

## **Marine Litter MED Project**

Final and **Annual 2019**<sup>1</sup> Project Report

Reporting period: 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019 and backward looking since beginning of project implementation

Prepared by  
UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention Secretariat

SIGNATURES <sup>2</sup>	
Name of Project Manager:  Christos Ioakeimidis Marine Litter MED Project Manager UNEP/MAP	Signature   Date: 13 / 7 / 2020
Name of Supervisor:  Mohamad Kayyal MED POL Programme Management Officer UNEP/MAP	<b>Clearance Signature</b>  Date: 13 / 7 / 2020
Name of Head of Branch / Unit Managing Project:  Gaetano Leone Coordinator UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat	<b>Sign Off Signature</b>  <i>Tatjana Hema, Deputy Coordinator Officer in Charge</i> Date: 13 / 7 / 2020

<sup>1</sup> This report reflects results achieved throughout the project duration (i.e. June 2016 to December 2019), and also results achieved during the last year of project implementation (i.e. 1/1-31/12/2019) which are provided to the present report in **bold and italic** under the "Output", "Visibility" and "Annexes" Sections .

<sup>2</sup> The signatures of the annual project progress reports confirm that quality control was done in the concerned Division and MEA Secretariat.

**ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS**  
**/ GPGC PROGRAMME COOPERATION AGREEMENT**  
**ANNEX 4 – FINAL PROJECT REPORT**

<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019 and backward looking since beginning of project implementation</b>
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**DESCRIPTION**

ENRTP/GPGC Strategic Priority <sup>3</sup>	3.1 Environment	EC Directorate General	DG ENV
Project Title	Marine Litter MED		
UN Environment Division Director/MEA Executive Head managing project	UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Barcelona Convention Secretariat Gaetano Leone, Coordinator <a href="mailto:gaetano.leone@un.org">gaetano.leone@un.org</a>		
UN Environment /MEA Project Manager <sup>4</sup>	Mohamad Kayyal, MED POL Programme Management Officer <a href="mailto:mohamad.kayyal@un.org">mohamad.kayyal@un.org</a>		
UN Environment /MEA Fund Management Officer	Lydia Eibl-Kamolleh, Fund Management Officer <a href="mailto:lydia.eibl-kamolleh@un.org">lydia.eibl-kamolleh@un.org</a>		
EC Task Manager	Michail Papadoyannakis, Policy Officer <a href="mailto:michail.papadoyannakis@ec.europa.eu">michail.papadoyannakis@ec.europa.eu</a>		
UN Environment /MEA PoW	UNEP/MAP PoWs 2016-2017 and 2018-2019		
UN Environment /MEA Sub-programme	Ecosystem Management		
UN Environment /MEA PoW Expected Accomplishment(s)/Indicator(s)	The project will enable UN Environment/ Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention and its Contracting Parties to prevent and manage Marine Litter through the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, 2013)		
UN Environment /MEA PoW Output(s)	<p><b>COP20 Decision IG.23/14: Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019</b></p> <p><b>Overarching Theme: GOVERNANCE</b></p> <p>1.3.1 Regional cooperation activities promoting dialogue and active engagement of global and regional organizations and partners, including on SAP BIO, Marine Litter, SCP, ICZM, MSP and Climate Change (e.g. regional conference, donor meetings);</p> <p>1.4.3 Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp - based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including GES common indicators fact sheets, and supported by a data information center to be integrated into Info/MAP platform;</p> <p>1.5.2 Barcelona Convention online Reporting System (BCRS) updated and operational, improved and maintained, and complemented and streamlined with other reporting requirements;</p>		

<sup>3</sup> The ENRTP and GPGC priorities are indicated in the EC-approved project full-fledged documents.

<sup>4</sup> As of January 2019, the Project Manager of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project is the newly appointed MED POL Programme Management Officer, Mr. Mohamad Kayyal.

	<b>Core Theme: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION</b>		
	<p>2.1.1 Targeted measures of the regional plans/strategies facilitated and implemented;</p> <p>2.2.1 Guidelines, decision-support tools, common standards and criteria provided for in the Protocols and the Regional Plans developed and/or updated for key priority substances or sectors;</p> <p>2.5.1 Training programmes and workshops in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies, compliance with national legislation;</p> <p>2.5.2 Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges reduced including through SCP solutions for alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and the reduction of upstream sources of marine litter for businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society;</p> <p>2.6.2 Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions contributing to alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and to reduce upstream sources of marine litter supported and coordinated.</p>		
Link to relevant SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s)	<p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse;</p> <p>14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</p>		
Name of Implementing Partners	MED POL, SPA/RAC, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, BSC		
Type/Location	Regional: Mediterranean with particular focus on the Southern Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention		
Region ( <i>delete as appropriate</i> )	Africa, Europe, West Asia		
Names of Countries	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia		
Project Start Date <sup>5</sup>	01/06/2016	Project End Date <sup>6</sup>	31/12/2019
Date of EC Task Manager approval of project	April 2016		
Overall project duration	43 months		
Final co-financing amount (EUR)	Analysis is under finalization. The exact amounts of co-financing will be included in the final financial report expected to be submitted in March 2020.		
Total EC Allocation incl. programme support costs (EUR)	€ 1,400,000 (incl. 7% PSC)		

<sup>5</sup> Start date should be the start date reflected in the EC-approved full-fledged proposal. If the EC approval came posterior to this date - the date of the email marking EC approval or the date indicated as the start date in the EC email.

<sup>6</sup> End date should be the end date reflected in the EC-approved full-fledged project document. The initial end date can be exceptionally modified upon written EC approval based on a request for no-cost extension of the project implementation period.

## I Assessment of Results Achieved

Per outcome and output (use the indicators set per each outcome and output and its targets to assess performance)

Table 1: Achievement of results			
Outcome 1	Indicator(s)	Target vs. Actual result	Description of the results achieved
<p><u>Project Outcome:</u> Substantive progress achieved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan and the relevant part of the updated NAPs, in synergy with H2020 initiative and EU MSFD.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Progress achieved towards reduction of marine litter items, quantities and impacts</li> <li>2. Capacities of local stakeholders enhanced to effectively address marine litter</li> </ol>	<p>The Outcome has been achieved, as explained in the description of results, considering to the extent possible the means of verification set out in the Project Document: <i>Decision IG.22/10 of COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention “Implementing the Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean (Fishing-for-Litter Guidelines, Assessment Report, Baseline Values and Reduction Targets)”</i>. <i>Report of marine litter monitoring data in 2019 submitted by the Contracting Parties.</i></p>	<p>1a. MED POL worked with 4 Contracting Parties (i.e. Israel, Lebanon, Libya, and Morocco) and successfully implemented 12 Adopt-a-beach (AaB) pilots at seasonal frequency and 3 Fishing-for-litter (FfL) pilots in 2 countries (i.e. Morocco and Libya). The AaB pilots were implemented in an integrated approach with the scope to complement and support the under-finalization national monitoring programmes for the IMAP marine litter-related common indicator for beach marine litter. Based on the quantitative evaluation that UNEP/MAP and its MED POL programme undertook in November 2019 for the purpose of updating the 2016 Baseline Values for Marine Litter IMAP common indicators, during which the data acquired from the pilots (especially from AaB pilots) were taken into consideration, the preliminary analysis indicates a reduction of 39% for beach marine litter and 66% for seafloor macro-litter compared to the 2016 baseline values for marine litter that were adopted by the Decision IG. 22/10 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>1b. Submission of national implementation reports for the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, for the biennium 2016-2017 is progressing well. Almost half of the Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Barcelona Convention have submitted reports, and individual follow-up is ongoing with other CPs. An evaluation on the implementation of the existing Regional Plans, including the one on Marine Litter Management was conducted by MED POL in 2019<sup>7</sup>.</p>

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/MED WG.472/4: Evaluation report on the implementation of the Regional Plans for reduction of BOD5 from Urban Wastewater and in the Food Sector; Reduction of Inputs of Mercury; eliminations of POPs; and Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Second Regional Meeting of Experts on the Six Pollution Reduction Regional Plans, Istanbul, Turkey, 28 May 2019).

