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Agenda item 3: Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and Related Best Practices

Progress Report on the Implementation of Activities related to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

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List of Abbreviations / Acronyms

| | |
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| BSC | Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution |
| BRS | Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| CORMON | Correspondence Group on Monitoring |
| EcAp | Ecosystem Approach |
| EGA | Environment General Authority |
| EO | Ecological Objective |
| EPR | Extended Producer Responsibility |
| EU | European Union |
| GES | Good Environmental Status |
| GPA | Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities |
| GPML | Global Partnership on Marine Litter |
| IMAP | Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria |
| IMELS | Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea |
| MAP | Mediterranean Action Plan |
| MED POL | Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea |
| MED QSR | Mediterranean Quality Status Report |
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| PoW | Programme of Work |
| QSR | Quality Status Report |
| REMPEC | Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea |
| SCP/RAC | Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production |
| SPA/RAC | Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas |

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Annex I Status of Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the
Mediterranean

Annex II Marine Litter Environmental Targets

1. Introduction

1. Marine litter has been an issue of concern in the Mediterranean since the 1970s. Within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, the Mediterranean countries adopted in 1980 the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). The importance of addressing the problem of marine litter was recognized in the amended LBS Protocol (Annex I) in 1996. The UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) was the first Regional Sea Programme to adopt a legally-binding Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management ([Decision IG.21/7](#), [COP18, Istanbul, Turkey](#)) in December 2013; hereafter referred to as the Regional Plan. It provides for a set of programmes of measures and implementation timetables to prevent and reduce the adverse effects of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment as well as for regular marine litter monitoring and assessments including socio-economic aspects. It also promotes intersectoral collaboration at different levels and involvement of relevant regional organizations and civil society.

2. The measures provided in the Regional Plan are of policy, legal, institutional, regulatory (including economic incentive instruments) and technical nature, addressing different aspects of marine litter prevention and management from land and sea-based sources. They impose clear obligations regarding the waste management hierarchy, closure of illegal dumping/dumpsites, shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, removal of existing marine litter using environmental sound practices, reporting on implementation of measures as well as enforcement of national legislation. A considerable number of measures are to be implemented by the Contracting Parties by 2020 at the latest.

3. The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19, February 2016, Athens, Greece), adopted region-wide reduction targets for the main marine litter types ([Decision IG 22/10](#)). COP 19 also adopted the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria ([Decision IG 22/7](#)) taking into account the Contracting Parties' existing monitoring and assessment programmes; practices of other Regional Sea Conventions; and other Regional bodies.

4. The 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Tirana, Albania 2017, adopted the revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols that includes a detailed questionnaire on Contracting Parties' measures for the implementation of the Regional Plan. This new format applies from the current (2018-2019) biennium.

5. Since the adoption of the Regional Plan in 2013, the Secretariat with the MED POL Programme and the other MAP components have implemented an ambitious number of activities aiming at supporting Contracting Parties' efforts for its implementation. The Regional Plan has played an important role as instrument for the definition and execution of measures that will significantly impact the situation of marine litter in the Mediterranean region. This important body of activities deriving directly from the Regional Plan includes efforts taken with resources mobilized with a number of donors; most importantly the European Commission and the Italian Government. It has also been complemented by the wider work undertaken by the Secretariat in the context of other initiatives relevant to marine litter, at the regional and global level (e.g. in the context of the [UN Ocean Conference](#), the implementation of UNEA resolutions, the G7 Ministerial process and the G20, etc.), providing a multi-faceted and coherent response by the MAP system that coalesces around the Regional Plan itself.

6. In the context of the Regional Plan implementation, the Mediterranean countries are, therefore, implementing a series of measures which will progressively evolve till 2025. Important regional assessments on marine litter have been already completed, and new assessment products will become available in 2021 and 2023 which are expected to further contribute to the implementation of the Regional Plan. IMAP is a relatively new development and the next challenge is to make the marine

litter-related indicators fully operational at country and regional levels. The Secretariat is preparing a series of marine litter guidelines, not only to assist the national efforts, but also to ensure coherence and consistency, as appropriate, in the approaches and methodologies. Promoting regional and international cooperation has been a priority. Important partnerships have been established at regional level to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the Regional Plan. The scientific aspects of marine litter and related research priorities are explicitly highlighted under Annex III of the Regional Plan and have been always a priority for the Secretariat. To this extent, the Secretariat participated in the International Conference on Microplastic Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea (Capri, Italy, 26-29 September 2017) aiming to merge policy with science. Furthermore, the Secretariat invited during the second meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter, a number of scientists to present the problem of microplastics in the Mediterranean to members of the Platform. A more fruitful interaction between the Mediterranean countries and the major actors in the region is highly desirable as well as the involvement and active participation of the plastic industry and the fisheries sector. Awareness raising, and involvement of communities has been always a challenge in the Mediterranean with quite numerous sound examples. Further efforts are required to enhance community participation in the prevention and reduction of marine litter. The Regional Plan may be updated in the years to come based on the gained experience, lessons learnt and the various best practices that are more and more evolving, as well as to respond to global commitments and SDG implementation.

