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Regional Meeting on the Further Implementation of the Regional Plan
for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

UNEP/MAP Marine Litter MED Project Document

Co-organized with the IPA-Adriatic funded project entitled “Derelict Fishing Gear Management System in the Adriatic Region” (DeFishGear)

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

GPGC/ ENRTP UNEP Project Document Format

Marine Litter –MED

Project Document

Project Executive Summary:

The overall objective of this project is to support UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Contracting Parties to prevent and manage Marine Litter through the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan adopted by COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Istanbul, 2013, in synergy with the relevant work under UNEP/GPA Global Partnership for Marine Litter, the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the UfM H2020 initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean, the EU SwitchMed Programme and in coordination with the other European Regional Seas.

With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, “Marine Litter-MED” project aims to support the Contracting Parties from Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighborhood to implement the Marine Litter Regional Plan through the implementation of a number of measures envisaged in the updated NAPs endorsed by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, ensuring complementarities with UNEP/MAP MTS 2016-2021, UfM H2020 Initiative, EU MSFD Common Implementation Strategy and ML and ecosystem approach related regional and national ongoing projects contributing to achieve the Marine litter reduction targets adopted by COP 19, February 2016.

The project covers the period of six semesters from 2016- 2019, with a budget of 1,400,000 EUR. It will benefit co-financing from the Mediterranean Trust Fund and aims at mobilizing additional external resources.

SIGNATURES

Name of Subprogramme Coordinator: **Review Signature**
(prior to project submission for PRC review):

Name: _____

Date: ____/____/20__

Name of Director of Division managing the Project: **Review Signature**
(prior to project submission for PRC review):

Name: _____

Date: ____/____/20__

In Approval of the Project submitted by
the above Director and Coordinator:
UNEP Deputy Executive Director

Approval Signature
(following PRC review):

Date: ____/____/20__

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
BAT	Best Available Technique
BEP	Best Environmental Practice
COP15	15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
COP17	17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
COP18	18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
COP19	19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
CU	Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan Regional
RAC	Activity Centers of UNEP/MAP
DED	Deputy Executive Director of UNEP
Dumping Protocol	Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea
EC	European Commission
EcAp Roadmap	Roadmap agreed in Decision IG. 21/3 at COP18, to implement the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean
EOs	Ecological objectives
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GES	Good Environmental Status
GISIS	Global Integrated Shipping Information System
GPA Programme/UNEP	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
Horizon 2020 Initiative	The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution
ICZM Protocol	Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature

IMO	International Maritime Organization
LBS Protocol	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
MARPOL Convention	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MED POL	UNEP/MAP Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSFD	EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, 2008/56/EC
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTS	Medium Term Strategy of UNEP/MAP
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
NAPs	National Action Plans under the LBS Protocol
Offshore Protocol	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
Prevention and Emergency Protocol	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SAP MED	Strategic Action Programme of regional and national activities to address land-based pollution
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SCP/RAC	Sustainable consumption and production Activity Centre
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SEIS Project	The ENP SEIS project aims to promote SEIS principles in the European Neighbourhood South and East regions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

1 Project Overview

Project Information

Table 1: Required Project Information

Identification	<i>Insert IMIS no.</i> <i>Insert PIMS no.</i>					
Project Title	Marine Litter MED					
Division managing project	UNEP/MAP					
Project Manager and Org. Unit/Division ¹	Tatjana Hema	P4	UNEP/MAP MED POL	Funding source XB	Percent of staff time on project 30%, 36 months	Existing staff member
Monitoring Officer	Virginie Hart	P3	UNEP/MAP MED POL	Funding source XB	Percent of staff time on project 15%, 36 months	Existing staff member
Project assistant	Nathalie Gomez	G5	UNEP/MAP MED POL	Funding source XB	Percent of staff time on project 30%, 36 months	Existing staff member
Other Members of Project team		Marine Litter expert to be hired to support project management	UNEP/MAP MED POL	Funding source XB	100% for 36 months	<i>New</i>
		Thematic Marine Litter experts	MED POL	Funding source XB	100% for 10 months	<i>New</i>
Name of Supervisor of UNEP Project Manager ²	Habib El-Habr, Deputy Coordinator, UNEP/MAP					
Type/Location	Regional: Mediterranean, with a focus on Southern Contracting Parties					
Region	Africa		Asia Pacific			
	Europe					
			West Asia			

¹ For a UNEP executed GEF project, indicate name of the project manager executing the project.

² For GEF projects, indicate name of UNEP Task Manager's (TM) supervisor. In the case of internally executed GEF Projects, both the TM's and the supervisor of the Project Manager (in the executing unit) should be indicated here.