			<p>1c. 5 Contracting Parties (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) received technical assistance with the support of SCP/RAC addressing land-based sources of pollution, focusing on enhancing public authorities' capacities on phasing out single-use plastic bags and promoting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for food and beverage packaging. The national waste agencies of Algeria and Tunisia have also benefitted from this work.</p> <p>1d. Determining the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system as well to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes progressed with support of REMPEC, which worked with 3 Contracting Parties (i.e. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), implementing a total of 8 pilots in selected major ports (#4) and marinas (#4),</p> <p>1e. Based on the outcomes of the pilots, a targeted diagnosis, expert advice, including recommendations, as well as individual country reports were delivered.</p> <p>1f. For all the aforementioned described measures (points 1 to 3), the regional guidelines that were developed in the framework of the project, and adopted by COP 21 (Naples, December 2019 – Decision IG.24/11), enabled their implementation in a coherent and coordinated way in all beneficiary countries, thus providing a regional approach and response in preventing and reducing marine litter in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>1g. The reduction of the impact of marine litter on biota was addressed in the framework of the project through the significant developments and progress achieved with regards to IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, mainly focusing on improving knowledge and establishing methodologies for assessing the amounts of marine litter ingested by or entangling on marine turtles.</p> <p>2. All project outputs/activities implementation have contributed to enhance capacities of stakeholders at local and national levels. The national and regional expert and training meetings also contributed to increase capacities by sharing knowledge</p>
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Output (s)	Indicator(s)	Target vs. Actual result	Description on immediate benefits to target groups
<p><u>Output A:</u> Assisting the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan at sub-regional levels with a particular focus on the up to five most common marine litter measures provided in the updated National Action Plans (NAPs).</p>	<p>Reports submitted by the CP on implementation of ML measures</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 7 Country reports</p>	<p>The Output has been achieved, as explained in the description of results, considering to the extent possible the means of verification set out in the Project Document: <i>“CP reports on the implementation of NAPs and Marine Litter Regional Plan”</i></p> <p><u>Achievements:</u></p> <p>4 Country reports on the implementation of AaB and FfL pilots</p> <p>5 Country reports on phasing out single-use plastic bags and promoting EPR</p> <p>3 Country reports addressing sea-based marine litter</p> <p>Reducing impacts of marine litter on biota with a particular focus on endangered species (8 reports delivered)</p>	<p>and experience. Results of the work was disseminated, and awareness was raised.</p> <p>A1a. Reports from 4 Contracting Parties (i.e. Israel, Lebanon, Libya and Morocco) have been reviewed and finalized containing the description and results from the implementation of 12 “Adopt-a-beach” and 3 “Fishing-for-Litter” pilots. Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia did not operationalize the financial support provided under the project.</p> <p>A1b. A methodological approach for the identification of marine litter hotspots was jointly prepared with support deriving from the Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection (IMELS). The methodology was prepared in-house (i.e. by MED POL) and reviewed during a regional expert meeting organized in Athens, Greece, in 19-20 November 2019. CPs of the Southern Mediterranean were supported by the Marine Litter MED Project.</p> <p>A2a. National targeted diagnosis reports have been prepared for 3 Contracting Parties (i.e. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), reflecting the outcomes and lessons learnt from the implementation of 8 pilots in selected major ports (#4) and marinas (#4) to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system as well to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes.</p> <p>A2b. 8 field trips were carried out to support the pilots: 2 in Algeria (Port de Béjaïa and Marina Madrague Ex-Djamilla) on 19 June 2019; 4 in Morocco (Port de Tanger Med, Port de Tanger Ville, Tanja Marina Bay and Marina Smir) on 1-2 July 2019; and 2 in Tunisia (Port de la Goulette and Port de Sidi Bou Saïd) on 10 July 2019.</p>

			<p>A2c. A study based on literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as on other European regional seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and of the No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities, was prepared in 2018 in the framework of the project.</p> <p>A2d. A field visit for Port Authority representatives was organized to the Port of Antwerp, Belgium (30-31 Oct. 2018), in collaboration with the Port Authority of Antwerp. Port authority representatives from 5 Contracting Parties (i.e. Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), participated to the field visit. 2 additional participants from the European Union and Monaco participated to the field visit on a no-cost basis.</p> <p>A3a. National Reports have been prepared/developed for 5 Contracting Parties (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), reflecting the outcomes, gained experience and lessons learnt from the provided Technical Assistance (TA) aiming to enhance public authorities' capacities on phasing out single-use plastic bags and promoting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for food and beverage packaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Algeria: A feasibility study was conducted to implement an initiative of EPR in the Wilaya of Oran. Main beneficiaries and involved stakeholders were the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, the National Waste Agency and the Association of Beverage producers of Algeria. As a result, the stakeholders have a clear view on how this pilot project could be implemented, including the roles and relations among them.</li> <li>- Egypt: ad-hoc advice was provided on alternatives to single-use plastic bags, particularly through clarifying misconceptions on biodegradability of certain plastics. The organization of the national consultation workshop (Sept. 2019) supported the Ministry of Environment succeeded in reaching out stakeholders and gaining their feedback on the planned national roadmap to reduce plastic bags.</li> <li>- Lebanon: the comprehensive study on production and consumption of plastic bags that was developed in the framework of the project is an important piece of information offered to the Ministry of Environment, to start</li> </ul>
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			<p>conceiving tailored measures to reduce single-use plastic bags.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Morocco: Technical Assistance delivered to the Secretary of State for Sustainable Development (SSSD) on the adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), focusing on plastic packaging waste. Capacity was built in terms of possible configuration of the scheme, including particular scenarios for the countries.</li> <li>- Tunisia: work has been conducted closely with the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment by: (i) providing technical advice to the draft decree for banning single-use plastic bags; (ii) drafting needed by-laws in view of the adoption of the framework decree, as well reviewing industrial norms for bags do adapt them to the new context. In this sense, direct assistance was provided to the National Institute of Normalisation (INNORPI). Finally, the governmental decree has been approved and was published at the Official Journal of the Republic of Tunisia (JORC) (No 32, 16 January 2020). This is an important, direct achievement of the Marine Litter MED project.</li> </ul> <p>A4a. Reducing impacts of marine litter on biota with a particular focus on endangered species entails the following deliverables and achievements as described below.</p> <p>A4b. Report on the “Most representative species to be used for the assessment of the amount of marine litter ingested by or entangling the marine species/biota in order to improve knowledge on IMAp Candidate Indicator 24”<sup>8</sup> has been reviewed and approved by the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MEDPOL Focal points (Rome, Italy, 29-31 May 2017 - WG.439/Inf.12);</li> <li>- 6th EcAp Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 Sept. 2017 - WG.444/Inf.11);</li> </ul>
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<sup>8</sup> There is a deviation in the number used to describe the corresponding UNEP/MAP IMAp Indicator “*Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles*”. In the project document it is referred to as Common Indicator 18 (CI 18) while in the Narrative Report (and also on the corresponding deliverables) it is referred to as Candidate Indicator 24. Explanation: when the project proposal was under preparation, the corresponding proposal of UNEP/MAP for the described IMAp indicator was Common Indicator 18. However, during COP 19 (Tirana, Albania, July 2016) the described indicator was adopted as Candidate Indicator 24.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CorMon Biodiversity and Fisheries (Marseille, France, 12-13 Feb. 2019);</li> <li>- Joint Meeting of the CorMon Marine Litter and ENI-SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators (Podgorica, Montenegro, April 2019);</li> <li>- MED POL Focal Points (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019);</li> <li>- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Portoroz, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019);</li> <li>- 7<sup>th</sup> EcAp Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 9 Sept. 2019).</li> </ul> <p>A4c. A report including specific protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entangling) with a view to harmonize methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment were developed. The specific protocols were elaborated by SPA/RAC during the first phase of the project implementation (i.e. 2017-2018) and were unified with those protocols prepared in the framework of the EU-funded INDICT-I project. The specific protocols were reviewed and approved by the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CorMon Biodiversity and Fisheries (Marseille, France, 12-13 Feb. 2019);</li> <li>- Joint Meeting of the CorMon Marine Litter and ENI-SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators (Podgorica, Montenegro, April 2019 - WG.464/6);</li> <li>- MED POL Focal Points (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019 - WG.473/11);</li> <li>- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Portoroz, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019 - WG.461/8);</li> <li>- 7<sup>th</sup> EcAp Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 9 Sept. 2019).</li> </ul> <p>A4d. In consultation with the SPA/RAC focal points, the monitoring protocols that were developed in the framework of the project were tested in 2019 by 3 scientific teams in Algeria (ABYSS Environmental Services), Lebanon (Tyre Rescue Center) and Tunisia (INSTM Rescue Center). Individual reports were prepared including findings, lessons learnt and recommendations.</p>
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			<p>A4e. A report providing assessment of available data to propose GES Targets with regards to the amounts of marine litter ingested by or entangling marine turtles was prepared in 2019 based on a dedicated questionnaire that was prepared and disseminated through the SPA/RAC focal points and the network of Mediterranean marine turtles' specialists.</p> <p>A4f. A report providing a regional operational strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, was prepared in 2019, in direct cooperation with the "Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research" (ISPRA) and the "Ecole Pratiques des Hautes Etudes" (EPHE), and in consultation with the EU-funded INDICIT-II project. The regional operational strategy aims at providing to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, detailed information on the necessary steps and methods needed for the development of the relevant national monitoring programme with the scope to collect standardized data on marine litter ingested by sea turtles and to assess how GES can be achieved. The report includes: (1) a presentation of the tools required to collect and record standardized data on litter ingestion by sea turtles; (2) a review of the existing networks and methods for collecting specimens, processing samples, and collecting and analyzing the data; (3) an evaluation of the current impact of litter on sea turtles, as well as the indicator criteria and proposed methods to assess GES targets; and (4) an assessment of the implementation costs and recommendations to help operationalize a monitoring programme.</p> <p>A4g. A report providing guidelines for the improvement of existing networks and development of a Mediterranean network for monitoring and assessment of IMAP Common Indicator (CI) 24 (i.e. marine turtles; ingestion and entanglement) was developed in 2019 in the framework of the project.</p>
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Output (s)	Indicator(s)	Target vs. Actual result	Description on immediate benefits to target groups
<p><u>Output B:</u> Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional level to reduce and prevent marine litter generation from land-based and sea-based sources</p>	<p>Marine Litter Guidelines developed</p> <p>Baseline: 2</p> <p>Target: 7</p>	<p>The Output has been achieved, as explained in the description of results, considering to the extent possible the means of verification set out in the Project Document: <i>Reports of Meetings reviewing and approving the Guidelines.</i></p> <p><u>Achievements:</u> 4 Regional Guidelines Adopted by the COP21</p> <p>6 Meetings reviewed, approved and adopted the Regional Guidelines.</p>	<p>B1a. Implementation capacities were strengthened through the application of harmonized and coherent approaches at regional and sub-regional levels to reduce and prevent marine litter generation from land- and sea-based sources.</p> <p><b>B2a. 4 regional marine litter guidelines were adopted by the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Naples, 2-5 December 2019 – Decision IG.24/11):</b> <b>(i) Adopt-a-Beach; (ii) Phase-out of Single Use Plastic Bags; (iii) Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes; (iv) Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities.</b></p> <p>B2b. Before their adoption by COP21, the guidelines were reviewed in depth by the following UNEP/MAP bodies/meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 October 2018) in which experts from 15 Contracting Parties, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations participated.</li> <li>(b) <b>Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices<sup>9</sup> (Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019), in which experts from 19 Contracting Parties, the European Union, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations participated.</b></li> <li>(c) <b>Meeting of MED POL Focal Points (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019).</b></li> <li>(d) <b>12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SCP/RAC Focal Points (Barcelona, Spain, 14-15 May 2019).</b></li> <li>(e) <b>13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 June 2019).</b></li> <li>(f) <b>MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-13 Sept. 2019).</b></li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Jointly organized with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy.