7. The present document presents a summary of this work. The Status of Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean is described in detail in Annex I. The marine litter environmental targets as agreed by the 19th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are included in Annex II.

8. Before the end of 2019, a full evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Plan will be undertaken. It will take into account the information provided in the national reports submitted by the Contracting Parties under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention. These reports will include for the first time a full section on the measures taken at national level implementing the Regional Plan. It will also consider the information provided in the reports of the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the National Action Plans that is expected to be undertaken in 2019-2020 with the view to report to COP 22 in 2021.

9. This would allow a thorough assessment of the impacts of the implementation of the marine Litter Regional Plan and in particular the contribution of the implementation of its measures to the achievement of marine litter reduction and prevention targets undertaken at Mediterranean, national and global level.

2. Implementation Progress

10. Marine Litter Monitoring and Assessment is an important element of the Regional Plan and its Articles 11 and 12, which state the following:

- The Contracting Parties shall assess in the framework of ecosystem approach the state of marine litter; the impact of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment and human health; as well as the socio-economic aspects of marine litter management based on coordinated and, if possible, common agreed methodologies, national monitoring programmes and surveys; and
- The Contracting Parties, on the basis of the proposals of the Secretariat shall prepare a Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme; set-up a Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter; and establish an Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach implementation.

11. [Decision IG.22/7](#) on IMAP contains a well-developed section on marine litter through three common indicators as follows:

- Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);
- Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor (EO10);
- Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (EO10)

12. The factsheets were developed for all three marine litter indicators to facilitate a coherent monitoring, and concrete guidance and references to the Contracting Parties to design and support the implementation of their revised national monitoring programmes towards the overall goal of implementing the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean Sea and achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine litter in the Mediterranean. To facilitate marine litter monitoring and reporting, [metadata reporting templates were prepared for beach and seafloor marine litter](#). Related Data Standards and Data Dictionaries have been also prepared within the ongoing process for development of IMAP Pilot Info System and will be submitted to the CORMON on Pollution and Marine Litter (March 2019) with the view of their finalization and integration into IMAP Pilot Info System.

13. Several Contracting Parties are implementing monitoring programmes for marine litter based on IMAP. In this respect several capacity building workshops have been organized in the framework of ECAP MED II project and SEIS project by MED POL in cooperation with the Countries to support the preparation of national monitoring programmes. Work is also ongoing for development of national facts sheets for marine litter indicators under IMAP and the H2020/ NAP-related indicators.

14. The 2015 UN Environment/MAP Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean provides data on waste and plastic inputs to the sea for each Mediterranean country. It specifies the most important sources of litter; changes in their composition; and transport patterns presenting updated results of modelling. The 2015 Marine Litter Assessment includes a comprehensive review of existing data for the four compartments of the marine environment (beaches, surface, seabed, and ingested litter). It provides updated data and information on microplastics, on derelict fishing gear and their impact. The assessment presents general reduction measures focusing on those which are especially important for the Mediterranean Sea.

15. In 2015, the UN Environment/MAP also published a [Regional Survey on Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear and Ghost Nets](#).

16. The latest assessment product of the UN Environment/MAP is the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR). The 2017 MED QSR is an important and innovative development for assessing the status of the Mediterranean ecosystem and the achievement of GES. Despite the challenges met, given the limited availability of data and the fact that the IMAP implementation is still at an early phase, the 2017 MED QSR brings together national data and information to the regional level. It also contributes to the ongoing work at the global level, including the Regional Process on a Second World Ocean Assessment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing especially on the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals.

17. The 2017 MED QSR is available online (<https://www.medqsr.org/>) and can be easily accessed for review by experts, policy makers and the public. It will serve as the baseline for defining the measures for progressing towards GES in the Mediterranean and sharpening the monitoring programmes needed to fill the existing gaps.

18. The 2017 MED QSR includes two dedicated chapters on marine litter (EO 10) under the [Land and Sea-based Pollution](#) core theme. The marine litter-related chapter is dedicated to [IMAP Common](#)

Indicator 22 (i.e. Beach marine litter) and to **IMAP Common Indicator 23** (i.e. Seafloor and floating marine litter including microplastics). In addition, a number of **national case studies on marine litter** from around the Mediterranean are supplementing the main marine litter chapters in order to provide a more comprehensive insight about the status of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

19. The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) also agreed on a set of marine litter baseline values (contained in Annex II of the Decision IG 21/7) against which the implementation of Regional Plan programmes of measures should be assessed for indicative purposes. Such values will be subject to periodic adjustment based on additional new data originating from implementation of the National Marine Litter monitoring programmes, as well as their specification where appropriate at sub regional and/or national levels.

20. The Horizon 2020 Initiative, which aims to reduce the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, recognizes the importance of solid waste including marine litter as one of the three priority areas causing major pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. Reduction of marine litter at source requires effective solid waste management in land which will subsequently minimize the input of litter ending up in the marine and coastal environments. Sound information about the waste generated in land will assist the Mediterranean countries to set realistic quantifiable reduction targets.