List Countries	Southern Mediterranean Countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols				
Programme of Work	UNEP/MAP PoW, 2016-2017				
Subprogramme	<i>Ecosystem management</i>				
Expected Accomplishment	The project will enable UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Contracting Parties to prevent and manage Marine Litter through the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan adopted by COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Istanbul, 2013				
Most relevant PoW Output to which Project primarily contributes ³	<i>1.3.1, 1.5.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 2.6.2,</i>				
Date of UNEP clearance of concept or relevant Programme Framework	<i>(dd/mm/yy)</i>				
Other Divisions/Regional Offices involved (<i>any Division/Regional Office named here must be shown also in the Project Delivery Plan and Budget section showing what budget and responsibility is accorded to the Div/Regional Office named here</i>)	<i>UNEP/DEPI GPA</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>
Name of External Executing Partners	<i>REMPEC</i>	<i>SCP/RAC</i>	<i>SPA/RAC</i>	<i>Black Sea Commission</i>	<i>ACCOBAMS</i>

³ Must be consistent with the Logical Framework

Projected Duration and Budget Summary

Table 2: Project Duration ⁴

Project start date: June 2016	Planned completion date: May 2019	Total duration in months: (36 months)
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Table 3: Budget Summary ⁵

TYPE OF FUNDING	SOURCE OF FUNDING	2016	2017	2018	2019	EUR Total	
CASH BUDGET	Environment Fund activity budget						
	Regular Budget activity budget						
	Extra budgetary Funding (posts + non-post costs)	Donor funding secured ⁶	384,411	435,000	394,000	95,000	1,308,411
		Programme Support Costs	26,909	30,450	27,580	6,650	91,589
		Subtotal secured XB funding	411,320	465,450	421,580	101,650	1,400,000
		Unsecured XB funding⁷					
	TOTAL PROJECT CASH BUDGET (=EF or RB activity budget + Secured and unsecured XB funding)	411,320	465,450	421,580	101,650	1,400,000	
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION	Environment Fund post costs						
	Regular Budget post costs						
	TOTAL UNEP IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION						
TOTAL UNEP MANAGED PROJECT BUDGET (=PROJECT CASH BUDGET + UNEP IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION)							
COFINANCING CASH CONTRIBUTION⁸							
COFINANCING BASED ON PARTNERS IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION							
GRAND TOTAL							

⁴ The official start date and eligibility of the funds is at day of (a) EC approval or (b) DED signature

⁵ A detailed project budget shall be provided as Annex 1.

⁶ For GEF Projects, all funding has to be committed and confirmed by co-financing letters from co-financers at PRC stage and shall be divided between cash and in-kind contributions.

⁷ i.e. funding still to be mobilized

⁸ Funding from a donor to a partner which is not received in UNEP accounts but is used by a UNEP partner or collaborating centre to deliver the results in a UNEP-approved project

2 Project Justification

There is general consensus that achieving internationally agreed developments goals will not be possible if the health of coastal and marine environments is not safeguarded. The importance of coasts and oceans featured prominently in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 (Rio+20 Summit) of 2012 “The Future We Want”.

Marine litter is a complex and multi-dimensional problem with significant implications for the marine and coastal environment and human activities all over the world. The issue of marine litter (ML) is being given high importance at the global, regional and national levels in particular during the last decade, due to its complex social, public health, environmental, safety and ecosystem services related impacts. Consequently integrated marine litter assessments and urgent action have been acknowledged by the most important global and regional relevant processes including the 2030 Agenda and SDG. UNEP through its GPA Programme is leading the global work on ML in close collaboration with Regional Seas Action Plans and Conventions. At the Summit in Elmau, Germany, June 2015, the G7 leaders also acknowledged that marine litter poses a global challenge, directly affecting marine and coastal life and ecosystems and potentially also human health, and agreed on an action plan to address such challenge. The G7 also recognized the importance of using and supporting existing platforms and tools for cooperation in this field, including the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

At the Mediterranean level, ML has been an issue of concern since the 1970s. The ML problem is exacerbated by the basin’s limited exchanges with other oceans, its densely populated coasts, highly developed tourism, 30% of the world’s maritime traffic passing through and various additional inputs of litter from rivers and very urbanized areas.

Several assessments made during the last 10 years have shown that a large part of ML in the Mediterranean originates from poor solid waste management and unsustainable production and consumption patterns and life style. Both legal and illegal waste handling practices contribute to ML. The full impact of ML from shipping is still to a large extent unknown. The most recent assessment report on marine litter in the Mediterranean undertaken by UNEP/MAP (2015) concludes that despite the uncertainties and knowledge gaps on marine litter, either related to their amounts, fate in the marine environment, or impacts, existing evidence is more than sufficient to justify immediate action toward preventing and reducing ML and its impact on marine and coastal environment.

