

United Nations Environment Programme

Barcelona Convention Mediterranean Action Plan



UNEP



About the UNEP/MAP

In 1975, the Mediterranean countries and the European Community¹ adopted the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to monitor and protect the Mediterranean marine environment from pollution threats while ensuring the integrated development of the natural basin's resources on the basis of multilateral cooperation. Thus, The Mediterranean became the first region to adopt an Action Plan under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Seas Programme (UNEP/MAP). Twenty years later, MAP evolved taking into account the achievements and shortcomings of MAP's first years of existence, as well as the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). The main objectives of MAP II were to:

- assess and control marine pollution
- ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources
- integrate the environment in social and economic development
- protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention and reduction of pollution, and as far as possible, elimination of pollution, whether land or sea-based
- protect the natural and cultural heritage
- strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal States, and
- contribute to the improvement of the quality of life.

A new milestone was achieved in 2008 when the Contracting Parties decided (Decision IG 17/6) to progressively apply the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, and adopted the road map drawn up for the purposes of reaching the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the marine and coastal environment. This was followed by the adoption, in 2012 of 11 priority Ecological Objectives to ensure a healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations.

The focus of MAP gradually shifted from a sectoral approach to pollution control, to an integrated ecosystem and coastal zone management based approach for solving challenges affecting the marine and coastal environment in an interlinking manner.

In 2009, during their 16th meeting, the Contracting parties approved the first integrated strategic programme of work (2010-2014) of UNEP/MAP. The programme of work aims to promote the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and strategies, and was designed around the following six main themes with the Ecosystem Approach as its overarching objective:

1- European Union

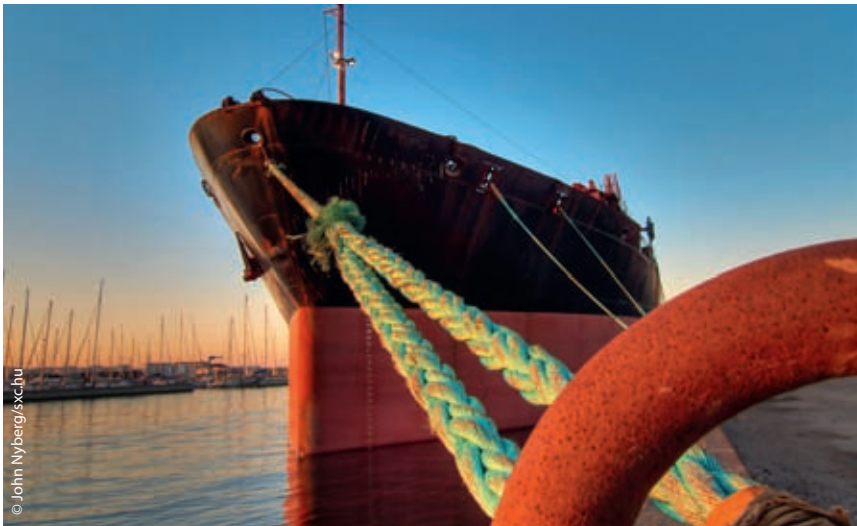
- Governance
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Biodiversity
- Pollution prevention and control
- Sustainable Production and Consumption
- Climate change

Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

In 1976, Mediterranean countries and the European Community adopted the Barcelona Convention and Protocols as the legal basis for international cooperation in protecting the Mediterranean environment. In 1995, the Barcelona Convention was amended, broadening its field of application beyond marine pollution control and providing for the application of the principles embodied in the instruments adopted by the 1992 Rio +10 Conference. Accordingly, the convention was renamed **Convention for the Protection of Marine Environments and the coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols** and is in force in nearly all Mediterranean Countries since 2004.

The Barcelona Convention is developed by seven implementing Protocols which aim to:

- Prevent Dumping from ships and aircraft and incineration at sea
- Prevent Pollution from ships and combat pollution in cases of Emergency
- Protect against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities
- Establish Specially Protected Areas and preserve Biodiversity
- Protect against Pollution Resulting from Offshore Exploration and Exploitation
- Prevent pollution from Transboundary movement of Hazardous Wastes, and
- Establish a common framework for the Integrated Management of the Coastal Zone



Contracting Parties

The Contracting Parties decide on the Barcelona Convention/MAP Secretariat policies, strategies, budget, and programme of work at their Ministerial level meetings held every two years. They appoint Focal Points to review the progress of work and ensure the implementation of recommendations at national level. A rotating Bureau of six representatives of the Contracting Parties guides and advises the Barcelona Convention/MAP Secretariat in the interim period between the biannual meetings.

