparation of guidelines for monitoring microplastics from WWTP, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to work closely with the relevant developments under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) as microplastics will be included in its revised version, as well as to explore as much as possible for available quantifiable data around the Mediterranean.

16. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to further update and enrich Table 2 of UNEP/MED WG.536/2 to include more informative and descriptive information. Its updated version is included under **Annex IV** to the present report.

17. A number of Country representative made reference to the financial and institutional obstacles being present at country level being responsible for the relevant delays in finalizing, signing and making operation the respective legal agreements.

18. The EU representative made special reference to the incurred delays stating that we cannot leave the delays pertaining and that measures should be introduced examining each country case by case.

19. Regarding the support to the Black Sea region and after considering the critical condition in the region, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to enhance the dialogue with the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) in order to have a very clear overview regarding the feasibility in implementing the envisaged activities, as well as, if need be, prepare and propose a contingency plan.

20. The EU representative commented on the delays encountered in sharing and addressing the EU comments to the 2021 annual progress report and requested the Secretariat to explore with UNEP Brussels office the reasons behind this delay and to make an effort to overcome them for future occasions.

21. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to finalize in cooperation with the respective countries the pending agreements by the end of summer 2022. Should this be not possible, a contingency plan and a proposal for budget reallocation should be prepared for review till the end of September 2022.

22. The MAP Coordinator drew the attention of the Steering Committee to the importance of a regular and coordinated effort at country level for implementation of project activities among different institutions responsible for different aspects of marine litter management.

23. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 4: Updated Communication and Visibility Plan 2021 – 2022

24. The Secretariat presented an updated version of the project communication and visibility plan (UNEP/MED WG.536/4) including specific information on its objectives and target groups, the regular communication activities, and the required resources. Special attention was provided by the Secretariat on the proposed innovative communication activities.

25. Several Contracting Parties and the EU representative took the floor, welcomed and endorsed the updated communication and visibility plan and commended the Secretariat's efforts towards introducing innovative communication activities and streamlining project's aspects and goals into simple-language communication messages.

26. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

27. No other business was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

28. The Meeting reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations and adopted them as revised and presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 7: Closure of the Meeting

29. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was declared closed at 14:30 on Thursday, 07 July 2022 by the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

Annex I

List of Participants

List of participants**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES / REPRESENTANTS DES
PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

ALGERIA / ALGERIE	Mme. Souad Boustila Ministry of Environment
ISRAEL / ISRAEL	Mr. Frederic Arzoine Deputy Director, Marine Environment Protection Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection T
LEBANON / LIBAN	Mr. Bassam Sabbagh, Head, Urban Environment, Ministry of Environment
MOROCCO / MAROC	M. Mohammed El Bouch Director, National Laboratory for Pollution Studies and Monitoring Department of Sustainable Development (DDD/MTEDD) Tel: Mr. Abdeslam Abid, Department of Sustainable Development (DDD/MTEDD)
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	Mr. Yassine Marzougui National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPE)

DONOR

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPEENNE	Mr. Michail Papadoyannakis Senior Expert, Marine Environment and Water Industry Directorate General Environment (DG ENV)
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**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ACTION PLAN / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
- SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**

**UNEP/MAP COORDINATING UNIT /
PNUE/PAM UNITÉ DE
COORDINATION**

Ms Tatjana Hema
Coordinator
tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis
Associate Programme Management Officer
christos.ioakeimidis@un.org

Mr. Erol Cavus
Programme Management Officer (Pollution)
erol.cavus@un.org

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
(REMPEC) / CENTRE RÉGIONAL
MEDITERRANÉEN POUR
L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE
CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE
ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)**

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez
Head of Office
ggonzalez@rempec.org

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER FOR
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS
(SPA/RAC) /
CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES
POUR LES AIRES SPECIALEMENT
PROTÉGÉES (CAR/ASP)**

Ms. Lobna Ben Nakhla
Programme Officer
lobna.bennakhla@spa-rac.org
Mr. Marwan ABDERRAHIM
Project Assistant
marwan.abderrahim@spa-rac.org

**MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR
SCP
(FORMER SCP/RAC)**

Ms. Magali Outters
Team Leader Policy Area
moutters@gencat.cat

Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

Thursday, 07 July 2022

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational Matters
- a) Adoption of the Agenda
 - b) Organization of Work
- Agenda Item 3:** Progress on Marine Litter MED II Project Implementation:
- a) Project's activities
 - b) Workplan and Budget
 - c) Synergies and Cooperation
- Agenda item 4:** Updated Communication and Visibility Plan 2022-2023
- Agenda Item 5:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 6:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 7:** Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations / Conclusions et recommandations

Appendix 1

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 07 July 2022, the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project was held by videoconference. The meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (MED POL Programme). The Meeting was attended by representatives of Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, EU DG ENV, MAP Components (SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC and REMPEC), in addition to UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit/MED POL.

