



Black Sea: Regional Strategic Directions' implementation

Irina Makarenko

LL.M., Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer

Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the
Black Sea against Pollution

Bucharest Convention (1)



Bucharest Convention (2)



Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

- Was signed in **Bucharest** in April 1992;
- Ratified by all six Black Sea Countries in the beginning of **1994**;
- Its basic objective is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties **to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea** in order to **protect and preserve the marine environment** and to **provide a legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions** to fulfil this obligation.

Bucharest Convention (3)



It has 4 thematic Protocols:

1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from **Land Based Sources (LBS Protocol)**;
 2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by **Dumping**;
 3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by **Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations**;
 4. The Black Sea **Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol)**.
- **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea – adopted in 1996 and amended in **2009**.

Bucharest Convention (4)



6 Advisory Groups

- The Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission are the **main source of expertise, information and support** in the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.
- 1. ESAS - Advisory Group on the Environmental **Safety Aspects of Shipping**;
- 2. PMA - Advisory Group on the **Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**;
- 3. LBS - Advisory Group on Control of **Pollution from Land Based Sources**;
- 4. ICZM - Advisory group on the Development of Common Methodologies for **Integrated Coastal Zone Management**;
- 5. CBD - Advisory Group on the **Conservation of Biological Diversity**;
- 6. FOMLR - Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the **Management of Fisheries** and other Marine Living Resources.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (1)



1. Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment

- ▶ Ecosystem approach is incorporated into the provisions of the Bucharest Convention, i.e. BS SAP 2009 recognizes the **3 key environmental management approaches** for the Black Sea:
 - ▶ Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);
 - ▶ The **Ecosystem Approach**;
 - ▶ Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)
- ▶ Need to **mainstream the ecosystem approach** in the Black Sea.
- ▶ Cooperation with our partner-seas (Barcelona Convention, HELCOM and OSPAR Convention) and **jointly we could define some more activities** in this regard (draft MoU with UNEP/MAP).

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (2)



2. Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter.

- ▶ Activities within **Black Sea LBS Protocol** and **LBS Advisory Group** of the Black Sea Commission;
- ▶ Danube-Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group (**Danube-Black Sea JTWG**):
 - ▶ exchanges data on loads of pollution from the Danube to the Black Sea;
 - ▶ exchanges data on indicators for the assessment of the ecological status of the Black Sea;
 - ▶ harmonizes the assessment methodologies for point and diffuse pollution (based on the ICPDR experience on the Emission inventories, Hot Spots analysis and review of ranking methodologies);
- ▶ Projects focused on nutrients (**Baltic2Black**);
- ▶ **Marine Litter.**

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (2)



2. **Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter.**
- ▶ In 2005, the **Regional Activity on Marine Litter**, supported by UNEP, was launched ;
 - ▶ During the following 3 years the two relevant Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) between the BSC Permanent Secretariat and UNEP (Nairobi) were implemented ;
 - ▶ 2007 **Report on Marine Litter in the Black Sea** (incl. the text of the Draft Marine Litter Action Plan for the Black Sea);
 - ▶ Recommendation for **updating the BS SAP**, on methodologies, monitoring and assessment, increased public awareness on marine litter in the Black Sea;
 - ▶ Advisory Groups activities under the BSC umbrella (**LBS, ICZM and FOMLR**), in 2006 - Special session on Marine Litter during the PMA AG meeting;
 - ▶ Partner or sub-contractor in a range of EU-funded **projects** (Advisory Board of MARLISCO, CLEANSEA, MSFD Project, PERSEUS, STAGES etc.), Berlin Conference on Marine Litter;
 - ▶ **BSC joined the UNEP Partnership on Marine Litter;**
 - ▶ **BSC negotiates the MoU with UNEP on marine litter related activities.**

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (2a)



- ▶ **BSC negotiates the MoU with UNEP on marine litter related activities:**

- ▶ To implement marine litter related activities, *inter alia*,

- ▶ (1) elaborate **Monitoring Guidelines for Marine Litter** in the Black Sea Region;
- ▶ (2) revise draft **Marine Litter Regional Action Plan** for Black Sea;
- ▶ (3) **publish** Monitoring Guidelines for Marine Litter in the Black Sea Region;
- ▶ (4) draft a **chapter “Marine Litter”** of the Black Sea State of Environment (SoE) Report;
- ▶ (5) conduct a **public awareness campaign** in collaboration with Waste Free Oceans (WFO);
- ▶ (6) organize **Black Sea Regional Workshop on Marine Litter** (tentatively in spring 2016, back-to-back with AGs meetings).