The main findings of the assessment can be summarized as follows:

- Although useful data on marine litter exists and has been recently improved in the region (types, quantities, etc.) it is inconsistent and geographically restricted mainly to the North Mediterranean. Standardized research data for statistical purposes concerning the problem of litter in the Mediterranean is still a necessity and information sharing between and among NGOs, IGOs, research institutes, relevant authorities, etc. in the region regarding marine litter related data needs to be improved through a common information sharing system.
- Previous deductions that most of marine litter in the Mediterranean originates from land-based rather than sea-based sources, were confirmed. Marine litter *on beaches* in the Mediterranean originates from tourism and recreational activities and is composed mainly of plastics (bottles, bags, caps/lids, etc.), aluminium (cans, pull tabs) and glass (bottles). This is in line with the global average in previous periods (UNEP, 2011). Marine litter from smoking related activities may locally account for 40% (collected items on beaches) which is considerably higher than the global average. In terms of marine litter *floating in the sea*, plastics account for more than 85% and litter densities are generally comparable to those reported from many other coastal areas worldwide. As for litter on the *sea-floor* plastics are predominant ranging from 45% to 95%. Fishing related litter, including ghost nets, prevail in commercial fishing zones.

- In the Mediterranean, despite the scarcity and inconsistency of *derelict fishing gear* related data, it has been recognized as an issue of major concern. The findings of the recent regional survey organized by UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL on derelict fishing gear in the Mediterranean indicated that derelict fishing gear and ghost nets are considered to be a serious problem.

- To date, only a limited number of studies have been performed in the Mediterranean aiming to assess the amounts, composition and distribution of *micro-plastics*. According to the most recent findings, five different types of micro-plastics are dominant (pellets/granules, films, fishing threads, foam and fragments), with the majority of items being fragments of larger rigid objects (~88%, e.g. bottles, caps) and thin films (~6%; e.g. pieces of bags or wrappings).

- As marine litter affects different marine compartments, the study of its impacts on *biota* of all trophic levels at the same temporal and spatial scale, is of increasing importance. So far, several studies have investigated the interactions of marine biota with marine litter (mainly plastics) in the Mediterranean basin. These studies unveil a vast array of species that are affected by litter, ranging from invertebrates (polychaetes, ascidians, bryozoans, sponges, etc.), fish and reptiles to cetaceans. Effects from the studies were classified into entanglement, ingestion, colonization and rafting.

- In recent years, secondary pollution from the leaching of pollutants from litter has been extensively studied, including in the Mediterranean Sea, to estimate the contribution of marine litter to the pollution of the sea by metallic or organic chemicals and to understand if litter, beyond its unfavorable effects as debris, acts as a secondary source of pollutants, particularly over the long periods of time that it takes to decompose. The results of the studies show that marine litter indeed acts as a secondary source of pollutants.

- Litter in the marine environment gives rise to a wide range of economic and social impacts and negative environmental effects are often also interrelated and frequently dependent upon one another. Our understanding of these impacts in the Mediterranean remains limited. There is little or no reliable data on what the exact costs are. The loss of tourism related revenues due to marine litter, although recognized and considered, has not been quantified in detail.

- Mediterranean countries have not yet drawn up their marine litter monitoring programmes in a coherent manner (if at all) via the use of harmonized monitoring methods across the region. Beach surveys are widely viewed as the simplest and the most cost effective method and therefore are the most frequently performed. However, the stranded debris may not necessarily provide a good indicator of changes in their overall abundance but it is the most mature indicator and the one for which most data is available.

- There is no monitoring of marine litter impacts on biota in the Mediterranean, but there is a good scientific and technical basis to start it. The loggerhead turtle, classified worldwide as “endangered”, is adopted worldwide as a bio-indicator species of environmental pollution. The use of sea turtles for monitoring ingested litter in the Mediterranean was suggested after many years of research and protocols have been tested.

- There is quite a wide diversity of marine litter reduction targets that may be defined by Mediterranean countries in terms of nature, ambition, and measurability, even between neighboring countries. Various countries have defined targets as a reduction in the overall amount of litter present in the marine environment or in any of its compartments (beach, seafloor, water column) or biota.

- Marine litter management and reduction measures in the Mediterranean need to be further developed, implemented and coordinated. There is a need to better address a number of issues to attain a better understanding of the challenges and provide the scientific and technical background for a consistent

monitoring and science based prevention, reduction and management measures. A further definition of baselines and targets is required in order to facilitate the implementation of the management measures agreed and identified in the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

Policy and Regulatory Context

UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and in particular its Protocol for the Protection of **the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol)** address different aspects of ML management including assessment, monitoring and programmes of measures. At the policy level, the 17th meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (**COP 17**) adopted 11 ecosystem approach-based ecological objectives (**EO's**) for the Mediterranean to achieve good environmental status of marine and coastal environment, including one EO for Marine Litter. They also adopted the Mediterranean Marine litter strategic framework addressing several aspects of Marine Litter management (COP 17).