The Meeting reviewed the working documents WG.536/1 to WG.536/4 (Provisional Agenda, Progress Report, Workplan and Budget, and Communication Plan). Further to its deliberations, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

1. The Meeting thanked the European Commission for the continuous support and contribution streamlined through the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project, and most importantly for further supporting and strengthening the implementation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the key reduction and prevention measures as identified through the National Action Plans and supported during the first phase of the project. It stressed the importance of active participation from beneficiaries and need to capitalize from lessons learned from the previous ML MED Project; the meeting was also reminded of the existence of a mechanism of reallocation of resources, if necessary, to allow fulfilment of the project outputs.
2. The Meeting acknowledged progress made for some of the activities and stressed the important delays encountered mainly under Outputs 2 and 3.
3. The Meeting acknowledged the work undertaken so far on the preparation of the legal instruments and requested that the Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) with the remaining countries are concluded by July 2022 at the latest. Subsequently a proposal for budget reallocation as appropriate will be submitted by the Secretariat with the members of the Steering Committee by August/September 2022. To this aim, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to provide with options and proposals for budget reallocations for activities and/or national support that did not yield the necessary results nor has been streamlined or are still in delay of implementation. A revised workplan including a timeline should be also prepared as appropriate to ensure the effective and full implementation of activities.
4. The Meeting requested the further elaboration of the table prepared summarizing the activities carried out under Output 2.D regarding single-use plastics and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), to include additional information and relevant projects implemented by UNEP/MAP and SCP/RAC.
5. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to deliver the guidelines for monitoring microplastics from wastewater treatment plants.
6. The Meeting considered that there is no sufficient ground to agree on a proposal for extending some of the project's activities, and that this should be addressed in line with Paragraph 3 of the present conclusions and recommendations.

7. The Meeting strongly recommended that the outcome of the project related to the elaboration of Baseline Values and Threshold Values for IMAP Marine Litter Indicators will be submitted for consideration to the respective governing bodies of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System and possibly for the consideration of COP23 in December 2023.
8. The Meeting encouraged the Secretariat and the Countries implementing the pilots to expedite and advance their implementation to enable the use of the generated data for the needs of preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, with a view to showcase progress in line with the targets as agreed within the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Framework.
9. The Meeting welcomed the Secretariat's efforts regarding the visibility of the project and encouraged the Secretariat and the Countries participating to the project to find effective ways and means for enhanced communication and visibility of the project.
10. The Meeting agreed for the possibility to hold a Steering Committee Meeting in mid-September 2022 to review the Secretariat's proposal for an updated workplan and budget re-allocation.
11. The next annual Steering Committee Meeting will be held in July 2023.

Appendix 2

Conclusions et recommandations

La deuxième réunion du comité de pilotage du projet Marine Litter MED II sur les déchets marins, financé par l'Union Européenne, s'est tenue Le 7 juillet 2022 par vidéoconférence. La réunion était organisée par le Secrétariat du PAM/PNUE (Programme MED POL). La réunion a réuni des représentants de l'Algérie, d'Israël, du Liban, du Maroc, de la Tunisie, de la DG ENV de l'UE, des Composantes du PAM (CAR/CPD, CAR/ASP et REMPEC), et de l'Unité de coordination du PAM/PNUE MED POL.

