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and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016

Agenda item 6.1: Report on Activities Carried Out in the Framework of UNEP/MAP since COP 18

Executive Summary: Assessment of Measures Taken to Implement the Barcelona Convention and Its Protocols to Achieve GES

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I. Introduction

The aim of draft Ecosystem Approach Based Measures Gap Analysis (the draft Gap Analysis) is to follow-up on Decision IG21/3 that the Contracting Parties agreed on at COP 18 to conclude a gap analysis on existing measures under the Barcelona Convention that are relevant to achieving or maintaining good environmental status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, in line with the ecosystem approach.

The draft Gap Analysis was discussed during the 5th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination group, which gave specific comments towards its further development, as well as requested the Secretariat to prepare an Executive Summary of it, addressing mainly the stock taking part of the draft Gap Analysis, to present it as an information document to COP 19.

The current Executive Summary thus aims to review the main findings of the draft Gap Analysis, with the objective to provide policy makers an overview of the key pressures and related existing MAP/Barcelona Convention measures which aim to address these pressures and as such achieve GES for the Mediterranean coast and sea.

The measures analyzed, are in line with Article 4 of the Barcelona Convention and are management measures undertaken on a common regional basis and, where appropriate, with specific time limits for completion, with the overall aim of achieving GES of the Mediterranean coast and sea.

II Key environmental pressures and risks affecting the Mediterranean Coast and Sea

Building on the findings of the Second State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report¹ (SoER-MED), the draft Gap Analysis concludes that the Mediterranean coast and sea are facing interlinked pressures and cumulative impacts affecting GES, caused by multiple human activities.

Population growth and mass tourism drive pressures such as unsustainable coastal development and sprawl, local disruption of circulate patterns caused by human-made structures (change in hydrographical conditions), human mediated impact of nutrients (waste water) leading to eutrophication, and urban pollution leading to chemical contamination. These drivers (population growth and mass tourism) are also implicitly linked to chemical contamination from agriculture and industry and to overfishing.

Increased land-based industrial activities drive chemical contamination, with hazardous substances being a major problem, and they are also one of the main sources of marine litter in the Mediterranean. While agricultural activities lead to eutrophication, maritime and offshore activities drive pressures such as acute events contamination (oil spills), introduction of non-indigenous species, marine litter, and disturbance of sea-floor integrity.

Fishing activities drive pressures such as over-fishing, disturbance of sea-floor integrity (by bottom dredging gears), eutrophication, chemical contamination, and the spread of non-indigenous species (specifically linked to aquaculture) while affecting marine food webs.

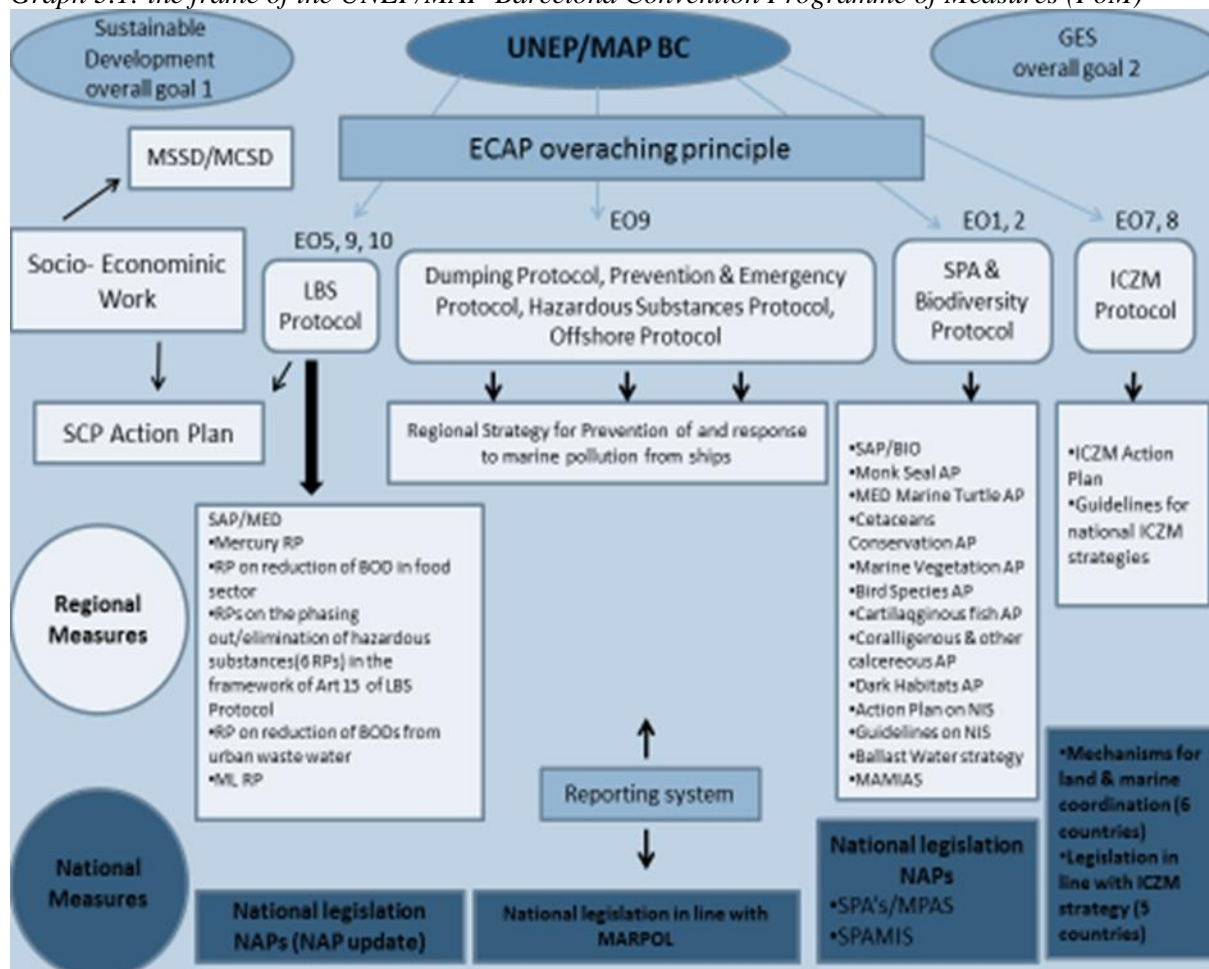
Shipping is linked to pressures such as contamination from acute events (oil spills), marine litter, introduction of invasive species, and marine noise.