In this context and with the view to specifically address the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean taking into account the most recent Marine Litter global agenda and commitments including the EU MSFD as appropriate, UNEP/MAP was the first ever Regional Sea Programme that developed and adopted the Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, 2013 (here in after referred to as the **ML Regional Plan**). The ML regional Plan provides for comprehensive and integrated Marine Litter prevention and management regional and national framework based on Article 15 of the LBS Protocol and several relevant Articles under the other Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (Dumping, Prevention and Emergency, SPA and Biodiversity, Offshore, ICZM Protocols).

The main objectives of the ML Regional Plan are to prevent and reduce ML generation and its impact on marine and coastal environment in order to achieve good environmental status (**GES**) as per the relevant Mediterranean ecological objectives and ecosystem approach based Marine Litter related targets adopted by UNEP/MAP in 2012 and 2013 (COP 17 and 18).

As a pioneering legal instrument, the ML Regional Plan contains a package of legally binding programmes of measures and implementation timetables to prevent and reduce the adverse effects of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean. The ML Regional Plan became legally binding on 8 July 2014. These include innovative and traditional measures of a policy, regulatory (including incentive economic instruments) and technical nature, addressing different aspects of ML prevention and management from land and sea based sources. The ML Regional Plan measures 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 such as fishing for litter, clean up campaigns, port reception facilities at possibly no special fees, and monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of measures as well as enforcement of national legislation. The majority of the ML Regional Plan measures should be implemented by the Contracting Parties by 2020.

COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, February 2016, adopted region-wide ML reduction targets for the main ML items with a particular focus on beach litter (20% reduction by 2024), Marine litter baseline values for some categories of marine litter items as well as the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme including one section on Marine Litter.

In addition COP 19 also adopted the MSSD, UNEP/MAP MTS 2016-2021 as well as a regional Action Plan on SCP that highlight marine litter management and the prevention of its impacts on marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean a high priority.

Marine Litter Targets

Marine Litter IMAP Indicators	Type of Target	Minimum	Maximum	Reduction Targets	Remarks
Beaches	% decrease	significant	30	20% by 2024	not 100% marine pollution
Floating Litter	% decrease	-	-	Statistically Significant	sources are difficult to control (trans border movements)
Sea Floor Litter	% decrease	stable	10% in 5 years	Statistically Significant	15% in 15 years is possible
Micro-plastics	% decrease			Statistically Significant	sources are difficult to control (trans border movements)
Ingested Litter					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	

Marine Litter Baselines Values

Common Indicator (CI)	minimum value	maximum value	mean value	Proposed baseline
16. Beaches (items/100 m) (CI 16)	11	3600	920	450-1400
17. Floating litter (items/km ²) (CI 17)	0	195	3.9	3-5
17. Sea floor (items/km ²) (CI 17)	0	7700	179	130-230
17. Micro-plastics (items/km ²) (CI 17)		4860000	340 000	200000-500000
18. Sea Turtles				
Affected turtles (%)	14%	92.5%	45.9%	40-60%
Ingested litter(g) (CI 18)	0	14	1.37	1-3

National Action Plans

One of the major policy measures provided for in the ML Regional Plan (Art 8) is the update of the National Action Plans (NAPs) as an obligation under Article 5 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention with the view to transpose the ML Regional Plan obligations at national policy and legal level and set up operational management objectives, related targets as well as to formulate relevant programmes of measures to achieve GES.

During 2015 the Contracting Parties worked to update their NAPs (2015-2025) which were endorsed by the COP 19 in February 2016. The Contracting parties are also expected to develop and implement national ML monitoring programmes based on the Regional Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme as adopted by COP 19, February 2016.

Compared to the NAPs endorsed by COP 15 in 2005, the updated NAPs undertook four major innovations:

- a) *Consideration of ML issues a high priority*
- b) *Development of programmes of measures aiming at pollution prevention and control to ensure compliance with the legally binding commitments under the Regional Plans adopted in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol; achieve the relevant ecosystem approach GES targets and the remaining SAP MED targets;*
- c) *Identification of a set of indicators to regularly assess implementation of the updated NAP Programmes of Measures and their effectiveness on achieving GES; and*
- d) *Application to the extent possible of cost benefit and or effectiveness analysis tools in identifying the most relevant programmes of measures to achieve GES with the view to enhance their financial sustainability and effectiveness.*

The updated NAPs considered the ML Ecological Objective and related GES targets as an important objective and have set up operational reduction targets as well as a variety of ML prevention and reduction measures at policy, regulatory, institutional set up, including enforcement, monitoring as well as and capacity building.