The 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.

Compliance Committee

With almost all of the legal instruments in force, the attention turns to implementation. With this in view, the Contracting Parties established a Compliance Committee in 2008, to facilitate and promote compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The Committee meets once a year. It transmits a report to each meeting of the Contracting Parties in which it makes recommendations and proposals to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

The MCSD was established in 1995, as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties, with a unique composition, involving, on an equal footing, representatives of the Contracting Parties, local authorities, NGOs, socio-economic stakeholders, the scientific community, IGOs, as well as experts in the fields of the issues on the MCSD meeting agendas. The Commission assists Contracting parties in their efforts to promote



sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. It has also provided major inputs to the formulation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development adopted in 2005.

What the Barcelona Convention/MAP Secretariat is trying to achieve

The Barcelona Convention/MAP Secretariat catalyzes action among Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to jointly advance in making necessary changes for the benefit of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean. They share the common vision of “a healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations”.

During their 17th meeting in 2012, the Contracting Parties agreed to strive to meet a series of ecological and operational objectives aimed at guaranteeing that the Mediterranean ecosystems keep providing valuable services and profitable resources for Mediterranean countries. These ecological objectives can be summarized as follows:

1. Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced
2. Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely affect the ecosystem
3. Population of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits
4. Alterations to the components of marine food webs do not have long-term adverse effects
5. Human-induced eutrophication is prevented
6. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats
7. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not affect coastal and marine ecosystems
8. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained, and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved
9. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health
10. Marine and coastal litter do not adversely affect coastal and marine environment
11. Noise from human activities cause no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Contracting Parties are aiming the above objectives and with that a good environmental status of the Mediterranean waters **by 2020**. Until these objectives are met, the environment of the Mediterranean marine and coastal systems will continue to be threatened, and the delivery of important and valuable ecosystem services will be at risk. As a result, so will be the communities and countries that border the basin.

Barcelona Convention MAP Secretariat and Components

UNEP provides Secretariat Services to the Contracting Parties through its Coordinating Unit, established on the basis of a Host Country Agreement between Greece and UNEP. The Secretariat performs diplomatic and political roles ensuring high-level policy dialogue in all matters related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and strategies. It manages the legal aspects of the Convention and ensures the functioning of the reporting system and the compliance mechanism of the Convention. It organizes major meetings, develops and implements the Programme of Work. It has also a communication role.

Activities are primarily financed by the Contracting Parties through their contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Other main sources of funding to support specific projects and activities include voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties, UN agencies, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The MEDPOL Programme

Within the Secretariat, the programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL) assists Mediterranean countries to implement three major protocols of the Barcelona Convention, the Land Based sources, Dumping and Hazardous Waste protocols, as well as parts of the Offshore Protocol. It also assists Contracting parties to qualify and quantify the marine pollution levels, sources and impacts on their marine and coastal environment, and to undertake coordinated measures and implement national and regional action plans to control, phase-out, and eliminate pollution.

Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta

The Centre was established in 1976. It is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP. The main objective of REMPEC is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties to build up their national prevention and response capabilities to be prepared for major marine pollution incidents. The centre also facilitates cooperation between

countries in combating accidental marine pollution from a range of hazardous substances including oil.

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC), France

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre was established in 1977. The main objective of the centre is to contribute to raising awareness of Mediterranean stakeholders and decision makers concerning environment and sustainable development. In this respect, the mission of the centre is to provide the Contracting Parties with assessments of the state of the environment and development of the Mediterranean and a solid basis of environmental and sustainable development data, statistics, and indicators to support their action and decision making process.



Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre was established in 1980. The main objective of the centre is to contribute to sustainable development of coastal zone and sustainable use of their natural resources. In this respect, the PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to the Mediterranean countries meeting their obligations under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Tunisia

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre was established in 1985. The main objective of the centre is to contribute to the protection and preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened endangered species of flora and fauna. In this respect, the mission of SPA/RAC is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity.



Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), Spain

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production was established in 1996. The main objective of the centre is to contribute to pollution prevention and sustainable and efficient management of services, products and resources. In this respect, CP/RAC assists the Contracting parties in implementing parts of the land based sources of pollution, hazardous wastes and Offshore protocols, and other protocols in which the shift to sustainable production and consumption is key to attain their objectives. It also provides assistance to the contracting parties in promoting and using mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC), Italy

The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication was established in 2005. Its main objective is to contribute to collecting and sharing information, raising public awareness, and participation and enhancing decision-making processes at the regional, national and local levels. In this respect, the mission of INFO/RAC is to provide adequate information and communication services and infrastructure technologies to Contracting Parties, strengthening MAP information management and communication capabilities.

Partnerships and Projects

Being a governance framework, the Barcelona Convention/MAP's regional approach is based on its close interaction with various UN agencies and other inter-governmental organizations that share its commitment to the welfare of the Mediterranean region and its peoples. The Barcelona Convention/MAP also recognises the expertise and awareness-raising capabilities of a large number of Mediterranean NGOs focusing on environment and development, supports their initiatives and encourages their participation in its activities.

The MedPartnership Project

The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) is a collective effort of leading environmental institutions and organizations together with countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea to address the main environmental challenges that Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems

face. It is a multi-donor initiative funded by GEF, the participating countries, and other funders.

The MedPartnership focuses on priority actions identified by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention in two strategic action plans that aim to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution (SAP-MED) and protect biodiversity, living resources and their habitats (SAP-BIO).

Since 2012, the MedPartnership has been further expanded to ensure the integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies thus also ensuring country support countries to implement the ICZM Protocol.

EcAP MED: The Ecosystem Approach Project in the Mediterranean

The EcAp MED project, is an EU funded project, specifically assisting the Barcelona Convention/ MAP in achieving the tasks outlined in decisions of Contracting Parties regarding the successful implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (**EcAp Roadmap**), in full synergy and coherence with the implementation of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and in cooperation with partners and stakeholders and other global and regional processes.

Based on the above, the EcAp MED assesses the state of play in the Mediterranean, fuels cooperation between the different actors involved in order to achieve the good environmental status of the Mediterranean seas by 2020 and overall, assists the achievement of the EcAp Roadmap's next steps, such as establishment of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme in the Mediterranean, carrying out socio-economic assessment, developing assessment fact sheets, testing EcAp indicators/targets feasibility, next to reviewing relevant measures for the implementation of EcAp, assisting the Marine Litter Regional Plan implementation and contributing to building a framework to facilitate the joint establishment of SPAMIs in open seas.

Switch MED Programme

The SWITCH-Med is envisaged as a multi-component programme (Policy, Demonstration and Networking facility), involving actors playing a key role in the area of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Mediterranean region, and funded by the EU.

The policy component builds on the framework and network of the Barcelona Convention. Its main outputs will include the technical background work for supporting

Contracting Parties in developing a regional plan for SCP and the submission of a Sustainable Consumption and Production knowledge online platform to them. It also aims at providing technical assistance and capacity building to nine countries in the southern Mediterranean, with a new way to create an enabling environment for SCP through the participatory development and approval of SCP national action plans.



The MAP Legal Framework

Legal Instrument	Date and place of adoption	Entry into force
Barcelona Convention	16 February 1976, Barcelona	12 February 1978
Barcelona Convention Amendments	10 June 1995, Barcelona	9 July 2004
Dumping Protocol	16 February 1976, Barcelona	12 February 1978
Dumping Protocol Amendments	10 June 1995, Barcelona	Not yet in force
Emergency Protocol	16 February 1976, Barcelona	12 February 1978
Prevention Emergency Protocol	25 January 2002, Malta	17 March 2004
LBS Protocol	17 May 1980, Athens	17 June 1983
LBS Protocol Amendments	7 March 1996, Syracuse	11 May 2008
SPA Protocol	3 April 1982, Geneva	23 March 1986
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	10 June 1995, Barcelona	12 December 1999
Offshore Protocol	14 October 1994, Madrid	24 March 2011
Hazardous Wastes Protocol	1 October 1996, Izmir	18 January 2008
ICZM Protocol	21 January 2008, Madrid	24 March 2011

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