¹ State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment:
http://195.97.36.231/publications/SoMMCER_Eng.pdf

III The frame of the UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention Programme of Measures (PoM) aiming to achieve GES of the Mediterranean Coast and Sea

The draft Gap Analysis finding is that the key environmental pressures and risks affecting the Mediterranean coast and sea described above in Chapter II of the current Executive Summary are already matched with relevant regional measures under the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention system.

Graph 3.1: the frame of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Programme of Measures (PoM)



IV. Stock-taking of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention existing measures to achieve GES and key gaps

As presented in Graph 3.1 of Chapter III of the current Executive Summary, the draft Gap Analysis showcases that there are already existing measures to achieve GES in the Mediterranean. At the same time, it also identifies some key gaps and concludes that the main challenge for the upcoming years will be to strengthen the overall frame of the PoM and address the identified gaps, with a focus on strengthening country level implementation.

It is important to note, that next to the detailed findings and recommendations relevant to specific Ecological Objectives (please see Table 3.1, Chapter III), the draft Gap Analysis also concluded on some recommendations, which are necessary to strengthen the existing PoM of the UNEP/ MAP-Barcelona Convention, which are as follows:

1. Strengthen ratification efforts of the amended Convention and its Protocols;
2. Strengthen public participation and information sharing, both on regional and national levels;

3. Strengthen information/reporting provided by the Contracting Parties in line with Decision IG.21/1;
4. Strengthen capacity–building, based on specific legal, institutional, and technical needs of the Contracting Parties;
5. Strengthen resource mobilization efforts, with a focus on assisting Contracting Parties implementation needs, in country-specific, targeted manner;
6. Provide targeted trainings and specific assistance mirroring country needs, in order to achieve good environmental status;
7. Share of best practices in between Contracting Parties and develop joint activities in order to address common challenges;
8. Strengthen the science-policy interface, with a specific focus on needs to achieve GES;
9. Closer cooperation with relevant regional bodies, such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and other Regional Sea Conventions (especially OSPAR, HELCOM and Black Sea Commission);
10. Strengthen national implementation efforts, in cooperation with key relevant initiatives and projects, such as Horizon 2020, MedPartnership, EcAp MEDII, SEIS projects.