			<p><b>B2c. An updated version of the “Fishing-for-litter” guidelines was elaborated by MED POL in 2019 based on the gained experience and lessons learnt from the implementation of the relevant FfL pilots. Due to late feedback received by the countries, and the finalization of the pilots in Dec. 2019, the guidelines will be reviewed and updated during the 2020-2021 biennium.</b></p> <p>B3a. 8 capacity building workshops and trainings were organized in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya<sup>10</sup>, Morocco and Tunisia to facilitate the implementation of AaB and FfL pilots. The meetings were organized in conjunction and in synergy with the technical workshops that were organized for IMAP aiming to showcase the integrated approach between the project’s pilots and monitoring and assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Rabat, Morocco, 19-21 Feb. 2018;</li> <li>ii) Alexandria, Egypt, 26-28 Feb. 2018;</li> <li>iii) Tunis, Tunisia, 12-15 March 2018<sup>11</sup>;</li> <li><b>iv) Rabat, Morocco, 13-17 March 2019;</b></li> <li><b>v) Tunis, Tunisia, 2-3 May 2019;</b></li> <li><b>vi) Algiers, Algeria, 17-20 Sept. 2019;</b></li> <li><b>vii) Beirut, Lebanon, 19-20 Sept. 2019;</b></li> <li><b>viii) Algiers, Algeria, 9-10 Oct. 2019.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>B3b. 4 National events were organized for 4 Contracting Parties (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia), to further support and streamline at national level the main findings and results deriving from the provided TA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Algeria</u>: <b>A national event was organized in Oran on 2/12/2019 which provided the opportunity to different stakeholders to have a clear view on how the said pilot project could be implemented, including role sharing, networking among them and establishing bridges with related initiatives.</b></li> <li>- <u>Egypt</u>: <b>The organization of the national consultation workshop in Cairo on 17/09/2019 supported the Ministry of Environment in reaching out stakeholders</b></li> </ul>
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<sup>10</sup> Due to security reasons, the technical workshop for Libya took place and was organized in Tunisia.

<sup>11</sup> Participation of the Libyan team.

			<p><i>and gaining their feedback on the planned national roadmap to reduce plastic bags.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Morocco: A national event was organized in Rabat on 26/09/2019 which allowed several departments of the Ministry of Environment discussing/adopting a common position on this matter. As a result, the SSSD has a tool and clear view to continue dialogue with concerned stakeholders.</i></li> <li>- <i>Tunisia: A national event was organized in Tunis on 03/10/2019 gathering the industrial sector, which allowed the Ministry of Environment to reach out the plastic bag producers.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>B3c. 4 national meetings were organized to support the pilots in the selected ports and marinas: 1 in Algeria on 20 June 2019; 1 in Morocco on 3 July 2019; 1 in Tunisia on 11 July 2019; and 1 for Libya (held in Tunisia for security reasons) on 4 December 2019.</i></p> <p><i>B3d. National capacities were enhanced and sharing of technical skills on marine litter ingestion by sea turtles was provided during 2 sub-regional training sessions/workshops successfully organized in Portici, Naples (6 July 2017) and in Monastir, Tunisia (2-3 Nov. 2018). The workshops aimed in providing tools for technicians, veterinarians and scientists involved in sea turtle stranding networks and the monitoring of marine debris ingested by sea turtles in the Mediterranean. The workshops offered the opportunity to test the feasibility of the monitoring protocols (described in Output A, point 4c) and provided with recommendations towards improving the said protocols.</i></p> <p><i>B3c. Within the framework of the implementation of the protocol for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (i.e. ingestion and entanglement) with a view to harmonize methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment in Algeria, the contracted national body (i.e. ETS Abyss) organized the following capacity building and awareness raising events:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A national training session was organized in Ain Temouchent, Algeria, in 27-30 November 2019: 30</i></li> </ul>
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			<p><i>representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, coastguard, civil society, and the executive directors of the Ain Temouchent Governorate and the Commissariat National de Littoral participated to the training.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>In the framework of the national training session:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <i>An awareness-raising campaign among stakeholders, scientists, private touristic sectors and citizens highlighting the interaction between marine biota (i.e. marine turtles and cetaceans) and marine Litter was organized.</i></li><li>b) <i>A national stranding network, expected to respond urgently and to collect any stranded or injured sea turtle found along the Algerian coast, and to deliver them to rescue or/and collect biological and ecological data, was established and designed in Algeria in the framework of the national training according to the adopted regional guidelines.</i></li></ul></li></ul>
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<p><u>Output C:</u> Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the Marine Litter Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, with a particular focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.</p>	<p>1. Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter established and operational</p>	<p>The Output has been achieved, as explained in the description of results, considering to the extent possible the means of verification set out in the Project Document:</p> <p><i>Report of each meeting and joint workplan</i></p> <p><u>Achievements:</u> 3 meetings in 3 years; 3 meeting reports and 2 joint workplans</p>	<p>C1. The Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean was established in 2016 in the framework of the project. Throughout the project implementation, three meetings were organized in the framework of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean and two joint workplans were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First meeting: Athens, Greece, 6 Sept. 2016 (establishment of the Platform);</li> <li>- Second meeting: Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 Nov. 2017 (identification of priority actions and agreement on 2018 joint workplan);</li> <li>- Third meeting: Izmir, Turkey, 11-12 Oct. 2018 (review of the priority actions and 2018 workplan, agreement on 2019 workplan, and support of the Mediterranean Marine Litter Node).</li> </ul> <p>C2a. An MoU was signed 2016<sup>12</sup> between UNEP/MAP and the BSC Permanent Secretariat. A joint work plan was also agreed in 2017 and was reviewed and implemented.</p>
	<p>2. Bilateral Committee UN Environment/ Mediterranean Action Plan Black Sea Commission operational</p>	<p><i>Report of each meeting and joint workplan</i></p> <p><u>Achievements:</u> 3 bilateral meetings in 3 years; 3 meeting reports; Joint workplan prepared and agreed; 1 verification workshop report</p>	<p>C2b. Three bilateral coordination meetings were organized, and a fourth ad-hoc meeting took place during the MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First bilateral meeting: Athens, Greece, 24 July 2017 (joint workplan developed and agreed, including a strong component on marine litter; draft regional plan and monitoring guidelines were reviewed);</li> <li>- Second bilateral meeting: Istanbul, Turkey, 6 Dec. 2018 (2017 joint workplan was reviewed, workplan updated for 2018-2019, monitoring guidelines were reviewed);</li> <li>- <b>Ad-hoc bilateral meeting: Istanbul, Turkey, 29 May 2019 (follow-up on project and SSFA implementation)</b></li> <li>- <b>Third bilateral meeting: Istanbul, Turkey, 13 Dec. 2019 (2018-2019 joint workplan was reviewed, problems during project implementation were discussed, follow-up and brainstorming for a potential follow-up project took place).</b></li> </ul>

<sup>12</sup> Not in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project.

			<p>C2c. The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea Region was adopted during the 34<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (Oct. 2018). The Black Sea draft IMAP was well-received from the 34<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the BSC and follow-up actions have agreed among the BS countries.</p> <p><b>C2d. A Regional Verification workshop to support the establishment of the Black Sea Marine Litter Monitoring Programme and streamline the implementation of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea was organized in Istanbul, Turkey, 12-13 December 2019. UNEP/MAP participated to the meeting in which the: (i) draft guidelines on monitoring of marine litter in the Black Sea environment were further reviewed by the Black Sea countries aiming to their adoption in 2020; (ii) implementation of the Regional Action Plan was discussed based on the Mediterranean experience and marine litter management best practices were specified.</b></p> <p>C3a. Three Coordination Meetings between the European Regional Seas, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter, have been organized since the beginning of the project in 2016.</p> <p>C3b. UNEP/MAP organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting in Vrachati, Greece, 4-5 July 2018. The 5<sup>th</sup> Coordination meeting acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The importance of EC's Plastic Strategy and the EU Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment and stressed the importance for establishing relevant synergies.</li> <li>- The need for cooperation with RFMOs was highlighted, aiming to better map the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture on marine litter generation.</li> </ul>
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			<p>C3c. Discussions took place for the organization of a marine litter workshop in the framework of the G7 French Presidency with a particular focus to the contribution of the fisheries sector on marine litter and microplastic generation, and also developing related synergies and joint activities. <b><i>A workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions was organized in Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019.</i></b></p> <p>C3d. Regular update of the Basecamp platform with UN Environment/MAP reports, documents, guidelines, etc., when available and as appropriate.</p>
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## Highlights

### i) Describe the key success factors and contribution to higher level results (PoW expected accomplishment(s)).

The Adopt-a-beach pilots were definitely a success story of the project reflected by the following facts: (i) the final number of pilots exceeded the initially projected number; (ii) data deriving from the pilots were used from UNEP/MAP MED POL during the process of updating the agreed in 2016 baseline values for marine litter; (iii) high interest of participation by local communities and NGOs, including a strong awareness-raising component; and (iv) the integrated approach that was followed during the implementation of the AaB pilots and their linkage with the national monitoring programmes for beach marine litter.

The work on single-use plastic bags happened in a very timely manner, there was (and still there is) strong political will in adopting measures to reduce single-use plastic bags (SUPB) given the urgency and media focus of the marine litter related issues. This is why the SUPB guidelines and specific technical assistance provided to three countries (i.e. Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia) were very welcomed, and results were incorporated into the decision-making process. In fact, the regional work of the project, coordinated by SCP/RAC, allowed for identifying potential issues and specific country needs. A sound example is the case of Tunisia where the project strongly suggested and recommended working on industrial norms in order to avoid by-pass of the future decree, resulting in the final approval of the governmental decree and its publishing in the official journal of the Republic of Tunisia (JORC) in 2020 (i.e. No 32, 16/01/2020). This is certainly an important achievement of the Marine Litter MED project.

