



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.516/3



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

25 August 2021
Original: English

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

Teleconference, 20 September 2021

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

Updated Work Plan & Budget 2021-2022

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Introduction

1. The EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project is structured along the following three outputs covering a period between September 2020 and August 2023:

Outcome 1: Enhance national capacities on monitoring and assessing marine litter addressing pressures/sources and impacts to contribute to 2023 MED QSR with quality assured data addressing pressures and effectiveness of measures in line with COP 20 Decision on 2017 MED QSR

Outcome 2: Scale up and expand the implementation of pilot implementation of selected marine litter reduction and prevention measures at national and local level.

Outcome 3: Maximize synergies on marine litter actions in the Region with a focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission and GFCM, and other regional partners.

2. The tentative project budget is USD 1,289,955, including an EC Allocation of USD 1,140,000 and co-financing from UNEP/MAP of USD 149,955.

Updated Work Plan

3. As indicated in the Progress Report prepared for the First Steering Committee Meeting of the Project, all project preparatory work was undertaken during the period September to December 2020, whereas in 2021 the negotiations for the legal agreements with most implementing partners have been undertaken including the preparation and drafting of the legal agreements.

4. All legal agreements with the beneficiary countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) and with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC), have been prepared and shared for comments, expected to be signed during the period September to October 2021.

5. No revision is proposed for the time being, and the updated work plan is presented under Annex I to the present document.

Updated Budget

6. The Revised Budget is presented in Annex II; however, because the project is still at the early stages, no budget reallocation is planned or expected, except the standard rollover of unspent funds from year 2020 to year 2021 (under the same budget class and, of course, for the planned activities as described in the Project Document).

7. The Steering Committee is invited to review the proposed updated workplan and budget; for guidance and approval as it may be deemed appropriate.