21. Two regional meetings/workshops have been already organized in 2017 and in 2018 to maximize synergies with work on marine litter indicators under H2020 Initiative and its Review and Monitoring Component. The first ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism Regional workshop on indicators (Copenhagen, Denmark, 17-18 May 2017) addressed the needed refinement of the Horizon 2020 review mechanism to take into account other assessment processes and further develop the current H2020 set of indicators (including marine litter) to reflect the renewed scope of the H2020 priorities applicable to all Mediterranean countries, in coherence with other existing indicators sets e.g. MEDPOL/NAPs indicators, MSSD, SDGs. The second ENI SEIS South Support Mechanism Regional Meeting on Indicators (Athens, Greece, 17-18 April 2018), welcomed more than forty participants from eighteen Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey), during which the current progress on H2020 indicator development and related assessment including marine litter were discussed and general elements factsheets of H2020 marine litter indicators were agreed.

22. The meeting reviewed the proposed indicators' methodological specifications and reporting processes, including regional infrastructures, and agreed on the final list of H2020/NAP indicators on wastewater, industrial emissions and solid waste including marine litter and their methodological specifications. Negotiations are ongoing to conclude the three marine litter-related H2020/ NAP reduction indicators that will complement those already set in IMAP.

3. Technical assistance and implementation of selected marine litter management measures

23. To facilitate the implementation of the marine litter reduction and prevention measures as well as the fulfillment of the national marine litter monitoring obligations, as provided for in Articles 7 to 10 and 12 of the Regional Plan, technical assistance, transfer of knowhow and technology and capacity building activities are foreseen to be provided by the Secretariat to the Mediterranean Countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, based on the national needs and related requests for assistance.

24. To this extent and with the support of the EU funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation agreement with the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), technical assistance and support are being provided to several Contracting Parties in the form of pilot projects to implement selected measures provided under Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan i.e. "Prevention of Marine Litter" and "Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal".

25. “Fishing-for-Litter” measures are envisaged and are currently implemented in Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. “Adopt-a-Beach” measures are envisaged and are currently implemented in Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.

26. To facilitate the implementation of the “Adopt-a-Beach” and “Fishing-for-Litter” measures and of the IMAP marine litter-related indicators, in a synergistic way, a series of national workshops have been organized in Egypt (Alexandria, 26-28 February 2018), Morocco (Rabat, 19-21 February 2018) and Tunisia (Tunis, 12-15 March 2018). Additional capacity building workshops may be organized during the fourth quarter of 2018 and during 2019 if need arises from the Contracting Parties.

27. The EU-funded Marine Litter MED project also focuses its work on reducing the impact of marine litter and microliter in the biota with a particular focus on the endangered species. The project objective is to improve the knowledge related to the UN Environment/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) and its Candidate Indicator 24. This task has been assigned to the UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). The first draft of the report “Defining the most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24” was prepared in December 2016. The report has become available in both English and French and has been presented during several UN Environment/MAP meetings¹. The report will be reviewed during the next Meeting of the Correspondence Group (CORMON) on Marine Litter Monitoring (March 2019).

28. A training session for sharing technical skills on marine litter ingestion by sea turtles was successfully organized in Portici, Naples on 6 July 2017 in cooperation with the EU-funded [INDICIT project](#) in collaboration with SPA/RAC. The training session aimed at providing tools for technicians who will carry out the monitoring of marine debris ingested by sea turtles in the Mediterranean and other Regional Sea Conventions areas. The training session addressed a number of issues such as the observation of necropsy and dissection of a digestive tract for the collection of debris ingested by a loggerhead turtle, as well as different steps of collecting the debris from the esophagus, stomach and intestines. The training also included practical sessions to perform some operations on intestines and samples, and to classify and identify all the types of marine litter in accordance with the most recent monitoring protocol(s). SPA/RAC through the Marine Litter MED project supported the participation of six experts in sea turtles from Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel to this session, which were trained in performing a necropsy on sea turtles, dissect the parts of interest, and identify marine litter and related items. A second French-speaking training session will be organized during the fourth quarter of 2018 (Oct. 2018, tbc) in Tunis, where experts in sea turtle from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon will participate.

29. Work is also ongoing regarding the development of a specific protocol on monitoring the amount of marine litter ingested by or entangling the selected species to harmonize methods and data collection. This specific protocol was developed to describe the most suitable protocols for monitoring the ingestion of litter by marine turtles in the Mediterranean, dead or alive. It is available in both English and French and it will be presented and reviewed during the next Meeting of the Correspondence Group (CORMON) on Marine Litter Monitoring (March 2019). An agreement will be conducted with the Rescue Centers for Marine Turtles in Tunisia and Lebanon in order to implement the specific protocol on monitoring the amount of litter ingested or entangling by sea turtles.