With regards to EPR, countries also showed great interest and need for support. The process needs to be seen in medium-long term. The technical assistance provided an important benchmark, raised capacity and acceptance of EPR as a needed tool to enhance waste management and ultimately abate marine litter.

With regards to the development of IMAF Candidate Indicator 24 and in particular the effect of marine litter (i.e. ingestion and entanglement) on endangered species, the project supported UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Contracting Parties with the development of assessment studies, standardized methodological approaches joint implemented with other EU-funded projects, with ultimate objective achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea. Since the launch of the project in 2016, the team has explored common ground and activities within other EU-funded projects of similar scope and orientation (i.e. impact of marine litter on biota), and therefore fruitful synergies have been established (INDICIT-I and II and MEDSEALITTER projects) leading to tangible results, coherent and harmonized approaches on applied monitoring and assessment methods.

The Pilots in relation to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in marinas as well as pilots to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system, were successfully organized and implemented in 3 countries (i.e. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) supported by 4 national meetings (for the 3 previously mentioned countries as well as for Libya). These pilots and meetings generated a number of outcomes, as listed below, which were well received by the participating countries:

- A targeted diagnosis on the application of the Cost Recovery System CRS used in the related ports;
- The proposal on the development of specific waste reception and handling plan for the related ports and marinas;
- The possible revisions to the existing specific waste reception and management plans of the related ports' and marinas';
- Expert advice on the choice and application of suitable Cost Recovery System (CRS), especially the No-Special-Fee system, and on the provision of reception facilities and the delivery of ship-generated wastes (chiefly from pilots' ToRs, with minor adaption).

The pilots and the national meetings offered the key actors of the relevant countries (authorities, port and marina operators, shipping companies and other relevant stakeholders, such as research institutes and NGOs) an opportunity to get the practical information on the linkage between well-chosen CRS and the reduction of ship-generated waste dumped at sea, as well as the effective measures to deliver and treat those wastes.

In addition, a Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when Applicable, Application of No-Special-Fee System, in the Mediterranean, as well as Operational Guidelines on the Provisions of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean, were developed by REMPEC and later adopted by COP21, which will serve as practical tools for the countries to improve the effectiveness of the management of marine litter from sea-based sources.

At regional level, the organization of the two regional meetings on marine litter best practices in 2018 (Izmir, Turkey) and in 2019 (Seville, Spain), was a major milestone of the project where experts from 19 Contracting Parties, the European Union, and many Mediterranean partners addressing both land- and sea-based sources, exchanges experiences and lessons learnt on their work, and most importantly thoroughly reviewed the regional marine litter guidelines. The meeting in Seville was organized back-to-back to the MARLICE Conference (10-12<sup>th</sup> April 2019), which gave the opportunity to the participants to have broader interaction with international marine litter and circular economy community.

The four regional marine litter guidelines that were adopted by COP 21 (Naples, 2-5 Dec. 2019 – Decision IG.24/11) are among major success factors of the project ensuring coherent and coordinated approach in the implementation of the measures. The approach followed for the review and approval of the guidelines was proven to be instrumental. The guidelines were well received by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during the two regional meetings, but also during the institutional UNEP/MAP meetings (i.e. MED POL FPs Meeting, May 2019; SCP/RAC FPs Meeting, May 2019; REMPEC FPs Meeting, June 2019; and MAP FPs Meeting, Sept. 2019). The guidelines enhanced the visibility of the project and attracted the attention from various partners around the Mediterranean and beyond e.g. Tehran Convention and BRS Secretariat.

*The project contributed in fulfilling and successfully delivering fifteen (15) different activities of the 2018-2019 UNEP/MAP PoW which are listed hereunder:*

- 1) *Activity 1.3.1.2: Coordinate with key partners in supporting the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter;*
- 2) *Activity 1.3.1.3: Strengthen and expand the Regional Collaboration Platform for Marine Litter in the Mediterranean established in September 2016;*
- 3) *Activity 1.3.1.6: Enhance collaboration with European Regional Seas on marine litter and other issues of common concern;*
- 4) *Activity 2.1.1.2: Promote the use of relevant instruments and incentives to reduce/forbid the single-use of plastics, reduce the use of plastic bottles, etc.;*
- 5) *Activity 2.1.1.3: Promote the application of fishing-for-litter and adopt-a-beach measures;*
- 6) *Activities 2.2.1.1 Organize the regional workshop on the better management of sea-based litter in ports;*
- 7) *Activity 2.2.1.2: Prepare regional guidelines on fishing-for-litter and adopt-a-beach;*
- 8) *Activity 2.2.1.5. Develop Guideline and training material to prevent the generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter;*
- 9) *Activity 2.4.1.3: Organize specific training of national monitoring experts on best practices and data reporting and joint monitoring programmes;*
- 10) *Activity 2.5.1.2: Promote sharing of best practices on “Adopt-a-beach” and “Fishing-for-Litter” measures; on waste management with particular focus on plastic prevention and e waste; as well as on environmental inspection and law enforcement with a focus on Dumping and offshore Protocols as well as on the newly updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines;*
- 11) *Activities 2.5.1.4: Increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances;*
- 12) *Activities 2.5.2.3 Implement pilots in relation to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in marinas as well as pilots to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system;*
- 13) *Activity 3.2: Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of coastal and Marine biodiversity and Ecosystem;*

- 14) *Activity 3.4: Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species; and*
- 15) *Activity 3.5: Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity related national legislation.*

ii) **State institutional, financial and capacity measures the project has put in place for the sustainability of project results and continued use of products and services.**

The project supported the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system in implementing specific measures and activities planned and envisaged in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The project also contributed to enhancing capacities within the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system for streamlining the implementation of the key reduction and prevention measures for marine litter.

The project helped to enhance the visibility of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and the work of Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Regional Plan and also of IMAP at global and regional fora, thus encouraging further efforts and accountability in the future. It is expected that the institutional, financial and capacity building measures that were implemented through the Project will support the sustainability of key project outcomes and the continued use of its main products, as well as its potential replication in other areas and countries.

The methodologies developed and lessons learned through this project have already been applied to inform activities under other ongoing projects in the region, such as those implemented in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection (IMELS).

- **Institutional Sustainability:**

The Marine Litter MED project contributed to the establishment of a strong basis to enable the phasing out of single-use plastic bags in the Mediterranean, the inclusion of civil society and major stakeholders (i.e. fishermen) in combating marine litter on beaches and on the seafloor.

Project's activities have been well pre-defined and negotiated with the beneficiary countries. In addition, project's activities were streamlined at national level through open consultation processes and broad inclusiveness of relevant stakeholders.

Most of national project structures supplemented existing ones already in place at national level, following an integrated approach and thus ensuring the continuation of the project's impact. All the project outputs and reports have been made available to the participating institutions so the work can be used after the project closure. The institutions, and other stakeholders, have been highly involved, or even worked hand-to-hand, which allowed for building capacity, a key aspect for the long-term implementation. Additionally, many of them have participated in regional expert meetings to share knowledge and experience.

The regional guidelines that were developed in the framework of the project and adopted by the Barcelona Convention strengthens the methodology used by MED POL, SCP/RAC and REMPEC in supporting the countries, in a way that the guidelines will be used in the future considering lessons learnt. Additionally, countries will be able to refer to complementary measures once they adopt a particular policy instrument. This is the case of Tunisia, through which the Marine Litter MED project adopted a law for regulating the use of single-use plastic bags in supermarkets and in pharmacies.

The level of national ownership achieved through the applied methodologies for the implementation of the pilots, the technical assistance provided for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) component of the project, and the involvement of key stakeholders across sectors at the national level create good premises for the future implementation of key reduction and prevention measures at national level by relevant competent national authorities.

- **Financial Sustainability:**

The continuation of the project's results at regional and national level will depend on the availability of financial resources, mainly from public but also and private sector sources, to implement specific pilots initiated and implemented in the framework of the project such as the Adopt-a-beach and Fishing-for-litter pilots. The continuation of these pilots also depends on the public and NGO participation which could be facilitated by a well-coordinated national strategy.

Strong political will is also required for the reduction of single-use plastic bags to those countries that relevant laws and regulations are not yet in place. The project has developed master law templates offering several sound options for regulating and reducing the use of single-use plastic bags (i.e. voluntary agreements with the retail sector, compulsory charges, tax and ban), which have been made available to all Mediterranean countries.

The project has been instrumental for establishing cooperation at national and regional levels, but also with other regions. A sound example is the cooperation with the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat and the preparation and adoption of one of the last missing regional plans on marine litter around the globe.

The UNEP/MAP Secretariat and its Components have also engaged in active resource mobilization efforts in order to ensure the continuation of the work and the scaling up of the results achieved under the Marine Litter MED project. It is therefore foreseen that the upscaled implementation of the reduction and prevention measures would be underway within the context of a new follow-up project funded by the European Commission.

iii) [State initiatives taken for replication and/or upscaling of the project outcomes, outputs and approach by interested institutions or governments.](#)

The regional marine litter guidelines provide the ideal instrument to be used as a basis for replicating and upscaling the project's outcomes. Those guidelines have received attention and have been presented and disseminated beyond project's network and events and the interest was high. For the example, the BRS and Tehran Conventions Secretariats requested the guidelines to disseminate through their activities and even to use them for guiding relevant activities in their regions. The guidelines have been disseminated at regional level through the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter, and at global level through the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership. The upscaling of the project's outcomes have been also negotiated with the donor (EU DG ENV) and a second, follow-up phase of the project is already under preparation (Marine Litter MED II project proposal).