COP 19 endorsed the NAPs 2016 – 2025 as unique policy documents comprising legally binding programmes of measures and timetables required to achieve GES and the Regional Plans/LBS Protocol objectives in the framework of SAP-MED and urged the Contracting Parties to implement NAPs, strengthen the coherence between NAP programmes of measures and other national policies, foster conditions for their long-term sustainability, and report on their implementation in the framework of Article 13 of the LBS Protocol; It also urged partners, international organisations in particular GEF and UfM and financial institutions to support implementation of NAPs through available mechanisms, facilities and programmes to contribute to the objective of achieving GES in the Mediterranean. Due to the extreme trans-boundary nature of ML, common action among European regional seas is important and its coordination crucial. The European Regional Seas have developed or are developing ML action plans. Thus, maximizing synergies, exchanging experiences, sharing products, reports and guidelines, avoiding duplication and building upon work carried out in each regional sea in a coordinated manner would have great value for the reduction and prevention of ML within European seas, including in the Mediterranean. This would also help in using harmonized approaches to ML prevention and management and implement cost effective measures. This coordination will also build on the work of the EU MSFD MLTSG composed of experts including Regional Seas, which has addressed important issues related to monitoring, assessment of harms, research need for enhancing knowledge gap and implementation of measures, etc.

A closer bilateral collaboration with the Black Sea Commission is given high priority, taking into account that the Barcelona Convention and the Black Sea Commission have one common Contracting Party and deal with contiguous seas.

In addition, UNEP/MAP just signed a MoU with the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (11 February 2016). Both Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation for this MoU, which form part of the mandate and programme of work of both Parties:

- A) Collection and assessment of information relating to integrated marine monitoring programmes focusing on delivering data to manage regional seas in sustainable manner.
- B) Awareness raising, and joint action against marine litter; legal, institutional and policy related cooperation.
- C) Development of capacity building activities (e.g. joint projects, training programmes, dissemination of relevant information, building awareness, etc.).

In view of the above, establishing an efficient regional coordination mechanism for ML in the Mediterranean under UNEP/MAP leadership involving the regional actors and in strong collaboration with other Regional Sea Conventions, especially with **Black Sea Commission**, would greatly contribute to the successful implementation of the ML Regional Plans.

The work at regional level is linked closely with work on marine litter management carried out at global level mainly through GPA and GMLP and in particular with close ties with European regional seas. The GPA is currently implementing a global project on ML which has a Mediterranean component to be implemented by UNEP/MAP to establish a regional network and forum of partners linked to GPML and develop a methodology for defining ML accumulation hotspot areas.

Therefore this project builds on the achievements and legal commitments under UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention as described above, with the proposal to cover the period June 2016- 31 May 2019 in the Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighborhood countries, focusing on the key challenges for the implementation of the ML Regional Plan and related programmes of measures prioritized in the updated NAPs in synergy with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (**MSFD**) and practices of other European RSCs and UNEP/GPA work on ML. It also builds on the need to ensure synergies and a better coordination among different key actors in the region to enhance the efficiency of regional governance on marine litter management in the Mediterranean, promote exchange of experiences and best practices were appropriate with neighbour regional seas. It will be complemented with other future projects and funding through the UNEP Global Partnership on Marine Litter (**GPML**), UNEP/MAP programme of work, bilateral support from Contracting Parties and other funding as appropriate.

3 Project Statement & Approach

Project Statement⁹

Objective

The objective of this project is to support UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement key common measures provided for in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter, and updated National Action Plans to achieve GES in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and **H2020 initiative**, thus contributing to the region wide ML reduction targets as approved by COP 19 of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention, the MSSD and UNEP/MAP MTS 2016-2021 as well as UN **Agenda 2030** for Sustainable Development.

The main focus of the project will be on:

- a) Enhancing the implementation of selected ML policy/regulatory prevention and reduction common measures at sub-regional/national levels and sharing of related best practices as identified in the updated NAPs in Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighborhood countries;
- b) Developing and applying regionally harmonized approaches, guidelines and tools to ensure effective implementation of selected measures (participation of all Contracting Parties, including EU on non-cost basis);
- c) Establishing regional coordination mechanisms for ML prevention and management in the Mediterranean to maximize synergies through cooperation and exchange of best practices; and
- d) Establishing regional coordination mechanisms for ML with other regional actors and European Regional Seas Conventions, with a particular focus on collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.

Project Approach

This project builds on the relevant Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, especially on Decision IG.21/7 on the ML Regional Plan, Decision IG.21/3, which describes key steps, timeline needed to be fulfilled, to achieve Good Environmental Status in the Mediterranean, Decision IG.20/8 on Marine Litter Strategy Framework in the Mediterranean; Decision IG.22/7 On IMAP, Decision IG.22/8 on the updated NAPs; Decision IG.22/10 on Marine litter, Decision IG.22/5 on the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean as well as and on the achievements of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention as well of the work carried out for meeting the global reduction targets on ML.

Several activities under this project will be implemented by the Contracting Parties with support from the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and key Partners

The project proposal has taken into account other relevant projects in the region (EU funded projects EcAp MED II, SwitchMed, UfM RESCP MED, SEIS and other projects such as DefishingGears, Plastic Busters, Perseus, etc), as well as UNEP/GPA work and EU MSFD as appropriate.