30. A number of activities related to the enhancement of the regulatory framework on the non-single use of plastic bags and the promotion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), have been assigned to the UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and

¹ i.e. Meeting of the Correspondence Group (CORMON) on Marine Litter Monitoring (Madrid, Spain, 28 Feb. – 2 Mar. 2017); MED POL Focal Points Meeting (Rome, Italy, 29 – 31 May 2017; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.439/Inf.12); 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 Sept. 2017; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.444/Inf.11).

Production (SCP/RAC). The national regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags was assessed by SCP/RAC in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project also aiming to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Similar assessments were carried out for Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria. Following the assessments, technical assistance is currently being provided to the countries with the aim to minimize the use of single use items (i.e. beverage containers in Morocco, and single-use plastic bags in Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria).

31. In close consultation with several Contracting Parties, and further to interviews carried out with experts supported by extensive desk work, SCP/RAC drafted a “Reference document” outlining the state of the art of the legal framework regulating the production/consumption of single use plastic bags in each of the countries. Work is supported by the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. It aims to explore different voluntary and regulatory measures to reduce the use and production of single-use plastic bags.

32. In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) support is currently provided to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro with regard to the enhancement of the regulatory framework to promote non-single use plastics (single-use plastic bags and PET bottles); improve the collection and recycling of plastic PET bottles; as well as enhance local and national capacities and raise awareness of stakeholders.

33. Activities related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas are assigned to UN Environment/MAP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). These activities focus on measures related to the better management of litter from sea-based sources in selected major ports and marinas in the Mediterranean. In particular, the following activities are ongoing or foreseen for the 2018-2019 biennium:

- The application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system;
- The provision of port reception facilities as well as the delivery of ship-generated wastes;
- Preparation of a study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European Regional Seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities;
- Field visits to Port authorities (one reference port per country);
- Preparation of a guidance document to determine the application of charges; and
- National meetings to raise awareness on the needs to better manage sea-based litter in ports and to provide ships with updated information related to obligation from Annex V of MARPOL.

4. Development of Marine Litter management regional guidelines

34. Article 14 of the Regional Plan provides for the development of Specific Guidelines. The Secretariat, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations, is assigned the task to prepare specific guidelines taking into account where appropriate existing guidelines in order to support and facilitate the implementation of measures provided for in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan. Subject to availability of external funds, these guidelines will be published in different Mediterranean region languages.

35. In this respect work is currently ongoing to develop regional guidelines addressing the following measures:

- i. “Adopt a beach” measures
- ii. “Fishing for Litter”² measures;
- iii. Phase out single-use plastic bags in the Mediterranean region;
- iv. Determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system; and
- v. Provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes.

36. During the current 2018-2019 biennium, a socioeconomic analysis will be developed to accompany and further support the implementation of selected number of marine litter measures and the corresponding guidelines.

5. Intersectoral and regional collaboration and civil society involvement

37. Articles 17 and 18 of the Regional Plan address “Major Groups and Stakeholder Participation” and “Regional and International Cooperation.” For the effective implementation of the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties should encourage appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector (producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.) and other stakeholders as appropriate (Regional, National and Local Authorities; Maritime sector; Tourism sector; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Agriculture, etc.). In addition, institutional cooperation should be established with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.

38. At the initiative of UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat, a Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter was established in the Mediterranean in 2016. The Platform is an open-ended group established on a voluntary basis. It is composed of over 20 regional and international organisations. It is aimed to contribute to the environmentally sound management of marine litter in the Mediterranean with the specific objective to provide coordinated support and guidance to the implementation of the Regional Plan and to be a forum of consultation, and exchange of best practices and solutions.

39. Two meetings of the Cooperation Platform have been organized in 2016 and 2017. The [first meeting](#) was held in Athens, Greece at the UN Environment/MAP premises (6 September 2016) during which the platform was established and its Terms of References were approved. The second meeting was organized in Barcelona, Spain at the SCP/RAC premises (9-10 November 2017) during which the priority themes for a joint 2018 work plan were agreed. The third meeting is planned in Izmir, Turkey (11-12 October 2018), where the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will interact for first time with members of the Platform.

40. The priority themes of common interest and related activities upon which a 2018 Joint Work Plan was built upon, are listed hereunder:

- i. Mapping of processes, initiatives and mandates to allow higher effectiveness and better coordination of the collective responses to marine litter challenges;
- ii. Harmonization and standardization of monitoring and assessment methodologies;
- iii. Contribution to effective waste management, including related socio-economic impacts;
- iv. Assessment and prevention of marine litter impact on biodiversity, especially in marine protected areas;

² i.e. to update, if this is required, the agreed guidelines as adopted by COP 19

- v. Assessment of socio-economic impacts of marine litter, including microplastics, highlighting impacts of marine litter and microplastics on human livelihood; and
- vi. Education, awareness-raising and capacity building:

41. Cooperation among the European Regional Sea Conventions on marine litter has been a priority for the Secretariat which participated in all informal meetings related to the collaboration and synergies for the implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter across the Regional Sea Conventions. The last Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter was organized and hosted by UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat (Vrachati, Greece, 4-5 July 2018).