## **II Incorporation of Gender and Social Sustainability**

i) [Briefly articulate how gender sensitive the project approach was and how gender mainstreaming helped in achieving the project results.](#)

ii) [In addition to gender, there may be some other social issues \(e.g., poverty, household types, religion, ethnic groups, geographical differences, age, political views, etc.\) that the project needed to factor in if and when relevant. Capture any contributions that a project made on gender equality, empowerment of women and any other social issues if there is any highlights to share.](#)

The UN has a mandate to address human rights and gender equality in all interventions to promote social justice and equality. Ensuring a gender balance has been considered as an important approach and component for the positive effects of a switch towards SCP patterns and was pursued throughout project implementation.

Male and female candidates for project activities have been given equal consideration during recruitment processes throughout the project implementation. Although beneficiary countries directly nominate the project's focal points and country representatives, efforts have been made to encourage gender-balanced nomination and balanced representation which was overall achieved especially in international events and meetings where nearly half of the participants and delegates were women.

Gender balance was promoted and endorsed by the project throughout the project implementation, and all genders were equally treated and considered. However, no specific enforcement mechanism could be applied for gender-balanced participation. The inclusion in the project activities of civil society groups and

NGOs enhanced gender mainstreaming and gender-balanced participation. This is also evident through the official focal points (i.e. MED POL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC) where gender balanced participation is endorsed according to the 2017 UN Secretary General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity. Gender-balanced participation was promoted in all regional/sub-regional meetings that were organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat. All invitation letters were drafted in line with the 2017 UN Secretary General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity, and focal points were encouraged to nominate experts, to contribute to the Secretariat's efforts towards a gender-balanced participation.

In relation to on the ground activities of the project, poverty and informal economic operators were an important and challenging issues. For example, with regards to the reduction of single-use plastic bags, and the relevant work that was implemented at country level, there is an important illegal production of plastic bags, which had to be accounted in the technical assistance and the guidelines. The latter suggests, as complementary measures, to deploy efforts in providing training and income possibilities to these groups. As for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), informal collection of recyclables occurs in all the participating countries by disfavored social groups. When working on the technical assistance, it was stressed the need to consider them within a formal EPR scheme, and training and other support should be provided. Success stories (e.g. Chile) were shared with the countries to illustrate how this work could be done.

### **III Implementation challenges and risks and approach taken**

What were the main actions and corrective/management measures taken to address implementation challenges and risks (including operational ones)?

Overall, getting formal expressions of interest and concretizing the technical support and on the ground implementation of the pilots with the beneficiary countries was a difficult and lengthy process. In some cases, this could be explained by the fact that the countries did not have a clear view on how to tackle these issues. Thus, UNEP/MAP and its Components (MED POL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC) were proactive in suggesting ways this support could be delivered. Low level of response by Contracting Parties to participate in the relevant activities, in particular to the pilots in ports and marinas was part of the main project's challenges. A number of countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt and Egypt) were not in a position to operationalize the financial support provided under the project, as part of the package of activities offered by MED POL. Measures have been taken to retrieve the corresponding funds from the respective countries. The process is ongoing and will be finalized before the financial closure of the project.

In spite of the obvious progress achieved and the delivery of all project's outputs, there were some cases where some obstacles have slowed down the implementation process. In some of the projects' activities, the involvement of local communities (e.g. NGOs, Fishermen Associations, etc.) was required to achieve the projects' objectives and this in most of the cases is a lengthy process, which is however manageable.

Support was also provided during the drafting process and launch of national tenders and terms of references. The relevant terms of reference were discussed with the beneficiary countries once the work started, there has been regular contacts and follow-ups took place with the identified contact points. Country visits by senior management, programme managers and project managers also facilitated this process and the vast majority of the national events served also as coordination meetings between the national teams and UNEP/MAP. The delivery of all project's outputs proved the said.

For the purpose of the development of the risk assessment tool, the selection of an expert followed by the official advertisement of the call in INSPIRA was not conclusive. This task was conducted in-house, by MED POL experts, which resulted in budget implications and in particular in creating savings for the project.

Having the legal agreements in place and fully operational was another challenge that the project faced. Despite the inclusive negotiation processes that UNEP/MAP Secretariat undertook with the beneficiary countries and the overall agreement and express of interest for the implementation of the envisaged activities; significant delays did occur. This is the case for Lebanon and Algeria for the implementation of the AaB and FfL pilots for which the agreement was signed after almost 1.5 year of project implementation. For these two particular cases, the proper selection of implementing partners coupled with the technical support and advice provided by UNEP/MAP led to the successful implementation of the said pilots. Another case is Egypt and Israel which finally didn't participated to project's activities related to effective management of sea-generated waste in ports and marinas; despite their initial express of interest.

Countries need more support and capacity building actions with regards to the methodological approach required for the effective implementation of the national pilots. Hands-on experience is required as well as detailing the specifics of the applied methodologies.

Specific technical problems have been also addressed during project implementation:

- Fishing-for-Litter pilots (MED POL): the absence of well-structured and organized small-scale fisheries associations, the presence of very small artisanal fisheries, and illegal trawlers which couldn't be engaged to project's activities; let MED POL in cooperation with the national teams to explore for alternatives like the inclusion of scuba-divers to supplement fishermen's efforts. In that way the project succeeded in retrieving marine litter from seas in cooperation with the fishermen, but also engaging to the process another important group of citizens.
- Phasing out single-use plastic bags (SCP/RAC): While providing technical assistance on SUPB to the countries, it was found that there were important misconceptions regarding biodegradability of plastics. As a result, some countries were considering promoting compostable plastics as an alternative to SUPB. SCP/RAC has been active in discussing with concerned parties about this issue and explaining the pre-conditions for the introduction of compostable bags in the countries. Furthermore, the guidelines and its background document tackle this issue in-depth. The two regional meetings confirmed these misconceptions and served to clarify these burning issues.
- National events (SCP/RAC): The organization of national events in Egypt and Morocco showed great interest, including the participation of the Ministers. However, this led to delays in fixing the dates for the events, originally planned before summer 2019. Both had to be postponed to September and the Egyptian Minister participated in the one held in Cairo. In Lebanon, the event was planned in November 2019, but the political situation led the team, in consultation with the Ministry, to cancel it. However, all convened that efforts would be dedicated beyond the project lifespan to hold such event.

Nowadays several EU projects, funded by different funding instruments or coordinated by different DG's work on similar or even same activities. To minimize this risk UNEP/MAP undertook as very good mapping of projects and initiatives which provided a clear idea on projects that should be contacted for collaboration. This is the case for SPA/RAC and MEDPOL having approached the coordination team of the EU-funded INDICIT-I project towards ensuring complementarities and cooperation as well as to plan common actions. This led to a tangible cooperation, with producing a unified protocol which we believe can be showcased as a best practice for effective cooperation between projects.

Due to accounting difficulties, the first instalment of the LoA between UNEP and IMO, which was to be paid upon signature of the said agreement between both Parties, was only made available to REMPEC, partially, on 22 September 2017, inevitably causing significant delay in the implementation of the corresponding activities.

However, every effort was made in several regional meetings to discuss with the beneficiary countries about the implementation of the corresponding activities under the project. In this respect, REMPEC made further informal contact with representatives from most beneficiary countries in the margins of the following meetings:

- Sixth Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017);
- Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Point (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017); and
- Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017).

With a view to addressing the issue of the additional workload related to activities assigned to REMPEC, the Centre had previously established contacts to mobilize human resources to assist in implementing its mandate. In this regard, the IMO had included a position at REMPEC, in its announcement of 10 August 2017, related to the positions for Junior Professional Officers (JPO) available for 2018. Every effort was made to complete this recruitment as soon as possible and the newly appointed JPO eventually joined REMPEC on 20 April 2018.

Security risks in certain countries was another challenge which the project faced. Due to security situations in Libya and Lebanon, the pilots (field mission) in the selected ports and marinas could not be carried out as planned. Still, in order to enable the beneficiary countries concerned to participate in the relevant activities, REMPEC made great efforts and managed to hold a national meeting for Libya in Tunisia, which involved a

range of actors that are linked to management of sea-based marine litter. On another case, MED POL managed to meet with the Libyan team in Tunisia.

Donor's approval for a 6-month extension (i.e. till December 2019) has been instrumental in ensuring effective completion and delivery of project's outputs. This extension has been instrumental in responding to the aforementioned implementation risks and challenges which the project faced, and ultimately contributed to minimizing them.

#### **IV Partnerships Arrangements and Roles**

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- i) Which were the Project partners, and what was achieved through them, in terms of scaling up and multiplied effects?
- ii) Describe what did partners bring to enable capacity development and what did they take from the project. Will they be using this project experience in the future?

The EU-funded Marine Litter project was managed and coordinated by UNEP/MAP, while most project activities (i.e. Output A and Output B<sup>13</sup>) were implemented by the following MAP Components:

- Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL);
- Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC);
- Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC); and
- Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

MED POL established partnerships with the beneficiary countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, by putting in place legal agreements (mostly Small-Scale Funding Agreements – SSFAs). For specific activities, like the first draft of the regional guidelines, regional consultants were also engaged and managed through MED POL.

For the activities under Output C<sup>14</sup>, planned to be implemented by the Black Sea Commission (BSC) Permanent Secretariat, a legal agreement (SSFA) was put in place between UNEP/MAP and BSC.

SCP/RAC worked with national consultants and organizations as a team to implement the technical assistance and organize the national events. This allowed for building national capacity and ownership of the work, in a way that they could continue working on these topics in the future or elsewhere.

SPA/RAC succeeded to set up national teams working on the relevant activities. Regional consultants and institutions were also engaged for specific outputs (i.e. Defining the most representative species for IMAF Candidate Indicator 24; Develop the Protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entangling) with a view to harmonizing methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment; Assessment of the available data to propose GES targets). Following the organization of the two sub-regional training sessions, technical and financial support have been offered to relevant participants, who have led the monitoring of the stranded sea turtles in their countries and also tested the protocol. The provided support allowed the organization of national training (Algeria), the awareness campaigns (Lebanon, Tunisia and Algeria) and the design of the national stranding Networks (Algeria and Lebanon).