La réunion a examiné les documents de travail WG.536/1 à WG.536/4 (ordre du jour provisoire, rapport d'activité, plan de travail et budget et plan de communication). A l'issue de ses délibérations, la Réunion est parvenue aux conclusions suivantes :

1. La réunion a remercié la Commission européenne pour son soutien constant et son engagement renouvelé par le biais du financement du projet Marine MED II sur les déchets marins, et plus particulièrement pour le rôle instrumental qu'elle a joué dans le renforcement de la mise en oeuvre du plan régional actualisé sur la gestion des déchets marins en Méditerranée et dans les principales mesures de réduction et de prévention telles qu'identifiées dans les plans d'action nationaux au cours de la première phase du projet. La réunion a souligné également l'importance de la participation active des pays bénéficiaires et la nécessité de capitaliser les enseignements tirés du précédent projet ML MED. Il a également été rappelé de l'existence d'un mécanisme de réallocation des ressources, si nécessaire, pour permettre la réalisation du projet.
2. La réunion a reconnu les progrès réalisés pour certaines des activités et a souligné les retards importants rencontrés principalement au titre des produits 2 et 3.
3. La réunion a reconnu le travail entrepris jusqu'à présent sur la préparation des instruments juridiques et a demandé que les accords de microfinancement à petite échelle (SSFA) avec les pays restants soient conclus d'ici juillet 2022 au plus tard. Par la suite, une proposition de réaffectation budgétaire, le cas échéant, sera soumise par le Secrétariat aux membres du Comité de pilotage d'ici août/septembre 2022. À cet effet, la réunion a demandé au Secrétariat de fournir des options et des propositions de réaffectation budgétaire pour les activités et/ou soutien national n'ayant pas donné les résultats attendus, et/ou comptant des retards dans la mise en oeuvre. Un plan de travail révisé comprenant un calendrier doit également être préparé, le cas échéant, pour assurer la mise en oeuvre efficace et complète des activités.
4. La réunion a demandé que le tableau préparé résumant les activités menées dans le cadre du Produit 2.D concernant les plastiques à usage unique et la responsabilité élargie des producteurs (REP) soit remanié, afin d'inclure des informations supplémentaires et des projets pertinents mis en oeuvre par le PNUE/PAM et le SCP/ CAR.
5. La réunion a demandé au Secrétariat de fournir les lignes directrices pour la surveillance des microplastiques provenant des usines de traitement des eaux usées.
6. La réunion a estimé qu'il n'y avait pas de motifs suffisants pour convenir d'une proposition d'extension de certaines des activités du projet, et que cette question devrait être traitée conformément au paragraphe 3 des présentes conclusions et recommandations.

7. La réunion a fortement recommandé que le résultat du projet relatif à l'élaboration de valeurs de référence et de valeurs seuils pour les indicateurs IMAP de déchets marins soit soumis pour examen aux organes directeurs respectifs du système de la Convention de Barcelone du PNUE/PAM et éventuellement pour examen par la Conférence des Parties, COP23, en décembre 2023.

8. La réunion a encouragé le Secrétariat et les pays mettant en oeuvre les projets pilotes à accélérer et à faire progresser leur mise en oeuvre afin de permettre l'utilisation des données générées pour les besoins de la préparation du MED QSR 2023, en vue de présenter les progrès conformément aux objectifs tels que définis dans le cadre de la Convention de Barcelone PNUE/PAM.

9. La réunion a salué les efforts du Secrétariat concernant la visibilité du projet et a encouragé le Secrétariat et les pays bénéficiaires du projet à identifier les moyens pour améliorer la communication et la visibilité du projet.

10. La réunion a convenu de la possibilité de tenir une réunion du Comité directeur à la mi-septembre 2022 dans le but d'examiner la proposition du Secrétariat concernant un plan de travail actualisé et une réaffectation budgétaire.

11. La prochaine réunion annuelle du Comité directeur se tiendra en juillet 2023.

Annex IV
Synergistic Execution of Activities Between Marine Litter MED I, II and WES Project
Relevant to SUPs and EPR
(Updated version of Table 2 included under UNEP/MED WG.636/2)

Updated version of Table 2 under UNEP/MED WG.636/2 describing the synergistic execution of the activities between Marine Litter MED I, II and the WES Project Relevant to Single Use Plastics (SUPs) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):