42. UN Environment/MAP established in the past few years a very strong cooperation link with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC). An agreement was also established with the BSC to support the implementation of a number of activities regarding the development of a Monitoring Programme and an Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea Region, as well as to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two Secretariats.

43. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), in the framework of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), is establishing Regional Nodes on Marine Litter to coordinate, assist, and facilitate the establishment of cooperation mechanisms at regional level. In that respect, GPA/GPML is financially supporting UN Environment/MAP to establish a Regional/Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter which aims to support the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

44. The objectives of the Regional/Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter are to:

- i. Enhance awareness of marine litter prevention and reduction measures and actions undertaken at the regional, national, and local levels;
- ii. Strengthen the exchange of information and knowledge, along with the best practices and measures for prevention and reduction of marine litter in the Mediterranean;
- iii. Establish linkages and synergies with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML); and
- iv. Enhance knowledge of GPML among local governments, NGOs/NPOs and local people in the Mediterranean.

45. The Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter will be hosted by [Marine Litter Network](#), powered by the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, aiming to be a hub of knowledge and information on marine litter for the region.

6. MAP Contribution to Global Marine Litter Initiatives

46. UN Environment/MAP works in close cooperation with the UN Environment Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), benefiting and contributing to the Manila Declaration, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), and also supporting the [#CleanSeas](#) and [#BeatPlasticPollution](#) Campaigns and related marine litter initiatives.

47. The Secretariat brought to the attention of the G7 and G20 the important progress and related work that has been undertaken on marine litter in the Mediterranean under the coordination of the UN Environment/MAP.

48. Within the framework of the 2017 Italian G7 Presidency, a Workshop on Marine Litter was organized in April 2017 in Rome by the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), in collaboration with UN Environment/ MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat. The aim of the Workshop was to review the relevance of the work of the Regional Seas Programmes and their

contribution to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter. For the first time, the G7 countries' representatives; the Regional Sea Programmes where G7 countries were present; some of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations; numerous partners including research and academia; and government and private sectors reviewed together the state of implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter; the relevance of the regional activities with regards to the progress of their implementation; lessons learned and shared priorities.

49. The main considerations and conclusions of the G7 Workshop on Marine Litter are included in the document entitled "[The way forward - the relevance of the regional dimension in the implementation of the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter](#)". These conclusions were further brought to the attention of the 2017 G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting, held in Bologna on 11-12 June, and contributed to the preparation of the Marine Litter Chapter of the G7 Communiqué. The 2017 Bologna Communiqué acknowledges, among others, the role of the Regional Seas Programmes in establishing and implementing coherent and coordinated regional basin-wide approaches to combat marine litter. In addition, the 2018 Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities includes a specific reference, under the Ocean Plastics Charter, highlighting the role of the Regional Seas Programmes in accelerating the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.

50. During the G20 High Level Conference on Marine Litter, the outcome of which was the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter, the Secretariat stressed the need for translating the Action Plan into real practical measures; defining targets and monitoring mechanisms; leveraging political will and resources; and developing projects and joint messages in international fora. In addition, it was highlighted that much work is already implemented on marine litter and that it is crucial to build on the added value of the G20 in terms of political and financial mobilization, cooperation and technical assistance, dissemination of knowledge and partnership-building

7. Marine Litter Activities in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)

51. The UN Environment signed in 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS), including a specific marine litter component related to the enhancement of marine litter management. All envisaged activities are presented in the MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2018-2019 which include:

- Enhancement of coordination at Regional Seas level supported with the view to further contributing to the G7 agenda on marine litter, including: (i) Mapping of processes, initiatives, and mandates to set common goals and ensure better coordination of the collective responses to marine litter; (ii) Harmonization and standardization of methodologies in particular for monitoring and assessment and reporting; and (iii) Communication of activities to enhance awareness raising and involvement of stakeholders, and to promote partnerships, including with the private sector;
- Conducting a socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles prepared, including an overall analysis for the whole Mediterranean basin, with a specific focus on pilot areas;
- Identifying and sharing marine litter best practices with the Contracting Parties; enhancement of technical capacities of the Contracting Parties to facilitate the implementation of key legally binding measures under the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, and other Measures;
- Sharing best practices on No-Special-Fee systems, organizing and preparing draft guidance document and guidelines to: i) Determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system; and ii) Develop provisions of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes;"
- Meeting the marine litter reduction targets, as agreed during COP 19, in the pilot areas and preparing an assessment report;

- Developing and testing a pilot project on marine litter, aiming to create a digital system, supported by a platform and a smartphone application, for classification, geo-localization, continuous updating and dynamic exchange of marine litter data, detected at national and/or regional levels. The System will be flexible and easily extensible with further data categories useful to support the implementation of Smart Indicators for the ICZM;
- Organizing sub-regional meetings on the application of developed tools for identifying and assessing marine litter hotspots;
- Reviewing the most promising measures to minimize marine litter generation in MPAs and for selecting best practices considering the ecosystem services. In addition, preparing a governance plan on principal measures to minimize generation of marine litter that are common to all Med MPAs, and an action plan on the most promising measures to reduce marine litter in 10 MPAs; and
- Organizing a regional technical workshop on marine litter for the Mediterranean countries to develop a common understanding aimed to fill the gaps raised from the 2017 MED QSR and considering the work carried out by the Technical Group on Marine Litter (EU MSFD) on the implementation of the revised GES Decision 2017/848/EU.