REMPEC worked closely with internationally recruited consultants and the national actors of the contracting parties (administrators, port authorities, operators, etc.) to encourage better sharing of knowledge and best practice with respect to the management of marine litter from sea-based sources.

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<sup>13</sup> **Output A:** Assisting the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean at sub-regional levels particularly focusing on up to five most common Marine Litter measures provided in the updated National Action Plans (NAPs).

**Output B:** Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional levels to reduce and prevent ML generation from land-based and sea-based sources including pilot preventions (EU countries to participate on a no-cost basis).

<sup>14</sup> **Output C:** Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the ML Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, particularly focusing on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.

## V PROJECT IMPACT

Provide an assessment of the positive impact of the project through listing the changes that can be attributed to the project implementation.

- Based on the quantitative evaluation that UNEP/MAP and its MED POL programme undertook in November 2019 for the purpose of updating the 2016 Baseline Values for Marine Litter IMAP common indicators, during which the data acquired from the pilots (especially from AaB pilots) were taken into consideration, the preliminary analysis indicates a reduction of 39% for beach marine litter and 66% for seafloor macro-litter compared to the 2016 baseline values for marine litter that were adopted by the Decision IG. 22/10 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
- The countries where the AaB pilots were implemented have already a solid basis upon which they can establish their national monitoring programmes for beach marine litter; experience gained in the relevant protocols and applied methodologies.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):
  - Morocco: from absence of strategy on EPR, to a framework and roadmap for EPR implementation, led by the State Secretary for Sustainable Development.
  - Algeria: commitment of the national association of beverage producers to economically contribute to a clear and comprehensive EPR scheme in Wilaya of Oran.
- Phasing out single-use plastic bags:
  - Tunisia: Changes introduced in the draft decree banning single-use plastic bags. 4 by-laws drafted; 2 industrial norms changed. The decree was finally adopted in Jan. 2020.
  - Egypt: Staff of the Ministry have a clearer knowledge on the biodegradability of oxo and compostable plastics
  - Lebanon: the country has now a baseline situation of the production and consumption of plastic bags, including social perceptions.
- Important steps have been undertaken with regards to the development of the IMAP Candidate Indicator 24. The project prepared a well-prepared and well-documented portfolio and relevant deliverables, which were well received by the Contracting Parties. The need to well-document the impact of marine litter on biota and the need to establish indicator species at regional level (i.e. marine turtles for the Mediterranean), is well mainstreamed to all Mediterranean countries.
- Better understanding got by national actors on the Cost Recovery System in relation to the port reception facilities, which would provide incentives for ships to discharge waste at ports, and the improvement of effectiveness of management of ship-generated waste by the provision of advice on the revision and development of waste reception and handling plan, with the support of the concrete guidance rendered available by the targeted Operational Guidelines and Guidance Documents.
- The regional guidelines are certainly on the project's main impacts. They were welcomed and adopted by all Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, received very positive comments and most importantly showcased the importance in applying coherent and coordinated approaches on the problem of marine litter. The adoption of these guidelines by the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 21) , and the interest in the guidelines by other regions is certainly among the project's highlights.

## VI INTER-LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROJECTS FROM SAME UN ENVIRONMENT SUB-PROGRAMME/MEA SECRETARIAT FUNDED UNDER DG ENV AND DG DEVCO ENRTP SCAs/DG ENV GPGC PCA

Highlight, as applicable, main inter-linkages/interplay/synergies between all the projects from a same UN Environment sub-programme/MEA Secretariat that are funded under DG ENV and DG DEVCO ENRTP SCAs/DG ENV GPGC PCA.

The project contributed to the UNEP/MAP Mid Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021, the Programmes of Work (PoW) 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, and also contributed with input to the PoW 2020-2021. In addition, the project was implemented in synergy with the EU MSFD Common Implementation Strategy, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) H2020 Initiative, and other marine litter and Ecosystem Approach-related regional and national ongoing projects contributing to the achievement of marine litter reduction targets as approved the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in February 2016.

The adopt-a-beach pilots were implemented in synergy with the SWIM H2020 Support Mechanism, based on a common methodological approach (i.e. the selection of the beaches to the countries benefiting from both projects). In addition, a Capacity Building Workshop was jointly organized with the SWIM H2020 SM Marine in Egypt (Feb. 2018).

Synergies have been also established with the SWIM-H2020, further to the Government of Tunisia having identified the regulatory framework of single-use plastic bags as an area of work. As SCP/RAC is partner of SWIM-Horizon 2020 project, the Centre provided feed-back on the draft decree on plastic bags and attended an expert mission in Tunis in 6-9 March 2018 where this issue was discussed.

With regards to the development of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, the project was implemented in close cooperation with the EU-funded INDICIT-I and MEDSEALITTER projects. Detailed activities are described under the “Output A” and “output B” section to the present report. The French and English version of the specific protocols on monitoring the amount of litter ingested by or entangling the selected species to harmonize methods and data collection is one the project’s tangible results deriving from synergies with the INDICIT-I project. The guidelines for the development of a Mediterranean network for monitoring and assessment IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 is another sound result of cooperation of the project with the MEDSEALITTER project.

Close cooperation was in place with the EU-funded EcAp MED II project. Specifically, the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project worked in developing the IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 through the activities envisaged in the project, as no relevant activities are included in the EcAp MED II project.

Synergies were also envisaged in the Adriatic region, namely in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Montenegro, where countries were supported by UNEP/MAP through the Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment Land and Sea Protection (IMELS). The implementation of “Adopt-a-beach” pilots, as well as the provided technical assistance for the development of the national regulatory framework for banning of single-use plastic bags, was carried out coherence and consistency between the two projects. Based on this approach the measures in the Adriatic were implemented based on the lessons learnt and experience gained through the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. Furthermore, during the period under review, REMPEC has ensured the necessary inter-linkage and synergy between the activities related to the better management of sea-based litter in selected major ports and marinas in the Mediterranean to be implemented within the project and those implemented in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS during 2018-2019.

The project also established synergies with the ENI-SEIS II South project aiming at supporting the implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles in nine beneficiary countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia) on pollution related issues including also marine litter. The projects are jointly working in identifying the pressures in the coastal and river basin areas, as well as to enhance their management, through the development of indicators which will enable the assessment (quantitative and qualitative) of the impact of waste to marine litter generation.

UN Environment/MAP is participating to the Interreg-MED PlasticBusters MPAs project as a member to the advisory board. Synergies were envisaged during project implementation with regards to marine litter monitoring (i.e. in accordance with IMAP marine litter monitoring), and Sustainable Production and Consumption Component.

A workshop on the “*Impact of marine litter on sea turtles: building synergies across the Mediterranean for monitoring ingestion and entanglement*” was organized during the 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Croatia, 16-19 October 2018) in collaboration with the EU-funded INDICIT-I team and the Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation (Greece). 95 participants attended the workshop, 15 Mediterranean countries and 5 non-Mediterranean countries were represented. This workshop provided a good opportunity for Mediterranean sea turtle specialists to meet and to enhance networking and collaboration across the Mediterranean in order to exchange knowledge and to find ways of collecting and sharing standardized procedures and data, which will increase knowledge about the level of pressure/threat on sea turtles and megafauna populations.

Within the framework of the regional exchange sharing workshop of MEDPAN organized in Izola, Slovenia from 28 November to 1 December 2017 on the theme: “MPAs facing pollution in the Mediterranean: thinking beyond boundaries, SPA/RAC and MED POL organized the workshop titled “*The Mediterranean integrated programme for monitoring pollution impact on marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity*”.

As associated partners to the Act-4-Litter project (act4litter.interreg-med.eu), SPA/RAC took part to the following meetings:

- The first Act for litter conference organized on 28 of November 2017 in Isola (Slovenia);
- The experts meeting held in 16-17 May 2018 in Pisa in order to review the progress of the project and to test the decision-making tool developed by Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies to facilitate efforts in effectively addressing marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs.

Moreover, a joint workshop on marine litter and cetacean stranding ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/IWC/SPA/RAC was organized on 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 within the framework of the European cetacean Society Conference.

Synergies were also ensured with the EU-funded Switch MED project especially through two pilot projects of the regional policy component. Both projects supported the implementation of the Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan for the Mediterranean, namely through the promotion of alternatives to single-use plastic bags and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for beverage containers.

Collaboration was established with activities under the SWIM-H2020 Supporting Mechanisms project, where SCP/RAC is partner. Under that project, the Government of Tunisia identified the regulatory framework of single-use plastic bags as an area of work. In that context, the centre provided feed-back on the draft decree on plastic bags and attended an expert mission in Tunis the 6-9th March 2018 where this issue was discussed. Additionally, the study visit "Design of Circular Economy Strategies in the Food and Beverage Packaging Sector" organized by SCP/RAC with the support of MIO-ECSDE within the SWIM-H2020 SM project for an Algerian delegation in Barcelona 10-14 December 2018 was a great occasion to move forward with the technical assistance that was provided later on by Marine Litter Med.

UNEP/MAP and its MED POL programme, in cooperation with OceanCare NGO, organized a workshop under the title "*Prevention and reduction of marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture and related impacts on marine ecosystems*", during the GFCM 2018 Fish Forum (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018).

The activities coordinated and implemented by REMPEC will contribute to the execution of the IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships in the region, in particular the expected outcome of "Improvement of the effectiveness of PRF and treatment in reducing marine plastic litter".

## VII Resources and Budget<sup>15</sup>

Provide: i) narrative description of financial implementation and any remark on the overall project budget, including the development of the co-financing as initially foreseen<sup>16</sup>; ii) indications of whether there is a delay in spending the funds and its clarifications; iii) additional resources leveraged by UN Environment /MEA and/or partners as a result of the project.