Table 3.1.: Key findings of the draft Gap Analysis per Ecological Objective (EO), related to existing measures and Key gaps to achieve GES²

EO	EXISTING REGIONAL MEASURES	KEY GAPS
EO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP/BIO), • the work on Mediterranean Protected Areas (MPAs) in line with Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea • and on Specially Protected Areas (SPAMIs). <p>In addition, there are nine (9) Regional Action Plans targeting specific species relevant to EO1 (these Action Plans are legally non-binding).</p> <p>Important to note, that biodiversity is affected by interlinking pressures, which are addressed under the EOs 2-10, thus measures mentioned there also positively affect biodiversity protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National implementing measures often lack, NAPs not implemented, common tools for their implementation not developed and Ecap Targets need better to be reflected in them; • Establishment of further MPAs/SPAMIs/especially outside of national jurisdiction to meet Aichi target; • Management of MPAs network needs to be strengthened; • Strengthen cooperation with other regional players in line with Aichi target and maritime spatial planning needs; • Potential further additional measures: to address over-fishing and aquaculture.
EO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan on Introductions of Species and Invasive Species (legally non-binding); • Guidelines for the Risk Analysis assessing the impacts of the introduction of non-indigenous species and for controlling the vectors of introduction into the Mediterranean of non-indigenous species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Action Plan and the Guidelines related to non-indigenous species into national legislation; • Further update of the MAMIAS and strengthen country level implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on

² Noting that the draft Gap Analysis did not specifically analyze those Ecological Objectives, which were not included in Decision IG/21/3 Integrated List (ie no analysis of EO3, 4, 6, 11).

	<p>and invasive marine species (legally non-binding);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean Strategy on Ship's Ballast Water Management; • Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species database (MAMIAS). 	Ship's Ballast Water Management.
EO5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities in the Mediterranean Region (SAP/MED); • Regional Plan on Reduction of BOD5 from urban wastewater(adopted in 2009); • Regional Plan on Reduction of BOD5 in the food sector (adopted in 2012). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the process for updating National Action Plans (NAPs) in line with the EO5 relevant Regional Plans, Strategies, and relevant EcAp targets; • Potential further additional measures: on desalination and agriculture.
EO7	While the ICZM Protocol and the ICZM Action Plan do not explicitly address hydrographical conditions, but Article 23 (coastal erosion) or Art 9/2f (infrastructure, energy, ports) closely relate to hydrography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of existing national instruments relating to alteration of hydrographical conditions; • Hydrographical conditions of offshore activities to be addressed; • Research gap to be filled on climate change and alteration of hydrographical conditions.
EO8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICZM Action Plan (2012-2019), support the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol (legally non-binding); • Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMP demonstration projects); • Guidelines for the preparation of National ICZM Strategies required by the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (legally non-binding). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with marine spatial planning to be strengthened; • ICZM to be a stronger base for sub-regional strategies; • Development of common methodology for undertaking assessment on the use of management of the coast; • Strengthen links between EcAp and ICZM during CAMP implementation.
EO9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities in the Mediterranean Region (SAP/MED); • Regional Plans addressing specific pollution related issues (all legally binding)³ ; • In relation to shipping, the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and response to marine pollution from Ships acts as a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the process for updating NAPs in line with the EO9 relevant Regional Plans, Strategies, and relevant EcAp targets; • Stricter technical guidelines and management standards; • Potential further additional measures: regional plans on

³ 1. Elimination of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex and Toxaphene

2. Phasing out of DDT;

3. Reduction of BOD5 from urban wastewater;

4. Reduction of inputs of Mercury;

5. Reduction of BOD5 in the food sector;

6. Phasing out of Hexabromodiphenyl ether, Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether;

7. Phasing out of Lindane and Endosulfan;

8. Phasing out of Perfluorooctane sulfonic acids, its salts and Perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

9. Elimination of Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, Beta hexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, Pentachlorobenzene.

	<p>regional common basis for measures related to pollution from ships;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Offshore Action Plan, facilitating the implementation of the Offshore Protocol is foreseen to be a key measure in relation to pollution related to offshore activities. 	<p>agriculture, aquaculture, tanneries, and desalination;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement and revision of the list of priority contaminants.
EO10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Litter Regional Plan, following up on Art 15 of the LBS Protocol (legally binding). <p>The ML Regional Plan foresees pollution control and prevention measures, together with SCP Measures, with specific measures to remove ML, with strict timelines but flexible implementation. The reporting on fulfilling the obligations by the Contracting Parties is also foreseen, with assessing the ML status in the Mediterranean in every 6 years. A Marine Litter Regional Data Bank is to be developed by 2016 and National ML Monitoring Programmes need to be developed by the same time (2016).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the process for updating NAPs in line with the Marine Litter Regional Plan and relevant EcAp targets; • Implement the Marine Litter Regional Plan's set out key measures, in line with its timeline; • Marine litter related measures fully streamlined in SCP and MSSD as appropriate; • Address lack of technical capacities and knowledge regarding the implementation of the revised MARPOL Annex V (Garbage) and • Address knowledge gap on sea based sources.