In order to address the challenges related to the next steps of ML Regional Plan and NAPs implementation in an integrated manner, the project will address three key outputs aiming at delivering one overall outcome and 11 specific outcomes (which also act as performance indicators),

⁹ Typically, the Project Objective is the Project Statement.

Output 1: Assisting the implementation of the ML Regional Plan at sub-regional levels with a particular focus on up to five most common ML measures provided in the updated NAPs.

1. Review the updated country specific updated NAPs in Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighbourhood countries to assess the coherence of NAP ML related programmes of measures and related operational targets with the ML Regional Plan obligations and commitments as well as the regionally agreed ML reduction targets;
2. Identify the most common updated NAP policy, regulatory and incentive economic measures addressing both land-based and sea-based ML, with a preference and where possible at sub-regional and regional levels. Follow up on bilateral, sub-regional and regional consultations for the selection of up to five key common measures to be supported by the project;
3. Support implementation of the selected measures as detailed below (3.1-3.5) and exchange lessons learnt between countries participating in this component, possibly also EU countries on non-cost basis;
4. Support Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighbourhood countries in preparing reports on the implementation of the ML Regional Plan measures related to Measures implemented under the project through indicators. The reporting will be made where appropriate through relevant Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme common indicators and the relevant NAP indicators.

The activities under this output also include other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention but on a non-cost basis.

The ML Regional Plan provides for other measures such as improvement of wastewater and solid waste management including recycling and SCP measures. At the same time, the SCP Action Plan provides for measures to prevent and reduce the generation of waste ending up as marine litter from key economic sectors (food, tourism, goods manufacturing, housing). Such measures are meant to be implemented mainly through national projects. While the focus of this regional project will be on replicable policy and regulatory measures aiming prevention and reduction of marine litter generation from both land and sea based sources which will contribute to the achievement of wide Mediterranean ML reduction targets through their efficient implementation.

UNEP/MAP is currently undertaking an initial analysis of the updated NAPs to identify the key measures to achieve the ML Regional Plan obligations and the ML targets approved by COP 19. The analysis shows that the Contracting Parties have envisaged to undertake a number of measures addressing land and sea based sources of marine litter including those related to consumption and production patterns. A more focused country analysis of the updated NAPs will be undertaken in the summer of 2016 under this project, once the final NAPs reports will be formally submitted to the UNEP/MAP Secretariat by all Contracting Parties.

Based on the ML Regional Plan requirements as well on the Measures envisaged in the updated NAPs, implementation of the following measures will be supported through this project:

3. 1. Better management of sea-based litter in ports (Articles 9(5) and 10(f))

According to Article 9(5), in conformity with the objectives and principles of the ML Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, explore and implement to the extent possible by 2017, ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system. The Contracting Parties shall also take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of the MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field.

In conformity with Article 10, the Contracting Parties undertake to explore and implement to the extent possible the following measures by the year 2019, [...], (f) Charge reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable apply 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.

The project objective is to better manage sea-based litter in ports through charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, apply a No-Special-Fee system, with a view to ensuring the provision of adequate reception facilities for ship-generated garbage (and other types of ship-generated waste and cargo residues), which will be achieved through the following:

- a) *To prepare 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 considering information available on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) and available documentation;*
- b) *To carry out a field visit by Port Authorities representatives (one per target country) in one reference port (e.g. Algeciras or Antwerp);*
- c) *To select in collaboration with national authorities a) one major port per target country and implement up to ten pilots to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system in that port; and b) one marina per target country and implement up to ten pilots related to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes*
- d) *To organise national meetings to raise awareness on the need to better manage sea-based litter in ports and 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.*

3.2. Regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags and promote EPR (Article 9 (f))

The issue of plastics management (including single-use plastic packaging and micro-plastics) is at the top of the list of UNEP's priorities for marine litter. UNEP through GPML is promoting a global public-private partnership to transform single-use plastics packaging markets to more environmentally friendly alternatives on a global scale. According to statistics, less than 1 percent of the plastic bags are recycled because it costs more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one. Furthermore, plastic bag ban is both a climate change mitigation measure and a disaster risk reduction response (floodings caused by plastic bag blockage in gutters).

The ML Regional Plan provides for the following measures to reduce the production, use and disposal of plastic ending up as marine litter:

- a) *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;*
- b) *Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro-plastic.*

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as an effective means to reduce waste; increase waste diversion; ensure the safe management of waste; and support the growth of resource markets. The implementation of extended producer responsibility strategies requires businesses to prevent and reduce the generation of plastics and other wastes in the entire life-cycle of their products and services. The main goal of this activity is to raise awareness to national, regional and local coastal governments on the importance of the Extended Producer Responsibility to address the prevention of marine litter at the source and to provide technical support to Mediterranean producers to introduce eco-design and eco-innovation measures to reduce the production of wastes that end up as marine litter.