The total EC allocation including programme support costs for the overall project duration of (initial) 36 months, with the 1st extension (6 months), was EUR 1,400,000. Allocation of budget to project partners' has been respected, as follows:

SCP/RAC	:	EUR 155,000
REMPEC	:	EUR 211,140
SPA/RAC	:	EUR 97,000
MED POL	:	EUR 340,023
Black Sea Commission	:	EUR 77,411
Beneficiary Countries	:	USD 282,635 <sup>17</sup>

The expenditures for the overall project were made according the revised budget allocations approved by the Steering Committee of the Marine Litter MED project.

<sup>15</sup> This section will provide a narrative description of the project financial implementation only but should be developed in close liaison with the Fund Management Officer. Financial reporting will provide detailed figures.

<sup>16</sup> The co-financing information is to be aligned with the project budget in the full-fledged proposal approved by your EC task manager. Please ensure close liaison with your project Fund Management Officer, as information reported here should be consistent with the financial report. The co-financing can take the form of cash and/or staff time. In kind co-financing is not accepted by the EC. The project team must keep evidences of the reported co-financing in the project archives.

<sup>17</sup> Based on the legal agreements signed between UNEP/MAP MED POL and Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

The level of allocations/expenses will be made available to the donor with the draft final financial report which is due by March/April 2020. The exact level of allocations will be made available with the financial closure of the project.

## **VIII VISIBILITY<sup>18</sup>:**

In line with your initially approved Communication and Visibility Plan, provide i) a list of communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level within this final year of reporting; and for the overall duration of the project; ii) an outline of your key communication and visibility activities and products developed showing the key targeted outreach (i.e. focusing on recognized policy impact both generated and feeding into policy processes, impact on the ground and specific targeted audience); and iii) related evidence of developed communication and visibility materials (e.g. video; picture; interview; newsletter; accessible web links; etc.) covering respectively i) and ii).

### 2016:

The project description has been included in the UNEP/MAP website, under the [project section](#) in English and also translated into [French](#) and [Arabic](#) ensuring high visibility to the project. This section includes major project elements (i.e. [project document](#), [Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean](#)) and is constantly updated with recent project activity (e.g. the establishment of the [Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean](#) in 2016).

Important elements and project related updates have been included in the NEWS section of the UNEP/MAP website; e.g.:

- The launch of the project during the [Regional Meeting](#) “*Fostering Regional Cooperation for a Marine Litter-Free Mediterranean Seas*”, which aimed to enhance the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, with the participation of representatives from 17 Mediterranean countries (Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016).
- The establishment of the [Regional Cooperation Platform](#) on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean resulted from the round table discussion organized in Athens, Greece on 6 Sept. 2016 in the framework of the Marine Litter MED project.

An updated annual (July 2016 – June 2017) communication and visibility plan was developed and finalized by the project management team and communicated with EC (Nov. 2016).

UNEP/MAP MED POL has presented the project and related aspects in various fora, including EU MSFD and related scientific meetings, as follows:

- a. EC MSFD/TGML 10th Meeting, Palermo, Italy, 6-7 April 2016;
- b. Regional Meeting on the Further Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016;
- c. CIESM Conference, Kiel, Germany, 12-16 Sept. 2016;
- d. TGML Workshop on Floating macro-litter, Barcelona, Spain, 27-28 Oct. 2016;
- e. Conference “Plastic in the marine and lacustrine ecosystem: from the problem to the new recycling frontiers”, Rimini, Italy, 11 Nov. 2016;

### 2017:

Important elements and project related updates were included in the news section of the UN Environment/MAP website:

- The second meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter (Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 November 2017);
- The first Steering Committee of the Marine Litter MED project (Barcelona, Spain, 10 November 2017)

The Marine Litter MED project was quoted in the INDICIT project and the SPA/RAC websites with regard to the training organized in Portici (July 2017). In additional IUCN website was also referred to the first steering committee of the Marine Litter MED project.

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<sup>18</sup> With communication activities, increasingly important for the EU, please raise where and how EU support has been mentioned and acknowledged in your communication activities.

An updated annual 2018-2019 communication and visibility plan was developed and was approved by the Steering Committee of the project (Barcelona, Spain, 10 November 2017).

The project has been also presented in various fora, including EU MSFD and related scientific meetings, as follows:

- INDICIT Workshop, Brussels, 10 Feb. 2017;
- UNEP/MAP CORMOM Meeting on Marine Litter Monitoring (Madrid, Spain, 28 Feb. – 2 Mar. 2017);
- TGML Baselines Workshop, Brussels, 14-15 Mar. 2017;
- G7 Workshop “Mainstreaming the work of the Regional Seas Programmes towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the achievement of global commitments on marine litter”, Rome, Italy, 20-21 April 2017;
- G20 High Level Conference on Marine Litter (Bremen, Germany, 30 May – 1 June 2017);
- INDICIT Training on marine litter ingestion by sea turtles (Portici, Italy, 6 July 2017);
- Marine Litter Week (Barcelona, Spain, 6-10 Nov. 2017, SCP/RAC);
- 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017).

In addition, the Marine Litter MED project has been included and referred to several newsletter items in the UN Environment/MAP and partners websites.

## 2018:

A brochure describing the rationale, related outputs and brief description of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project was developed by the Secretariat into the following languages: English and French.

Posters and flyers have been also designed at national level (e.g. Egypt, Libya) to enhance public awareness on the threat that marine litter is posing. In Egypt, several posters were distributed to a number of schools and NGOs and in addition some lectures were carried out to fully explain the negative effect of marine litter. Some actions are envisaged also from the other beneficiary countries. Awareness raising events were also organized in Morocco and Libya.

The UN Environment/MAP hosted news items with regards to the organization of the capacity building workshops in Egypt (26-28 February 2018) and Morocco (19-21 February 2018):

- <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/national-workshop-foster-imap-implementation-egypt>;
- <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/national-workshop-foster-imap-implementation-morocco>.

An awareness-raising day on marine litter and its impact on biodiversity was organized in Kuriat Island (Tunisia) on 30<sup>th</sup> of June, in collaboration with the Tunisian INDICIT-associated partner and the Notre Grand Bleu NGO, in the occasion of the beginning of the *Caretta caretta* monitoring nest season. A Leaflet has been produced (in French) “*les débris marins, une menace pour les océans*”.

The EU-funded Marine Litter MED project has been also presented in various fora, including the following:

- INDICIT Meeting, Montpellier, France, 6-7 February 2018;
- Training Session Organized with the Ministry of Environment of Morocco on the Implementation of IMAP on Eutrophication and Marine Litter, Rabat, Morocco, 19-21 February 2018;
- Capacity Building Workshop on Implementation of Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme in the Mediterranean Sea and Cost (IMAP) and related criteria (Eutrophication and Marine Litter), Alexandria, Egypt, 26 – 28 February 2018;
- Capacity Building Workshop on Implementation of Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme in the Mediterranean Sea and Cost (IMAP) and related criteria (Eutrophication and Marine Litter) for Libya, Tunis, Tunisia, 12-15 March 2018;
- PolyTalk 2018, St Julian's, Malta, 26-27 April 2018;
- SETAC Europe 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy, 13-17 May 2018;
- TGML Annual Meeting, Larnaca, Cyprus, 26-28 June 2018;
- Regional Meeting on IMAP Implementation: Best Practices, Gaps and Common Challenges (Rome, Italy, 10-12 July 2018); and
- GFCM 2018 Fish Forum (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018).

2019:

The [Mediterranean Marine Litter Node](http://gpmlmednode.org/service/eu-funded-marine-litter-med-project) was established and a dedicated section has been prepared for the project: <http://gpmlmednode.org/service/eu-funded-marine-litter-med-project>

Communication and information from SCP/RAC, including reports, acknowledged the technical support and financial contribution received in the framework of the project:

- [Web article](#) on SCP/RAC activities,
- [Web article](#) on adoption and publication of the guidelines;
- SCP/RAC's [support to Tunisia in phasing out single-use plastic bags](#): review of industrial norms and legal framework;
- The Ministry of Environment of Egypt and SCP/RAC are joining force to “[limit single-use plastic bags](#)” with the holding of a consultative workshop in Cairo: [Video-report](#); [Photo gallery](#); and Media coverage:
  - [El Ahram](#)
  - [El Bawabh news](#)
  - [Elbiddaa news](#)
  - [El Dostor news](#)
  - [Veto Gate](#)
  - [Elbawaba news](#)
  - [KhabarMasr news](#)
  - [Almal news 1](#)
  - [Al mal news 2](#)
  - [Youm7 news](#)
  - [Masrway news](#)
  - [AkhbarElyoum news](#)
  - [Promotional video](#)
- Support provided to Lebanon: “[Transitioning from over consumption of single use plastic bags in Lebanon: An alternative model for an interactive and collective phase out](#)”.

A panel discussion was co-organized by SPA/RAC and WWF North Africa, in Monastir, Tunisia, 30 October 2019, during the “Bleue Panda - Stop plastic pollution” event, about marine turtles conservation issues. During the panel discussion the project objectives and achievements were shared with the participants.

The following articles featuring REMPEC’s work were published on IMO news section:

- [Boost for IMO-led REMPEC Mediterranean marine pollution response centre](#); and
- [IMO and UN Environment – working together to keep the Mediterranean clean](#).

The following articles featuring REMPEC’s work were published on UNEP/MAP news section:

- [REMPEC holds its 13th Meeting of the Focal Points in Malta](#)
- [Commitment on Addressing Marine Litter and Air Pollution from Ships Gathers Momentum](#)
- [UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan at the G7 Environment \(Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019\)](#).

The following articles featuring REMPEC’s work were published on REMPEC website:

- [Focal Points of UNEP/MAP examine measures aimed at boosting the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols](#);
- [Outcome of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea \(REMPEC\)](#);
- [REMPEC raises awareness on marine pollution during the World Ocean Day 2019](#);
- [Commitment on addressing marine litter and air pollution from ships gathers momentum](#);
- [New guidelines targeting the better management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean discussed in Seville, Spain](#); and
- [Sub-Regional Meeting on the Better Management of Marine Litter from Sea-based Sources in Ports and Marinas in the Adriatic](#).

