

Marine Litter Policy Advances in the Mediterranean



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

XXXI Congresso S.It.E. "Adattamenti degli Ecosistemi alle
Pressioni dell'Antropocene"
Siena, 13 September 2022



S.It.E. - Società Italiana di Ecologia



UNIVERSITÀ
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UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)

Barcelona Convention



Albania



Algeria



Bosnia
Herzegovina



Croatia



Cyprus



Egypt



France



Greece



Israel



Italy



Lebanon



Libya



Malta



Monaco



Montenegro



Morocco



Slovenia



Spain



Syria



Tunisia

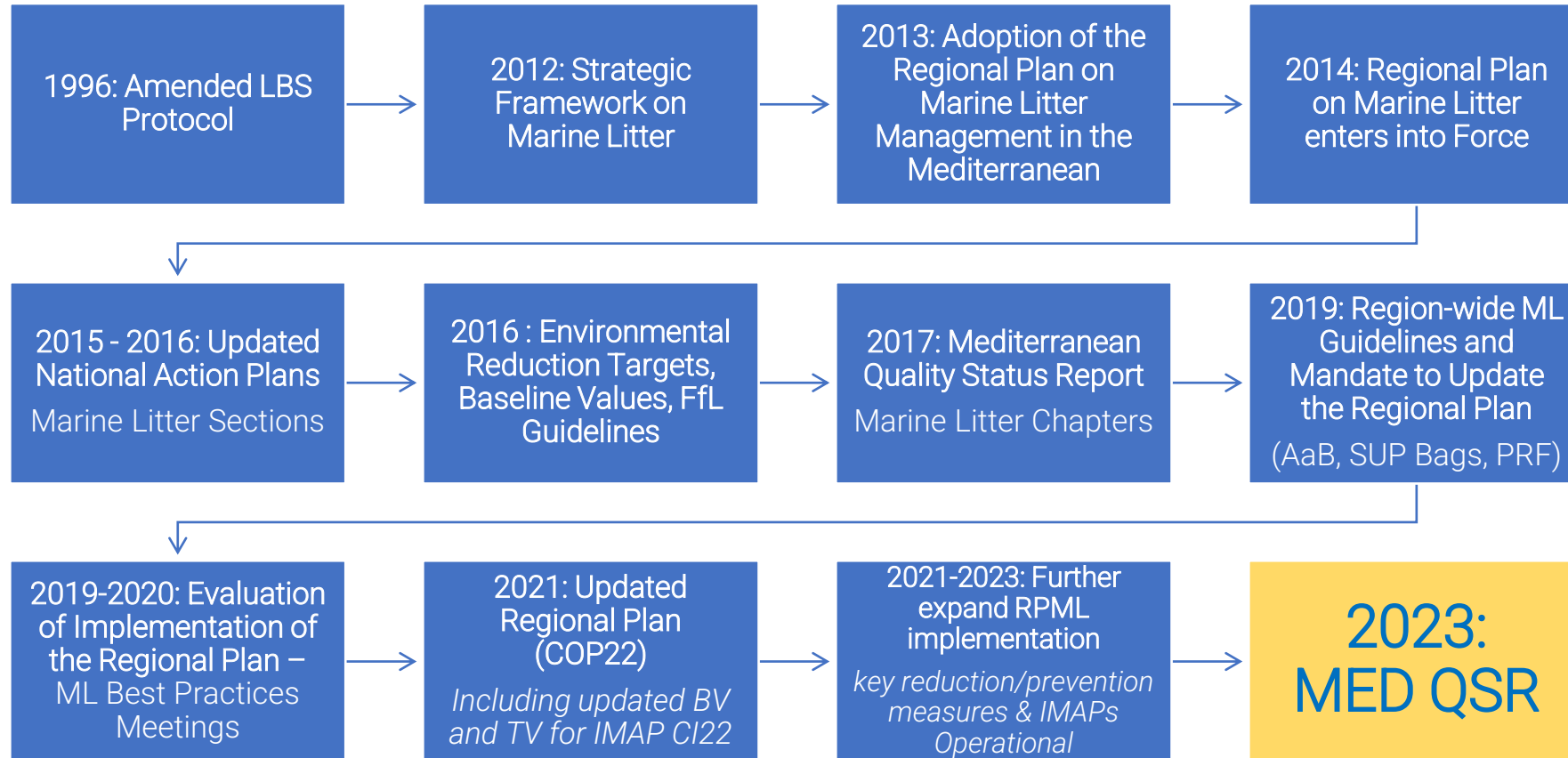


Turkey



The European
Union

MAP/Barcelona Convention System: Advanced Policy and Regulatory Framework for Marine Litter



International Conventions linked to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

London Convention and Protocol

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Convention on Biological Diversity

Mediterranean Response

Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

integration measures reduction prevention removal
disposal assessment monitoring research science
guidelines cooperation assistance awareness
education stakeholders civil society reporting

MAP/Barcelona Convention System: Advanced Policy and Regulatory Framework for Marine Litter