8. Next steps

52. As indicated in the present report, marine litter activities MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2018-2019 are ongoing and the priorities until the end of the biennium will be:

- Further implementation of the Regional Plan and related marine litter measures as provided for in the updated National Action Plans (NAPs)/ Programmes of Measures (POMs);
- Expanding and concluding pilot projects on key marine litter prevention/reduction measures throughout the Mediterranean;
- Finalizing the socioeconomic analysis on marine litter best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles prepared, including an overall analysis for the whole Mediterranean basin, with a specific focus on pilot areas.
- Continuing the support to the Contracting Parties to establish national monitoring programmes on Marine Litter with the view to having them operational at country level;
- Concluding the work on marine litter indicators (process/response linked with H2020/ NAP) to complement IMAP state/impact indicators;
- Further work for updating marine litter baseline values if possible at sub-regional level;
- Concluding the work on the guidelines related to the: i) implementation of the “Adopt-a-beach” measures at regional level and related best practices; ii) prevention in generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter with a particular focus on plastic bags; and iii) provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes;
- Conducting capacity building and sharing of best practices (Sub-regional, Regional Workshops);
- Pursuing ongoing coordination with European Regional Seas; and following-up with Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Joint Secretariat and their Regional Centers to maximize synergies;
- Strengthening collaboration with the UN Environment GPA and GPML with a focus on the [#CleanSeas](#) and [#BeatPlasticPollution](#) campaigns;
- Contributing as appropriate to the G7 and G20 Action Plans to Combat Marine Litter;
- Improving knowledge and enhance effective management on microplastics in the region; and
- Initiating/ building partnerships with the private sector.

Annex I
Status of Implementation
of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

Work Plan with Timetable for the Implementation of relevant Articles of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean:

