

Environmental Monitoring in UNEP/MAP

Contracting Parties' monitoring provisions

- Barcelona Convention: Art.12
- LBS Protocol: Art. 8, 13
- SPA and Biodiversity Protocol: Articles 3, 7, 15, Annex I
- Prevention and Emergency Protocol: Art. 5
- Offshore Protocol: Art.19(2)
- Dumping Protocol: Art.10
- ICZM Protocol: Art.16

Regional Framework on Environmental Monitoring

Legal Provisions:

Barcelona Convention: Art. 12; LBS Protocol: Art. 8, 13, 7 and Annexes I and II; SPA and Biodiversity Protocol Art. 12, Articles 3, 7, 12, 15, Annex I, Prevention and Emergency Protocol: Art. 5, ICZM Protocol: Art.16, Legally binding measures and timetables under the LBS Protocol;

Policy instruments:

- MAP, 1995; Five-year MAP Strategic Programme of Work, 2009,, 2009
- MEDPOL Phase IV, 2005-2013
- SAP MED, 1997
- SAP BIO, 2003
- Strategy to combat pollution from ships, 2005
- Regional Action Plans on endangered species

UNEP/MAP Regional Monitoring Programme

- Adopted by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties; guided and coordinated in the framework of MED POL Programme in 4 phases since 1975;
- Implemented by the Parties on their coastal waters;
- Monitoring includes: State and trends of pollutants in the marine environment, pollutants loads and biological effects; biodiversity monitoring not yet included;
- Monitoring data bases established;
- Information and GIS systems under finalization.

Monitoring activities

- Monitoring of pollutants in water, sediment and biota in pollution hot spots and coastal areas;
- Trend monitoring in sediment and biota, in order to detect site-specific temporal trends of selected contaminants at hot spots;
- Monitoring of inputs, in order to quantify loads of pollutants discharged from point sources;
- Monitoring of compliance of bathing waters and shellfish growing waters to international regulations;
- Monitoring of biological effects with the use of biomarkers in order to assess exposure to, and impacts of, chemical contaminants at the organism level at very early stages (pilot programme);
- Implementing eutrophication pilot studies at specific eutrophication-threatened marine coastal areas (pilot programme).

Effectiveness Evaluation in UNEP/MAP

Barcelona Convention objectives:

“to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment so as to contribute towards its sustainable development”.

Effectiveness evaluation purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To assess whether the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols have succeeded in meeting their objectives</i>
Approach taken to evaluate effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Through indicators</i>
Selection criteria of the indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Totally based on MAP/Barcelona Convention legal system with particular focus on the legally binding obligations/measures to the Parties</i> • <i>Optimal data availability in the framework of MAP Reporting System and other regional assessments</i>
Main features of the indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Total number of indicators 44: breakdown in process, output (pressure reduction) and outcome indicators (impact) in order to ensure to the extent possible cause effect linkages</i>
Geographical scale of data sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Differs: Process indicators (mainly) are designed to operate at regional level but nevertheless draw upon data from national level</i> • <i>Output indicators are designed to operate at national level and following analysis at regional level</i>
Sources of information to populate the indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biennial report on measures taken by the Parties to implement the Convention and its Protocols</i> • <i>Monitoring Programme database</i> • <i>Specific reports and assessments by the Secretariat</i>
GAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Effectiveness evaluation can be based on trends evolution because targets and baselines were not defined</i> • <i>Most indicators need further breakdown because they cover a large group of substances or endangered species</i> • <i>No ecosystem approach applied in identifying the set of indicators, the selection of which was made sectorially Protocol by Protocol</i> • <i>Outcome indicators almost missing and left for future consideration</i> • <i>No indicators developed yet for the ICZM Protocol</i> • <i>No cost efficiency elements taken into account</i>