**The project has been also presented in various fora:**

- **Fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019;**
- **Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators, Podgorica, Montenegro, 4-5 April 2019;**
- **Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019;**
- **G7 Workshop on Marine Litter, Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019;**
- **TGML Workshop on Threshold Values for Marine Litter Impact Criteria, Berlin, Germany, 22 May 2019;**
- **Meeting of the Focal Points of MED POL, Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019;**
- **13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter (MSFD TGML), Gothenburg, Sweden, 26-28 June 2019;**
- **ACCOBAMS Workshop on Ingested Marine Litter Monitoring & Entanglement Evidences, Chioggia, Italy, 1-2 July 2019;**
- **International Conference on Microplastic Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, Capri, Italy, 15-18 September 2019;**
- **21st Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Berlin, Germany, 3-5 October 2019;**
- **PANACeA Final event, Malaga, Spain, 14-16 October 2019;**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019.**

## **IX Lessons Learned, Conclusions and Recommendations**

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Using the findings and recommendations of the mid-term or terminal evaluation and the sustainability of project results, state lessons learned, observations that can be used to improve similar future UN Environment /MEA projects or the sustainability of the project results.

The project delivered its planned outputs. The selected marine litter reduction and prevention measures provided for in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, identified in the 2015/2016 National Action Plans (NAPs), and elaborated in the framework of the Marine Litter MED project were well-received and appreciated by the countries. The overall level of engagement of the countries to the project activities can be considered as satisfactory. In some cases, the processes at national level were time consuming and this was the main implementation challenge for the project.

Individual follow-up with the respective beneficiary countries and country missions significantly facilitated the implementation of the activities that were under delay. These delays led to a situation where most of project's outputs were delivered in 2019.

The extension of the project for an additional 6-month period (i.e. until 31 December 2019), at no additional costs, was instrumental for the timely implementation of all envisaged activities and delivery of the envisaged outputs.

### **Lessons Learned/ Conclusions:**

1. Using existing partnerships, mechanisms and initiatives as implementing partners is an effective advantage to ensure long-term project results. Having the Mediterranean Regional Sea Convention Secretariat (UN Environment/MAP) as the overall coordinating partner facilitated the goal of institutionalizing outputs through its established mechanisms and processes, including the key bodies (MAP and MAP Components Focal Points, Conferences of Parties etc.);
2. Promotion of different stakeholders, ministries and agencies, other than environment and industry is important to enhance close collaboration among decision makers, sectors and actors and therefore increase project results sustainability;
3. Use of opportunities for collaboration with other related projects and programmes is strongly encouraged to avoid duplications. At regional level, emphasizing similarities and complementarities with revision processes of existing strategies and frameworks can be useful;
4. The issue of financing outputs to sustain the results beyond the duration of the project at an early stage is of key importance for the effectiveness and sustainability of the project. Country engagement and

dialogue at all levels is needed for allocation of funds for continued implementation, up-scaling and capacity building in the long term;

5. One of the important features of the development process for all pilots implemented, and technical assistance provided, is country's ownership through a long consultation process followed by a multi-stakeholder approach (all countries involved government institutions, academia, private sector, civil society, media and international organizations);
6. In all seven Marine Litter MED countries the highlighted/mainstreamed marine litter reduction and prevention priorities were selected among the National Action Plans (NAPs);
7. The process for development and implementation of reduction and prevention measures to the beneficiary countries should be further supported by national strategies and programmes and should be also facilitated/leveraged multiple resources to finance the implementation;
8. Marine Litter MED has supported its beneficiary countries to adopt new strategies, policies and new laws/bylaws to shift towards reducing the leakage of certain marine litter items.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Continue to implement thematically related projects and initiatives under the institutional framework for cooperation of UN Environment/MAP and the Barcelona Convention to address regional challenges on marine litter as well as to enhance its effective management;
2. Continue to focus on national implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean including the development of additional targeted measures, supported by capacity building focusing on effective governance, enforcement and implementation by using the developed plans, tools and approaches;
3. Establish closer cooperation, synergies and linkages among the different components of the Marine Litter MED project and support sharing of lessons learned and best practices with other regional and global initiatives to ensure a more coherent approach with regard to communicating the project activities and its results to a wider range of stakeholders and decision makers both at national and regional levels;
4. Identify and further support inter-linkages and synergies between the National Action Plans (NAPs) and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean to promote coherence;
5. Ensure that project documentation, technical and financial, is accessible in a systematized way for relevant project team members during all times of project implementation.
6. Further expand in terms of geographical scope and impact the pilots and technical assistance implemented/provided in the framework of the project and ensure to the extent possible activities continuation at local/national levels.
7. Better coordination and timely follow-up with the countries and with MAP Components should be undertaken in future projects. This is crucial for the timely and effective implementation of envisaged activities.

Time periods required for preparation of relevant legal instruments and for processing them into UN Portals (i.e. UMOJA, Partners Portal, UE2), should be taken into consideration when planning the overall project workplan in order to ensure timely release of relevant funds.

#### **X ANNEXES**

Please list annexes to the final project report including i) final expenditure report; ii) inventory of non-expendable equipment; iii) terminal evaluation report (if ready); iv) communication and visibility products as detailed in section VIII Visibility.....

#### Annual GPGC/ENRTP Reports:

- 1) Annual 2016 ENRTP/GPGC Progress Report.
- 2) Annual 2017 ENRTP/GPGC Progress Report.
- 3) Annual 2018 ENRTP/GPGC Progress Report.

#### Steering Committee Reports:

- 4) First Steering Committee Meeting of the Marine Litter MED project (Report) (Barcelona, Spain, 10 Nov. 2017).
- 5) Second Steering Committee Meeting of the Marine Litter MED project (Report) (Izmir, Turkey, 12 Oct. 2018).
- 6) **Third Steering Committee Meeting of the Marine Litter MED project (Report) (Athens, Greece, 6 June 2019).**
- 7) **Forth (Online) Steering Committee Meeting of the Marine Litter MED project (Report) (Teleconference, 11 Nov. 2019).**

#### Regional Meetings on Marine Litter Best Practices:

- 8) Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Report) (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 Oct. 2018).
- 9) **Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Jointly organized with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy) (Report) (Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019).**

#### Marine Litter Guidelines:

- 10) **Decision IG.24/11: Guidelines: Adopt-a-Beach; Phase-out of Single Use Plastic Bags; Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes; Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities (COP21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 Dec. 2019).**

#### Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean:

- 11) Roundtable “Enhancing Regional Coordination on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean” (Report) (Athens, Greece, 6 Sept. 2016) - UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.425/4.
- 12) Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Report) (Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 Nov. 2017).
- 13) Third Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Report) (Izmir, Turkey, 11-12 Oct. 2018).

#### Cooperation with Black Sea Commission:

- 14) First coordination meeting between UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS) (Report) (Athens, Greece, 24 July 2018).
- 15) Second coordination meeting between UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS) (Report) (Istanbul, Turkey, 6 Dec. 2018).
- 16) **Third coordination meeting between UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS) (Report) (Istanbul, Turkey, 13 Dec. 2019).**
- 17) **Regional Verification workshop to support the establishment of the Black Sea Marine Litter Monitoring Programme and streamline the implementation of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea (Conclusions and Recommendations) (Istanbul, Turkey, 12-13 Dec. 2019).**

#### European Regional Seas Coordination:

- 18) Fifth European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter (Report) (Vrachati, Greece, 4-5 July 2018).

#### GFCM 2018 Fish Forum:

- 19) “Prevention and reduction of marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture and related impacts on marine ecosystems”, GFCM 2018 Fish Forum (Conclusions) (10 Dec. 2018).

#### Phasing out single-use plastic bags and Extended Producer Responsibility:

- 20) **Rapport Appui technique portant sur le développement de la responsabilité élargie des producteurs au Maroc (produits plastiques) (Technical Assistance & National Event Report).**
- 21) **Etude sur les mesures d'appui pour la normalisation technique et juridique pour la réduction des sacs en plastiques en Tunisie (Technical Assistance Report).**
- 22) **Report national event on plastic bags (Tunis, Tunisia, 3 Oct. 2019)**
- 23) **Report Technical assistance aiming at proposing a pilot system to phase out single-use plastic bags with pilot in Jbeil, Lebanon (Technical Assistance Report).**
- 24) **Etude de faisabilité pour la mise en place d'une initiative REP (responsabilité élargie du producteur) pour la gestion des déchets d'emballages alimentaires dans la Wilaya d'Oran en Algérie (Technical Assistance & National Event Report).**
- 25) **Summary report Workshop on Measures to Limit Single Use Plastic Bag in Egypt (Sept. 2019) (National Event Report).**
- 26) **Guidelines to phase out single-use plastic bags in the Mediterranean (Layman Publication).**
- 27) **Lignes directrices pour l'élimination progressive des sacs en plastique à usage unique dans la région Méditerranéenne (Layman Publication).**

#### Better management of marine litter in ports and marinas:

- 28) Study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European regional seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and of the No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities (ENF/FR).
- 29) Field visit for port authority representatives to the Port of Antwerp, Belgium (30-31 October 2018), in collaboration with the Antwerp Port Authority (Report).

Development of Candidate Indicator 24:

- 30) Defining the most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 (Report).
  - 31) Rapport sur la Formation sur l'interaction "Tortues marine et debris marins" (Monastir, Tunis, Nov. 2018).
  - 32) ***Protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entangling) with a view to harmonizing methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment.***
  - 33) ***Assessment of the available data to propose GES targets.***
  - 34) ***Assessment reports from the testing of the harmonized protocols (Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon).***
  - 35) ***Rapport sur la Session de formation 'Surveillance des interactions entre les débris marins et les tortues marines en Algerie (Nov. 2019).***
  - 36) ***Operational strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24.***
  - 37) ***Guidelines for the design of a regional network for monitoring & assessment of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 in the Mediterranean.***
- 38) Marine Litter MED Brochure (ENG and FR).