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (2b)



- ▶ During its **31st Regular Meeting** (7-8th October, 2015):
- ▶ The Commission **welcomed the cooperation with UNEP** and, in particular, implementation of marine litter related activities under the BSC PS - UNEP MoU.
- ▶ The Commission **took note of the proposal of Bulgaria** on the draft Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea and to asked ESAS/LBS/PMA AGs to consider it and to follow the issue.
- ▶ The Commission agreed that further activities on the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea will be **included in the BSC Work Programme** for 2015/2016.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (3)



3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance

- ▶ General Fisheries Commission on Mediterranean (**GFCM**) UN FAO:
 - ▶ MoU in 2012;
 - ▶ activities on IUU fisheries;
 - ▶ GFCM Black Sea Working group;
 - ▶ Prepare joint initiative with ACCOBAMS and MSP call of proposals etc.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (3)



3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance

- ▶ Marine Protected Areas (**MPAs**) network in the Black Sea basin:
- ▶ Relevant **Projects** – COCONET, MISIS, PERSEUS;
- ▶ **Transboundary MPA** Bulgaria-Turkey (concept of transboundary MPA Rezovo – İğneada; MPA includes the Strandzha, already protected area from the Bulgarian side, and the İğneada area from the Turkish side).

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (4)



4. Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems

- ▶ Bucharest Convention was elaborated more than 20 years ago, latest version of BS SAP is dated 2009, some new challenges as **climate change, marine litter, marine noise, green economy, MSFD requirements** etc. were not reflected;
- ▶ Work to incorporate these considerations in the documents of the Bucharest Convention;
- ▶ Relevant chapters of Black Sea **SoE** and SAPIR include socio-economic aspects and new challenges.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (5)



5. **Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)**
 - ▶ new text of the Black Sea Integrated **Monitoring and Assessment Program** - BSIMAP for years 2014-2019 (drafted within EU MSFD Project, main approaches are harmonized, but still based on monitoring parameters in BSIMAP and BS SAP 2009)
 - ▶ First Report on the Implementation of the (amended) BS SAP (2009) - **SAPIR**
 - ▶ “State of the Black Sea Environment” Report - **SoE**

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (5 cont.)



5. Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

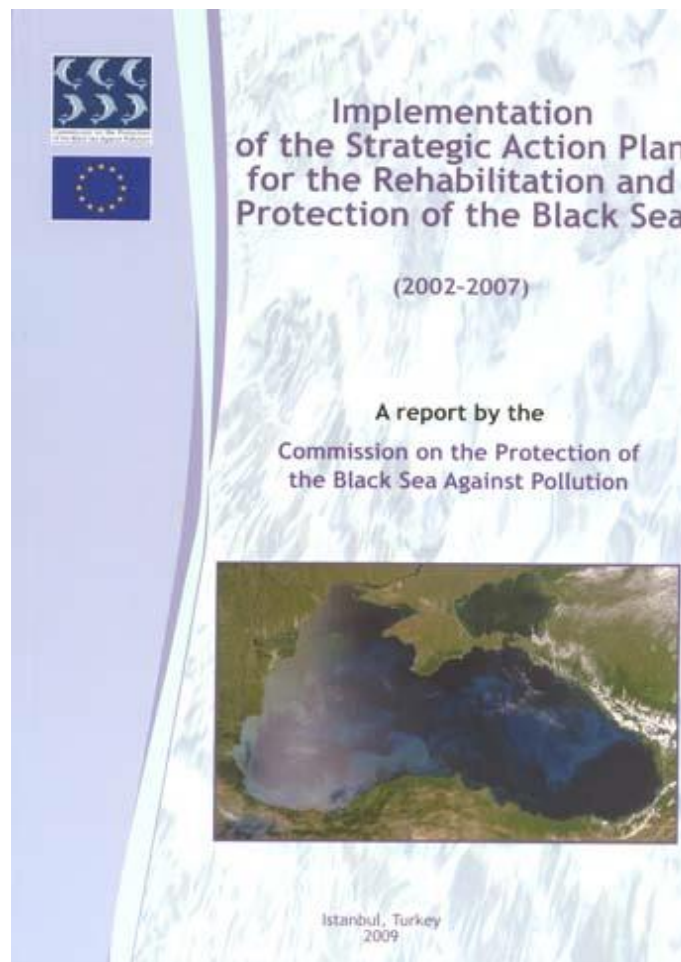
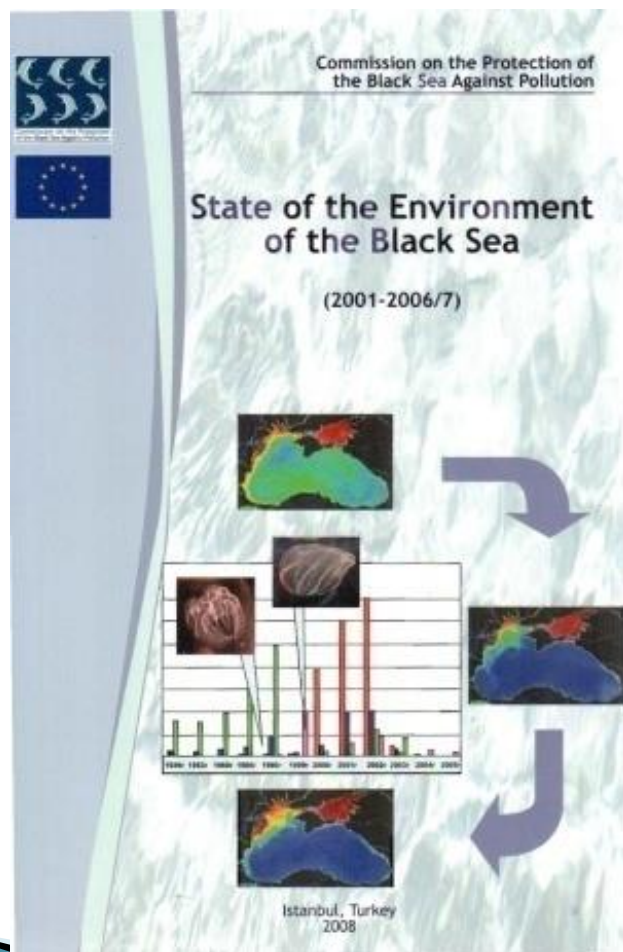
- ▶ Ongoing negotiations with relevant organizations;
- ▶ Main results and recommendations of the Reports to amend the BS SAP 2009, incl. draft texts for Ministerial Meeting 2016 (?) and possible amend the text of Bucharest Convention.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (5 cont.)