The activity will address the above mentioned measures of Art. 9 of the Marine Litter Action Plan and it will also contribute to the objectives of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean which was recently adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention. Action 15 of that regional plan provides for the promotion, use and development of tools such as eco-design and Life Cycle Management to facilitate the sustainable design and production of manufactured goods.

This activity will establish strong synergies between the Marine Litter-Med project and the SwitchMed Programme that aims at supporting Mediterranean countries to prevent pollution through the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production. In that sense, the activity will be complementary with the on-going actions that are being developed under SwitchMed to support the public sector, industries and entrepreneurs and will further integrate Marine Litter among the main pollutants to be addressed by SwitchMed. In addition the actions developed under the proposed activity would benefit from the tasks developed by the SwitchMed Networking Facility and that include:

- Dissemination through the SwitchMed website, the SCP action network with more than 1,000 members and multi-stakeholders events like the SwitchMed event, bringing together about 400 stakeholders from Mediterranean countries.
- The establishment of a Green Impact Investment Network bringing together financial agents and businesses that are keen in the establishment of financial mechanisms through which SMEs and entrepreneurs can access to funding to implement eco-design and eco-innovation. The proposed activity would contribute to promote in the Mediterranean countries the interlinkages and complementarities between the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the EC Circular Economy Package involving the DG environment and DG Growth.

The project objective is to promote at national level the banning of the single use of plastic bags and the reduction of plastics production and use in packaging and other main uses (for sectors and services affecting/generating ML) through the following:

- a) *To undertake an assessment of national regulatory frameworks in five countries and develop where appropriate the required legal and regulatory framework to introduce the non-single use of plastic bags and EPR for plastic bags*
- b) *To organize national meetings to raise awareness on prevention of ML and the need to promote extended producer responsibility with regards to plastic and microplastic production and consumption as well as circular economy*
- c) *To organize a regional/subregional workshop to share best practices addressing EPR and non-single use of plastic bags based on Mediterranean experiences (at no cost for EU countries)*

3.3. Fishing for litter measures (Article 9 and 10)

COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention adopted the “Guide on best practices for Fishing for Litter in the Mediterranean” as one of the measures that have the potential to reduce the amounts of marine litter at

sea. FfL initiative is a voluntary scheme that has demonstrated on a limited scale that it can gain the support of the fishing industry, harbor and local authorities. The objectives of the Guide are twofold: a) provide technical guidance on the mechanism to remove litter from the sea in an environmentally friendly manner ensuring negative impacts on marine environment and ecosystems are avoided; b) provide guidance on the process of involving the stakeholders responsible for the implementation and coordination of FfL practices. Implementation of the Guide will also provide the opportunities for their further development and adjustment to the specifics of the Mediterranean, as appropriate.

Taking into account, inter alia, Defishgear and MARELITT/MED results, the project objective is to support the implementation in pilot areas of the FfL Guidelines adopted by COP 19 through pilots, sharing of experience, training, capacity building, collaboration with relevant stakeholders and reporting as described below:

- a) *Develop a risk assessment tool for identifying where in the Mediterranean accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat and should be removed (in collaboration with OSPAR, HELCOM and Black Sea Commissions)*
- b) *Organize Regional/Sub-regional workshop with targeted groups on the FfL guidelines and sharing of best practices*
- c) *Select and implement FfL pilots in three areas*
- d) *Organize the final Regional/Subregional Meeting to share the lessons learnt and submit reports on the implementation of the FfL Guide.*

3.4. Implement “Adopt a Beach” system (Article 10 (f))

Adopt-a-Beach is a concept when a school, or local community, or an NGO, or a group of volunteers “adopt” (not in a legal sense) a beach and takes care of that beach by regular cleanup events. In a way, they are “guardians” of that beach. This will also contribute to ‘citizen science’ as it is expected that the monitoring data coming from adopt a beach practice would be done in line with IMAP and NAP indicators in close coordination with the respective national monitoring programme on marine litter.

The project objective is to promote stakeholders contribution to the implementation of ML regional Plan with particular focus on NGOs/MAP partners and local authorities through carrying out the following:

- a) *To prepare ToRs for adopt a beach system and regular beach clean-up and monitoring plans (in collaboration with the other regional seas)*
- b) *To select in collaboration with national authorities two beaches per target country and implement up to 10 pilots at sub regional level*
- c) *To organise a regional/subregional meeting to share lessons learnt and best practices*
- d) *To communicate project results through online publications and other tools*

3.5. Reducing impacts of marine litter and micro litter in Biota with a particular focus on endangered species. Decision of COP 19 on IMAP

As marine litter affects different marine compartments, the study of its impacts on *biota* of all trophic levels at the same temporal and spatial scale, is of increasing importance. The entanglement of marine species in ML is affecting 61% of existing species worldwide (especially marine mammals, seabirds, turtles, fish, and crustaceans) and has been frequently described as a serious mortality factor. Particularly affected and vulnerable are marine mammals and coastal species inhabiting heavily fishing areas, then turtles and seabirds.