Annex I
Updated Project Work plan

Updated Project workplan / Activities

| ID | Project Outputs & Activities | Responsible Division/RO ¹ | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| A) | Project Outcome 1: Enhance national capacities on monitoring and assessing marine litter addressing pressures/sources and impacts to contribute to 2023 MED QSR with quality assured data addressing pressures and effectiveness of measures in line with COP 20 Decision on 2017 MED QSR | SPA/RAC, MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Support countries to further advance and operationalize monitoring of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, with a focus on the ground implementation of the operation strategy as developed during the previous ML MED Project | SPA/RAC, MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Monitoring Programmes for at least 2 countries are prepared | SPA/RAC, MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2 | Develop reporting templates, data standards and data dictionaries based on the agreed standardized monitoring protocols, including data quality assurance and quality control tools, to enable the reporting to the Secretariat of national data with regards to IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, through the IMAP (Pilots) Info System | SPA/RAC, MED POL, Info/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Data Standards and Data Dictionaries are prepared and are reviewed by UNEP/MAP concerned governing bodies; | SPA/RAC, MED POL, Info/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.2 | At least 2 countries submit the Data Standards and Data Dictionaries to IMAP Info System at pilot basis. | SPA/RAC, MED POL, Info/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 | Update Baseline Values and establish threshold values for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 | MED POL, SPA/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Baseline values and environmental targets are updated at Mediterranean level for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 | MED POL, SPA/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.2 | Threshold values are proposed and established for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24. | MED POL, SPA/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4 | Assess and further specify the environmental reduction targets as agreed by COP 19 in 2016 and reconfirmed in Naples Ministerial Declaration of COP 21 in December 2019, including to prevent and significantly reduce plastic leakage in the Mediterranean Sea and to progressively achieve 100% plastic waste collection and recycling by 2025 | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | An assessment is conducted with regards to progress achieved in reaching the environmental targets approved by COP 19 in 2016; | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.2 | Environmental targets are updated for all IMAP Common and Candidate Indicators for Marine Litter; | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| ID | Project Outputs & Activities | Responsible Division/RO ¹ | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1.4.3 | An assessment is conducted to set up indicators upon which the reduction of plastic leakage in the Mediterranean and to progressively achieve 100% plastic waste collection and recycling by 2025, all included in Naples Ministerial Declaration of COP 21 in December 2019, are measured. | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 | Assess knowledge and data gaps for the riverine inputs of marine litter in the Mediterranean; propose relevant monitoring methodologies based on existing experience and adjust them into the Mediterranean needs; ensure synergies with the EU MSFD TGML work. This would prepare the grounds for consider expanding the marine litter common indicators of IMAP to include an indicator on riverine inputs | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Methodology developed and implemented at pilot scale by three beneficiary countries for monitoring and assessing riverine inputs. | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.2 | Data collected feed QSR 2023 preparations. | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6 | Assess the main uses and sources of microplastics in the Mediterranean, as well as microplastic leakages into the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean, focusing on existing studies with the aim to fill the gap for the Mediterranean and subsequently will result in proposing accordingly necessary measures as well as a protocol for microplastic monitoring coming from WWTP | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.1 | Regional report on the sources, uses and leakages of microplastics in the Mediterranean; | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.2 | Shortlist of proposed measures. | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.3 | Protocol to monitor microplastics from WWTP | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.7 | Support national Governments and competent entities in building capacity through technical assistance, training and collaboration for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, riverine inputs, and microplastic deriving from WWTP | MED POL, SPA/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.7.1 | Capacity building is enhanced in all beneficiary countries | MED POL, SPA/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B) | Outcome 2: Scale up and expand the implementation of pilot implementation of selected marine litter reduction and prevention measures at national and local level. | MED POL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Implement Adopt-a-Beach measures, with the scope to expand their geographical scope (at least 1 additional pilot per country) and related impact on further enhancing awareness raising of national/local communities | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Adopt-a-beach pilots are implemented in three sites per country, in up to five selected countries | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 | Implement Fishing-for-Litter measures (i.e. passive scheme), in at least one additional fishing port with the | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| ID | Project Outputs & Activities | Responsible Division/RO ¹ | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| | <i>marinas (at least one additional major port and one additional marina per country)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C) | Outcome 3: <i>Maximize synergies on marine litter actions in the Region with a focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission and GFCM, and other regional partners</i> | MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | <i>Assist the development of national marine litter monitoring programmes based on BS IMAP in two countries and their implementation; update the ML regional assessment for the Black sea countries based on the structure of their regional and national IMAP.</i> | BSC, MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | <i>National monitoring programmes for BS IMAP marine litter indicators are prepared for two BS countries;</i> | BSC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.2 | <i>Proposal for baseline values for marine litter is prepared and is submitted to Black Sea Commission Governance Bodies;</i> | BSC and MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.3 | <i>Regional marine litter assessment report is prepared for the Black Sea region</i> | BSC and MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | <i>Implement selected reduction and prevention measures, namely “Adopt-a-beach” and “phasing out single-use plastic bags”, at pilot scale in the Black Sea based on the Mediterranean experience from the application of relevant measures;</i> | BSC, MED POL, SCP/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.2 | <i>Adopt-a-beach pilots are implemented in two Black Sea countries;</i> | BSC, MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.3 | <i>National regulatory framework for phasing out single-use plastic bags is reviewed, and technical assistance is provided in two countries.</i> | BSC, SCP/RAC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | <i>Identify and implement common actions with GFCM, and ensure synergies with other European Regional Seas Conventions and Programmes, related Regional Fisheries Bodies, and the G7 and eventually G20 work on marine litter without budget implications for the project.</i> | CU/MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 | <i>Joint workplan between UNEP/MAP and GFCM is prepared and agreed.</i> | CU/MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4 | <i>Support the expansion of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter by supporting the participation of participants/organizations from the Marine Litter MED II eligible countries.</i> | CU/MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.1 | <i>Participation and membership of key Mediterranean actors and stakeholders into the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean expanded; synergies maximized</i> | CU/MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.2 | <i>Additional memberships from organizations/institutions from the project eligible countries join the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine litter in the Mediterranean.</i> | CU/MED POL | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Annex II
Updated Project Budget

| | 1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs (USD) | 2. Contractual Services (USD) | 3. Travel (USD) | 4. Equipment Vehicles and Furniture (USD) | 5. Operating and Other Direct Costs (USD) | 6. Supplies Commodities and Materials (USD) | 7. Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partner (IP) (USD) | Subtotal (USD) | PSC (7%) |
|--|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-------------------|-----------|
| Project Output | | | | | | | | | |
| A) Output 1.1: Support countries to further advance and operationalize monitoring of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, with a focus on the ground implementation of the operation strategy as developed during the previous ML MED Project. | | | | | | | USD 38,793 | USD 38,793 | USD 2,716 |
| B) Output 1.2: Develop reporting templates, data standards and data dictionaries based on the agreed standardized monitoring protocols, including data quality assurance and quality control tools, to enable the reporting to the Secretariat of national data with regards to IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, through the IMAP (Pilots) Info System. | | | | | | | | USD 0 | USD 0 |
| C) Output 1.3: Update Baseline Values and establish threshold values for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24. | | | | | | | USD 30,302 | USD 30,302 | USD 2,121 |
| D) Output 1.4: Assess and further specify the environmental reduction targets as agreed by COP 19 in 2016 and reconfirmed in Naples Ministerial Declaration of COP 21 in December 2019, including to prevent and significantly reduce plastic leakage in the Mediterranean Sea and to progressively achieve 100% plastic waste collection and recycling by 2025. | USD 17,183 | | | | | | | USD 17,183 | USD 1,203 |
| E) Output 1.5: Assess knowledge and data gaps for the riverine inputs of marine litter in the Mediterranean; propose relevant monitoring methodologies based on existing experience and adjust them into the Mediterranean needs; ensure synergies with the EU MSFD TGML work. This would prepare the grounds for consider expanding the marine litter common indicators of IMAP to include an indicator on riverine inputs. | USD 7,974 | | | | | | USD 19,138 | USD 27,112 | USD 1,898 |
| F) Output 1.6: Assess the main uses and sources of microplastics in the Mediterranean, as well as microplastic leakages into the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean, focusing on existing studies with the aim to fill the gap for the Mediterranean and subsequently will result in proposing accordingly necessary measures as well as a protocol for microplastic monitoring coming from WWTP. | USD 21,264 | | | | | | | USD 21,264 | USD 1,489 |
| G) Output 1.7: Support national Governments and competent entities in building capacity through technical assistance, training and collaboration for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, riverine inputs, and microplastic deriving from WWTP. | | USD 10,633 | USD 21,264 | | | | | USD 31,897 | USD 2,233 |