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| PART II - MEASURES AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Art. 7 - Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs) | Update the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines | 2014 | MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Guidelines sent to Contracting Parties | NAP update Guidelines were updated by MED POL FP meeting in 2015. | |
| 2. | | Update the existing LBS National Action Plans to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan National Stakeholder Workshop and consultancy | 2015 | Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL | Updated LBS National Action Plan sent to the Secretariat | In 2016 Contracting Parties have developed PoM and updated NAPs with sections addressing marine litter management. The updated NAPs were endorsed by Decision IG 22/8 of COP 19 | |
| 3. | | Development of reporting format | 2014 | MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Reporting format sent to countries | Decision IG 21/7 of COP 18 included an Annex on Reporting on the Implementation of the Regional Plan providing for indicator-based reporting. Decision IG 23/1 of COP 20 on the Revised Reporting Format of MAP Barcelona Convention includes a detailed section on the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan. | |
| 4. | | National reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan | Biennially, together with the report for the implementation of the LBS protocol | Contracting Party | Report sent to Secretariat | The first reports by the Contracting Parties are expected in December 2018 | |
| 5. | | Art. 9 – Prevention of marine litter | To base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal | 2025 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with the SCP/RAC and MED POL | Report sent to Secretariat | SCP/RAC, MED POL and REMPEC are implementing several projects to support Contracting Parties in enhancing their capacities related to prevention and recycling of marine litter. |
| 6. | | Art. 9 – Prevention of marine litter | Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | The updated NAPs include clear measures addressing solid waste reduction and prevention. |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|---|--|-----------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 7. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilot actions in selected countries are planned and implemented during the previous (2016-2017) and current (2018-2019) biennia in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. Several other projects under H2020 and Act for Litter and Plastic Buster are also contributing to this objective. |
| 8. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | No evaluation undertaken so far for the implementation of these measures |
| 9. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilots are currently implemented in several counties in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS |
| 10. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilots are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. |
| 11. | Art. 9 – Prevention of marine litter | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilots are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. |
| 12. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilots are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|---|--|-----------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 13. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro plastics | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | During the current biennium (2018-2019) pilot projects are planned related to marine litter prevention, particularly focused on plastics and micro plastics in cosmetics. |
| 14. | | Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter | 2020 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | No evaluation undertaken to date for the implementation of these measures |
| 15. | | In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol explore and implement to the extent possible ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system and take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilots are planned during 2018-2019 in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. |
| 16. | Art. 9 – Prevention of marine litter | Explore and implement to the extent possible the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate cleanup of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilot projects are currently ongoing in 3 countries with MED POL support: Egypt, Libya, Morocco, |
| 17. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced ghost catches through the use of environmentally neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept”, in consultation with the competent | 2017 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | FAO Technical Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear (Rome, Italy, 5–9 February 2018): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (TCMFG/2018/3); - Draft Annexes and Appendices to the Draft Guidelines on the |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|---|--|-----------|---|----------------------------|--|
| | | international and regional organizations in the fishing sector | | | | Marking of Fishing Gear TCMFG/2018/4 |
| 18. | | Apply the cost-effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention | 2020 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | “Updated Guidelines in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, adopted by COP 20; Prevention of marine littering from dredging activities fully considered. |
| 19. | | Take the necessary measures to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land in the area of the application of the Regional Plan | 2020 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | The need to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land has been prioritized in NAPs. H2020 Indicators also consider these measures. |
| 20. | | Take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan | | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | Enforcement of measures to combat illegal dumping of litter on beaches and sewage disposal in the coastal zone has been identified as a priority of the NAPs. This will be further addressed in the framework of the ongoing process for development of 6 new regional plans |
| 21. | Art. 10 – Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal | Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to EIA procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC | Report sent to Secretariat | Activities are planned for 2018-2019 in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. |
| 22. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible the identification in collaboration with relevant stakeholders accumulations / hotspots of marine litter and implementation of national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | A risk assessment tool is planned to be developed in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. Already developed tools and related synergies are currently explored with HELCOM Secretariat and UN Environment Headquarters (tbc) |
| 23. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | This is addressed through the agreed 2018 joint work plan of the Regional |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean |
| 24. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible the participation in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | The Secretariat is promoting the participation of the Mediterranean Countries in the related clean-up events. |
| 25. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible the application as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilot projects in 9 Contracting Parties in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS. |
| 26. | | Explore and implement to the extent possible the application of the Fishing for Litter practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | Pilot projects in four Contracting Parties (Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco) in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. |
| 27. | Art. 10 – Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal | Explore and implement to the extent possible charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable application of No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10. | 2019 | Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC | Report sent to Secretariat | Work is currently implemented in the framework of the EU-Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. On the ground activities are planned for 2018-2019 with the participation of ports and marinas to the pilots. |
| PART III – ASSESSMENT | | | | | | |
| 28. | Art. 11 – Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean | Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean | Every six years, first report 2 years after entry into force of the Regional Plan | MEDPOL | Report issued | 2015: Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean (MED POL) 2015: Survey of lost fishing gears in the Mediterranean. (MIO ECSDE MEDPOL) 2017: Mediterranean Quality Status Report – two chapters dedicated on marine litter (MED POL) Socio economic analysis for selected marine litter measures (Plan Bleu). |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|---|---|-----------|---|--|---|
| 29. | Art. 12 – Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme | Establishment of an Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme | 2014 | MEDPOL | Expert Group established | Established informal Online Working Group on Marine Litter. Established Marine Litter CORMON in 2015; Three CORMON meetings held to date. |
| 30. | | Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations | 2014 | MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Guidelines prepared | IMAP section on Marine Litter monitoring and Assessment; IMAP Guidance section on Monitoring and Assessment; Developed indicator factsheet for 4 marine litter indicators Approved metadata templates for beach and seafloor marine litter in 2017 Metadata templates for floating marine litter and microplastics under preparation. |
| 31. | | Preparation of the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme ³ | | MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme prepared | The Guidance Fact Sheets were developed for all three marine litter indicators to facilitate a coherent monitoring, and concrete guidance and references to Contracting Parties to design and support implementation of their revised national monitoring programme towards the overall goal of implementing the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean Sea and achieving GES. Metadata templates for Beach and Seafloor Marine Litter, MEDPOL Beach Litter Survey Form, MEDPOL Working Sheet Sea Floor Litter were prepared, as well as related Data Standards and Data Dictionaries within ongoing process for development of IMAP Pilot Info System, and will be submitted to the CORMON on |