	Marine Litter MED (2016 – 2019)	Marine Litter Med II (2020 – 2023)	WES
Regional	<p>Preparation of regional guidelines to phase out single-use plastic bags, adopted by COP21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2021).</p> <p>Contribution to the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter, and organization of the Regional Meetings on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey 2018 and Seville, Spain, 2019).</p>	<p>Contribution to Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter by sharing details of activities implemented at regional and national level and their inclusion in the approved joint workplans.</p> <p>Contribution to the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Seville, Spain, 17-18 May 2022) in terms of content preparation in relation to circular economy and plastics, including policy recommendations.</p>	<p>Organization of a regional training on microplastics (May-June 2021) to enhance the competences of the trainees on technical aspects of microplastics (definitions, types, pathways, impact, etc.); monitoring approaches and knowledge gaps; links between microplastics and chemical pollution; the pros/cons of potential measures; policy options and decision-making based on sound scientific evidence. More than 60 stakeholders from 10 Mediterranean countries participated in the on-line training, delivered via 3 modules (approx. 3 hours each; 9 hours in total). (More info)</p>

Morocco	Technical assistance provided on options to implement EPR in the country, with a focus on plastic packaging products.	<p>Implementation and support through providing technical assistance for the implementation of selected measures included in the national roadmap.</p> <p>Final scope to be defined once the national roadmap is more advanced (link with WES project). Based on that, potential scope of work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies on the economic models of collection and treatment; • Set up a register for producers and products subject to EPR; • Training for scavengers to get out of the informal sector; • Set up a consultation committee made up of representatives of all the stakeholders, including the Ministry of the Interior; • As for the revision of Law 28.00, determination of elements to be included in the law, and those to be included in the subsequent decree(s)/ decree(s) of application. 	<p>Development of a national roadmap for the implementation of EPR scheme on PET drink bottles (expected to be finalized in September 2022).</p> <p>A national workshop took place in April 2022 where the main directions and scope of work were agreed. The experts' team has drafted a first version of the roadmap and it is shared with the Ministry for review.</p> <p>The roadmap (4-years action plan table) contains key elements and steps that should be taken into consideration when establishing relevant systems/ schemes.</p>
Tunisia	Technical advice provided on the draft decree for the banning of single-use plastic bags, and the development of the complementary legal framework.	<p>A tailored communication campaign on the ban decree on single-use plastic bags was conceived and tools have been produced (through the MTF funds), including leaflets, posters, roll ups, video and caps. The campaign was officially launched on 11th May 2022 through a press conference in the premises of the Minister of Environment, including the presence of the Minister and the EU Delegation in Tunisia. Prior to this, MedWaves (SCP/RAC) engaged with 5 associations in the country to disseminate the communication materials in the field and conduct a survey with consumers and shops. These actions have been completed in July 2022. On 15th July 2022 an event was organised at the premises of the Ministry of Environment, chaired by the Minister, to inform on the results and provide policy recommendations based on the survey.</p>	N/A

Algeria	A feasibility study for an EPR pilot project was prepared for the area of Willaya of Oran, focusing on beverage packaging.	<p>Execution of the EPR pilot project in Willaya of Oran, and support to the creation of a Producer Responsibility Organisation. This is a follow-up to the feasibility study prepared during the first phase of the project, as well as the results of the project FILREC (GIZ) focusing in Willaya of Sétif.</p> <p>Additional support to the Association of Algerian Beverage Producers (APAB) is needed to create the National Producers Responsibility Organisation. This organisation would support the pilot by providing the necessary equipment, whereas Marine Litter MED II project would provide expert support on organisational matters, including follow up actions.</p>	N/A
Lebanon	A study on production and consumption of single-use plastic bags, and views from stakeholders on potential policy measures was prepared.	<p>Technical support to MoE in moving forward focusing on policy measure/s for phasing out single-use plastic bags. Focus is given in the development of a tax system or a consumers' reward system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the baseline on the consumption of plastic bags in supermarkets; • Propose of 2 scenarios: (i) a tax system, (ii) an incentive system • Meetings with MoE (Organized jointly with the WES project/activities); • Consultation meeting with stakeholders (Organized jointly with the WES project/activities); • Support to the MoE in the development of relevant targeted policies. 	<p>Technical assistance to the MoE in defining and implementing policy measures to tackle on-the-go single-use plastics (excluding plastic bags):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the baseline situation (production and consumption) for the selected SUP items in Lebanon: on-the-go food and beverage single-use packaging; • Identification and discussion on priorities and recommendations for policy measures; • Larger consultation meetings to validate the results and agree on the way forward for the reduction of SUPs; • Support to the MoE in the development of specific policies to take action to reduce SUPs.