| | 1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs (USD) | 2. Contractual Services (USD) | 3. Travel (USD) | 4. Equipment Vehicles and Furniture (USD) | 5. Operating and Other Direct Costs (USD) | 6. Supplies Commodities and Materials (USD) | 7. Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partner (IP) (USD) | Subtotal (USD) | PSC (7%) |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Project Output | | | | | | | | | |
| H) Output 2.1: Implement Adopt-a-Beach measures, with the scope to expand their geographical scope (at least 1 additional pilot per country) and related impact on further enhancing awareness raising of national/local communities. | | | | | USD 2,126 | | USD 80,691 | USD 82,817 | USD 5,797 |
| I) Output 2.2: Implement Fishing-for-Litter measures (i.e. passive scheme), in at least one additional fishing port with the scope to remove existing marine litter from the marine environment; Efforts will be made to test to the extent possible the FAO voluntary guidelines on marking of fishing gear and to cooperation with GFCM towards addressing the contribution of aquaculture on marine litter and microplastic generation. | | | | | USD 1,063 | | USD 59,110 | USD 60,173 | USD 4,212 |
| J) Output 2.3: Further sensitize and engage fishermen to the purpose of minimizing sea-based sources; and contribute to extent possible with data on seafloor marine litter. | | USD 10,632 | USD 10,633 | | | | | USD 21,265 | USD 1,489 |
| K) Output 2.4: Phase out priority single-use marine litter items from the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, with a focus on advancing the existing work on single-use plastic bags promoting proper and sustainable alternatives, including on single-use plastic items intensively used, or produced during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and to further support the improvement of the legal framework for other single-use items ending up as marine litter, in line with the new EU Single-Use Plastics Directive and possibly the updated Marine Litter Regional Plan. | | | | | | | USD 81,323 | USD 81,323 | USD 5,693 |
| L) Output 2.5: Expand the implementation of pilots (at least one additional port and one marina for the countries participated to the first phase of the project and, where possible, one port and one marina for those countries that did not participate in the first phase of the project) related to the enhanced management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean, with a focus on advancing the existing work on 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, and to explore and establish synergies between the Marine Litter Regional Plan and the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives. | USD 21,264 | | USD 5,316 | | | | USD 74,426 | USD 101,007 | USD 7,070 |

| | 1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs (USD) | 2. Contractual Services (USD) | 3. Travel (USD) | 4. Equipment Vehicles and Furniture (USD) | 5. Operating and Other Direct Costs (USD) | 6. Supplies Commodities and Materials (USD) | 7. Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partner (IP) (USD) | Subtotal (USD) | PSC (7%) |
|--|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------|------------|
| Project Output | | | | | | | | | |
| M) Output 3.1: Assist the development of national marine litter monitoring programmes based on BS IMAP in two countries and their implementation; update the marine litter regional assessment for the Black sea countries based on the structure of their regional and national IMAP. | | | | | | | USD 42,529 | USD 42,529 | USD 2,977 |
| N) Output 3.2: Implement selected reduction and prevention measures, namely "Adopt-a-beach" and "phasing out single-use plastic bags", at pilot scale in the Black Sea based on the Mediterranean experience from the application of relevant measures. | | | | | | | USD 53,162 | USD 53,162 | USD 3,721 |
| O) Output 3.3: Identify and implement common actions with GFCM and ensure synergies with other European Regional Seas Conventions and Programmes, related Regional Fisheries Bodies, and the G7 and eventually G20 work on marine litter without budget implications for the project. | | | USD 3,190 | | | | | USD 3,190 | USD 223 |
| P) Output 3.4: Support the expansion of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean by supporting the participation of participants/organizations from the ML MED II Project eligible countries. | | USD 10,632 | USD 31,897 | | | | | USD 42,529 | USD 2,977 |
| Project management | USD 373,713 | USD 10,580 | USD 26,580 | | | | | USD 410,873 | USD 28,761 |