³ In line with EcAp timeline

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|---|---|------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | Pollution and Marine Litter (March 2019) with the view of their finalization and integration into IMAP Pilot Info System”. |
| 32. | | For the purpose of the Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol Design National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter | 2017 | Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL | Implementation started | National Monitoring Programmes are incorporating the IMAP marine litter-related indicators with a priority to beach and seafloor marine litter, as well as floating marine litter and microplastics. Several Contracting Parties have in place Marine litter national monitoring programmes. Others are working with support from ECAPMED II EU funded project for their development. A set of H2020/NAP indicators with methodological specifications on solid waste including marine litter was developed for marine litter and waste management interfaces |
| 33. | Art. 12 – Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme | Report, in accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, on the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme | Biennially | Contracting Party | Report sent to the Secretariat | As indicated in the previous section, work is ongoing by several Contracting Parties to implement marine litter monitoring programmes and or establish national marine litter monitoring programme. The first set of monitoring data is extended in 2019. |
| 34. | | Establishment of the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter | 2016 | MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Data Bank established | 2017: Approved metadata templates for beach and seafloor marine litter MEDPOL ML database is under preparation; IMAP pilot info system currently under elaboration. It includes a section on Marine litter; Under H2020 and SEIS project, data standards and data dictionaries are being prepared for pressure reduction marine litter indicators |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|--|---|--|----------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | Establishing such a system would allow the CPs to upload their monitoring data on a regular basis. |
| PART IV - SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION | | | | | | |
| 35. | Art. 13 – Research topics and scientific cooperation | Assistance for scientific cooperation | As appropriate | MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Assistance provided | The marine litter research priority list is adopted in COP 18 as an annex to Decision IG 21/7 and may require further prioritization. 2015: Mediterranean Assessment on Marine Litter (Chapter 6) Synergies and collaboration with several scientific projects addressing marine litter. Scientific Cooperation and participation enhanced through the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter |
| 36. | Art. 14 – Specific guidelines | Preparation of specific guidelines for measures listed in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan | By 2016/2017 | MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Guidelines published | Fishing-for-Litter Guidelines adopted in 2016. List of Existing Marine Litter Management Guidelines was identified List of Potential Guidelines to be further developed identified Work ongoing to develop the following guidelines including: Adopt-a-beach, ii) prevention in generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter, and iii) port reception facilities and the delivery of ship-generated wastes. |
| 37. | Art. 15 - Technical assistance | Technical assistance, including capacity building provided | As appropriate | MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Report sent to Secretariat | Regional Best Practices Meetings Undertaken (Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016; Athens, Greece, 6 Sept. 2016); Capacity Building Workshops organized in Egypt (Alexandria, 26-28 |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|--|---|----------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | February 2018), Morocco (Rabat, 19-21 February 2018) and Tunisia (Tunis, 12-15 March 2018). Capacity Building Training Session for Assessing the effect of marine litter on sea turtles were organized in July 2017 (Portici, Italy) and another is one is planned in Oct. 2018 in Tunis (tbc). Technical workshop under ENI SEIS II organized on H2020/NAP indicators and their methodological specifications on solid waste including marine litter (17-18 April Athens) |
| 38. | Art. 16 – Enhancement of public awareness and education | Undertaking, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and in partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production | As appropriate | Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | Marine Litter side event at COP 19; Marine Litter side event for the Mediterranean at UNEA 2. Marine Litter side event at COP 20 MOOC on Marine Litter: 2016, 2017 |
| 39. | Art. 17 – Major groups and stakeholder participation | Ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Regional Plan and other measures | As appropriate | Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL | Report sent to Secretariat | No evaluation undertaken to date on the implementation of this Article. The MAP Sustainable City Award includes strong criteria on marine litter management |
| 40. | Art. 18 – Regional and international cooperation | Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives | As appropriate | MEDPOL in cooperation with, SCP/RAC, REMPEC AND SPA/RAC And other regional partners | Report on the implementation of the Regional Plan by the Secretariat | Regional Collaboration Platform established in 2016 with participation of over 20 regional and international organizations First and Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter were organized in September 2016 and November 2017. Joint 2017 and 2018 Work Plans agreed. |

| | Article | Task | Timetable | Lead Authority | Verification indicator | Status of Implementation |
|-----|----------------------------|---|----------------|---|------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | Development of the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean. Final version is expected to become available to the public during the fourth quarter of 2018. |
| 41. | | Direct cooperation of Contracting Parties, with assistance of the MEDPOL or competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary marine litter cases | As appropriate | Contracting Parties with assistance of the MEDPOL | Report issued | Report to be sent to Secretariat in December 2018 as part of biannual annual implementation reports |
| 42. | Art. 19 – Reporting | National biennial reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan | Biennially | Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL | Report issued | First reports expected in December 2018 |
| 43. | | Regional report on the implementation of the Regional Plan | Biennially | MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Report issued | Expected in 2019. |
| 44. | | Review the status of the implementation of the Regional Plan | Biennially | MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations | Report to be issued | Expected in 2021 |

Annex II
Marine Litter Environmental Targets

| Marine Litter Environmental Targets Marine Litter EcAp Indicators | Type of Target | Minimum | Maximum | Reduction Targets | Remarks |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| Beaches (Common Indicator 22) | % decrease | Significant | 30 | 20% by 2024 | Not 100% marine pollution |
| Floating Litter (Common Indicator 23) | % decrease | - | - | Statistically Significant | Sources are difficult to control (trans border movements) |
| Sea Floor Litter (Common Indicator 23) | % decrease | Stable | 10% in 5 years | Statistically Significant | 15% in 15 years is possible |
| Microplastics (Common Indicator 23) | % decrease | - | - | Statistically Significant | Sources are difficult to control (transboundary movement) |
| Ingested Litter (Candidate Common Indicator 24) | - | - | - | - | Movements of litter and Animals to be considered |
| Number of turtles with ingested litter (%) | % decrease in the rate of affected animals | - | - | Statistically Significant | - |
| Amount of ingested litter | % decrease in quantity of ingested weight(g) | - | - | Statistically Significant | - |