5. **Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)**
 - ▶ The 28th BSC Regular Meeting (November, 2012), within the Item 12 of the Meeting Agenda “Implication of Rio+20, UN First Global Integrated Marine Assessment” adopted the following Resolution: **“The Commission supports the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, established under the UN General Assembly”**. Resolution was adopted by the Black Sea Commissioners by consensus.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (5 cont.)



Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (6)



6. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

Mutual **Observer Relations** with 9 International and Public Organizations:

- UNEP;
- EU;
- GEF/UNDP;
- IMO;
- ICPDR;
- BSEC;
- ACCOBAMS;
- BSC-Port State Control MoU;
- Black Sea NGO Network.

Currently **deepening cooperation** with the Secretariats of European RSCs:

- HELCOM; UNEP/MAP; OSPAR.
- ▶ MoUs with ACCOBAMS (Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans), UN GFCM, UNIGE, IAEA etc.
- ▶ New joint initiatives with IMO and Tehran Convention on Ballast Water Management, Contingency Planning and other relevant projects with possible involvement of IFIs.

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (6 cont.)



- ▶ **Challenges:**
- ▶ Existing **differences in legal documents:**
- ▶ - different set of indicators BS SAP, BSIMAP, MSFD, reporting templates etc.;
- ▶ - difference in legal terms (i.e. no definition of GES in the Black Sea basin), approaches to marine assessment (Regular Process and MSFD descriptors);
- ▶ Some **terms and definitions** were never introduced in BSC documents:
- ▶ - cross-cutting nature (marine litter, noise etc.);
- ▶ - new terms (climate change, green economy, blue growth etc.);
- ▶ - lack of manuals, methodologies, guidelines etc. for proper assessment;
- ▶ **BSIMAP and reports (SoE and BS SAP) were not adopted:**
- ▶ - amendments to BS SAP 2009 are delayed, Ministerial Meeting postponed;
- ▶ - BG and RO must already report under the MSFD;
- ▶ - consensus on every issue (Article 17 Bucharest Convention), incl. assessment outlines and approaches;
- ▶ - lack of funds;
- ▶ Only 2 countries are EU members, **MSFD is not legally binding.**
- ▶ Deliverables of Projects and initiatives are **not always sustained**, uneven geographical coverage; political situation in the region.
- ▶ Lack of **interaction and cooperation with RSCs.**

Progress in the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016 (conclusions)



- ▶ The elaboration of the UNEP' set of core indicators and compliance with Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2013-16 will help to **avoid ambiguities** and **contribute to successful coordination** of the World Ocean' Assessments on the regional and global level, apply the ecosystem approach in the management of marine and coastal environment.



*Thank you for your kind
attention!*

For more information please visit:

www.blacksea-commission.org

or contact:

irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org