MEETING

22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

7 - 10 December 2021
Antalya , Turkey



- ✓ **COP22 Antalya Ministerial Declaration: *Leaving a Pollution and Litter-free Legacy***
 - (i) supports the establishment of an International Negotiating Committee at UNEA 5.2, with a mandate to develop a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution;*
 - (ii) recognize and encourage the work of the Marine Litter Collaboration Platform*
- ✓ **New Mid-Term-Strategy with a Strong Component on Marine Litter**
- ✓ **Updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**
- ✓ **5 New Appendices:** *(i) Mediterranean priority list of SUPs per group of items; (ii) List of Chemical Additives of Concern Used in Plastic Production; (iii) Updated Workplan and Timetable; (iv) Potential Research Topics; and (v) 2021 Baseline Values and Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22*

Advanced links of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management with the Global Agenda

- ✓ United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions on (i) marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.1/Res.6; UNEP/EA.2/Res.11; UNEP/EA.3/Res.7; UNEP/EA.4/Res.6); (ii) **Single-use plastic products pollution** (UNEP/EA.4/ Res.9); (iii) **global treaty on plastic pollution** (UNEA/EA.5/Res.14);
- ✓ **UNEA 5.2:** Resolution aims to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a mandate to negotiate a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution with the objective of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment by covering all stages of the plastic life cycle and by adopting a circular economy approach to plastics.
- ✓ **UNEP Marine Litter Partnerships and Initiatives:** Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and Clean Seas Campaign
- ✓ **IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships**
- ✓ **Basel Convention - Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP)**
- ✓ **EU Policies on Marine Litter and Plastic:** MSFD, EU Plastics Strategy, New Circular Economy Action Plan, Single-use Plastic Directive, European Green Deal Policy Framework, Waste Framework Directive

New Elements of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter(2021)

- ❑ New definitions introduced by updated Regional Plan (e.g., ALDFG, BAT-BEP, Circular Economy, EPR, Fishing Gear, Lightweight plastic carrier bags, monitoring, micro-litter/plastics, primary/secondary microplastics, SUPs etc.)
- ❑ Scope of measures are expanded under four key areas: economic instruments, circular economy of plastics, land-based and sea-based sources of marine litter.
- ❑ Amendments target plastic waste and microplastics.
- ❑ Furthermore, two new appendices are appended to the Regional Plan.
 - ✓ The first provides a list of single-use-plastic items
 - ✓ the second includes a list of chemical additives of concern used in plastic production further to the Stockholm Convention

Additional principles and measures addressed by the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Phases out single-use plastic items and promote reuse options;
- Sets targets for plastic recycling and other waste items;
- Introduces economic instruments such as environmental taxes, bans and design requirements; EPR (land and sea-based sources);
- Promotes new technologies and measures for the removal of marine litter;
- Supports the application of prevention measures to achieve a circular economy for plastics;
- Reduces packaging;
- Promotes voluntary agreements with industry;
- Takes measures to integrate the informal sector into regulated waste collection and recycling schemes;
- Strengthens measures related to SCP programmes;



Additional principles and measures addressed by the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Phases-out chemical additives used in plastic products, in particular those under Stockholm Convention;
- Introduces concrete measures on microplastics reduction;
- Implements measures to prevent and reduce marine litter in MPAs;
- Minimizes the amount of marine litter associated with fishing and aquaculture;
- Establishes marine litter monitoring programmes as part of IMAP E010 including riverine inputs and those coming from WWTP;
- Enhances public awareness and education;
- Includes measures in the SPAMIs to combat marine litter.



Achievements of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Development and implementation of National Monitoring Programmes for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators (CI22 and CI23).
- Effect of Marine Litter on Biota: development of IMAP Cand. Ind. 24 (Reg. Operational Strategy, Protocols, and under development (pilot), Nat. Monitoring Programmes, updated BV and TV).
- Assessment Criteria: ML Baseline and Threshold Values (BV-TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 22 adopted by COP22 and for CI23 will be concluded within 2022.
- 19 National Action Plans (NAPs)/ Programmes of Measures (PoMs).
- Banning of single-use plastic bags in 17 Mediterranean Countries (Regulations/National Laws including total and partial bans, taxes/levies).
- Phase-out SUP items & ML Guidelines (work beyond plastic bags).
- Recycling: Legislations and Policies in 8 Mediterranean Countries.
- Numerous Marine Litter Pilots in 9 (non-EU) Countries.
- Regional Cooperation Platform - Civil Society & NGO Involvement & Industry (updated approved joint work plan for 2022-2023).
- Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter.

“End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument” (UNEA 5.2)

- 175 countries committed in establishing a mandate that calls on countries to develop a global instrument to address plastic’s full, toxic life cycle: *from the extraction of fossil fuels to production to end of life*.
- OEWG in May-June 2022 to prepare the INC with a 2-year timeline.
- RSs/MEAs are uniquely placed to do this for the countries: *reporting mechanisms, requirements for regional monitoring and assessment, contribution to scientific and socioeconomic global assessments related to plastic pollution*.
- The focus of the global treaty will turn into eliminating the unnecessary, avoidable, and problematic plastic products and polymers, as well as promote safe circularity and sustainable management of products across life cycle, including the reduction of impact and risk to environmental and human health, and in the economies.
- The global treaty should be developed by the countries, including a very thorough analysis and discussion on the potential measures that could be successfully considered.

Thank you



Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat



Christos Ioakeimidis
Associate Programme Management Officer
UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention Secretariat
christos.ioakeimidis@un.org

<http://www.unepmap.org>