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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices

Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 October 2018

Agenda item 4: Main elements for Regional Guidelines for Selected Marine Litter Prevention and Reduction Measures

Socioeconomic Analysis of Measures to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles (Approach and Timetable)

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Information Note

Socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles

1. Plan Bleu is conducting socioeconomic analysis on key marine litter best practices. Findings and recommendations from this analysis will be provided to experts and Contracting Parties for further consideration.
2. The objective of this analysis is to enhance knowledge on the socioeconomic aspects of single use plastics prevention/reduction measures, building on the outcomes of pilot projects where those best practices have been implemented. Therefore, the goal is to go beyond the scope of the pilot areas, and to cover the whole Mediterranean basin, to the extent possible.

Activities

3. Plan Bleu will undertake the following five activities, in close collaboration with other MAP components, especially MED POL and SCP/RAC, and partners working on marine litter prevention and reduction, including through pilot projects:
 - a. **Scoping study:** A scoping study for the selection of the key best practices and measures will be undertaken focusing on prevention/reduction of plastics (single-use plastic bags and bottles). The study will be conducted in collaboration with MEDPOL. The scoping study will draw an overview of practices implemented (and to the extent possible under development) in the Mediterranean region and justify the selection of key best practices for the consideration of governments, private sector and/or NGOs.
 - b. **Regional analyses:** Socioeconomic analyses of the selected plastics prevention/reduction measures in the Mediterranean will be undertaken using, as appropriate, cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and multi-criteria analyses. Results of the analyses for the selected measures will be presented using factsheets.
 - c. **Case studies.** A number of case studies on key practices, using cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and/or multi-criteria analyses will be developed. Reporting on case studies will be presented using factsheets with the cases distributed to the extent possible across the entire Mediterranean region.
 - d. **Synthesis report with region-wide recommendations.** A synthesis report with region-wide recommendations for the application of the best-applicable marine litter related reduction and prevention measures will be prepared with focus on single-use plastic bags and bottles.

Methods

4. Regarding the aforementioned “regional analyses” and “case studies,” activities, the preferred analysis methodology will be cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit methods vis-à-vis multi-criteria analyses. The latter will be used to add non-monetary information to cost-effectiveness and/or cost-benefit results when required.
5. Consistency in the methods to be utilized for the case studies will ensure their comparability and will facilitate the preparation of aggregated findings and recommendations. To allow for comparisons and for drawing conclusions and recommendations, all practices analysed will be explicitly specified. Precise scope and potential accompanying measures will be described (type of plastic bags or bottles targeted, tax rates when the practice analysed is a tax, enforcement policies and practices when the measure is a ban, etc.)
6. In addition to the UN Environment/MAP Coordinating Unit, both MEDPOL and SCP/RAC will be invited to participate in the steering of this consultancy in order to ensure synergies across activities on marine litter best practices in the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work.

Calendar / Deadlines

Socioeconomic analysis of marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles	
Scoping study conducted	Mid-October 2018
Socioeconomic analyses of key selected measures prepared	October – December 2018
Case studies developed	November 2018 - February 2019
Draft synthesis report with region-wide recommendations for the application of the best-applicable marine litter-related reduction and prevention measures developed based on outcomes of the case studies and conclusions reached from the regional meetings	January 2019
Relevant sessions organized in the regional meetings on marine litter best practices (Activity d); 2 nd regional meeting in Seville, Spain (April 2019)	October 2018 - May 2019
Final version of the synthesis report with revised region-wide recommendations (Activity e)	May 2019