Several studies have investigated the interactions of marine biota with marine litter (mainly plastics) in the Mediterranean basin. These studies unveil a vast array of species that are affected by litter, ranging from invertebrates (polychaetes, ascidians, bryozoans, sponges, etc.), fish and marine reptiles to cetaceans.

All Mediterranean marine mammals (permanent population or occasionally observed) and marine turtles have been reported to either ingest or get entangled in marine debris. Seabird species are also affected by entanglement or ingestion of marine debris. Although there is no monitoring of marine litter impacts on biota in the Mediterranean carried out under the Barcelona convention, but there is a good scientific and technical basis to start it. The loggerhead turtle, classified worldwide as “endangered”, is adopted as a candidate bio-indicator species of environmental pollution.

The project objective is to improve knowledge on experimental/candidate indicator for “Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine turtles”; through the implementation of the following:

- a) *Undertake regional consultation to define the most representative specie(s)*
- b) *Draft a specific protocol building on monitoring of sea turtles in applying the Litter in Biota protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.394/6) and based on the existing protocol developed by MSFD TGML*
- c) *Develop capacity building on monitoring of sea turtles with a particular focus on harmonizing methods and data collection; (Regional/sub-regional meetings/trainings to analyse existing data from the countries and identify the gaps as well as to define a operational strategy for this indicator including the need for establishing small rescue centres)*
- d) *Further work on defining GES and targets as appropriate based on data availability*
- e) *Create and improve a Mediterranean network on IMAP Common Indicator 18 and exchanges of good practices;*

Output 2: Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional level to reduce and prevent ML generation from land-based and sea-based sources including pilot interventions (EU countries to participate on a no-cost basis).

Article 14 of the ML Regional Plan provides for “*The Secretariat in cooperation with relevant international and regional organisations, shall prepare specific guidelines taking into account where appropriate existing guidelines, 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 such guidelines shall be published in different Mediterranean region languages*”.

This project aims at developing and or updating key specific guidelines in collaboration with relevant partner organizations. The selection and development of common approaches or guidelines for best practices will be implemented in close relationship with output 1. Based on the measures selected for coordinated implementation by the Contracting Parties, work will be undertaken for ensuring exchange of know-how and experiences. This will lead to identification of common approaches and best practices based on BAT, BEP, SCP including cost effectiveness.

The coordinated implementation of the measures selected under output 1 of this project would create opportunities for collaboration and exchanges of experience among contracting parties on best practices as well as their validation as per specific situation of the concerned countries. This would feed the process for developing best practices and or common technical guidelines based on the Mediterranean specific.

The activities under this output include EU Member States of the specific sub-region as well, but on a non-cost basis.

In line with the above, planned activities under Output 2 are:

1- Based on the selected common measures of the updated NAPs, identify the gaps and needs for developing new regional and or updating existing guidelines/ best practices/tools related to ML management in view of supporting Contracting Parties to enhance the implementation of the common measures, taking into account best environmental practices at European and global level;

2- Develop/update key guidelines for up to 5 common measures on ML management, through a participatory process and with the involvement of all Contracting Parties (at no cost for EU MS Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention). Related back-to-back meetings with other European Regional Sea Conventions will be envisaged as appropriate; (at no cost for EU MS Contracting Parties).

The main deliverables under this output on the basis of specific Mediterranean conditions and addressing specific Mediterranean needs are:

- a) *Draft a guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system;*
- b) *Draft operational Guidelines, on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes”*
- c) *Draft guidelines on ‘Adopt a beach best practice’*
- d) *Draft template of legislation/regulation on the non-single use of plastic bags and Extended Producer responsibility with regards to plastic and microplastic materials (guidelines on development of measures (including regulatory, fiscal, economic and others) for*
- e) *Draft Specific guidelines and training material to prevent the generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter*
- f) *Updated FfL Guidelines to take into account as appropriate the Mediterranean specificities*
- g) *A risk assessment tool to define the ghost net accumulation areas from where they should be removed*
- h) *To organise regional and sub-regional expert meetings to review the guidance documents/guidelines for submission to MAP decision making bodies.*

3- In conjunction with output 1.3, provide technical support to countries to implement the selected common measures through the application of developed/updated guidelines/best practices. Provide, as appropriate, training on the implementation of the guidelines in cooperation with UfM H2020 Initiative.

4- Based on the country experience and lessons learnt finalize the work on the guidelines/best practices to take into account Mediterranean specificities and submit them to MED POL POL Focal Points for their consideration and approval.

Output 3: Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the ML Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, with a particular focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.

Output 3 aims at building strong partnership and linkages among regional partners including the European seas for the implementation of the ML Regional Action Plans. The ML Regional Plan contains strong provisions for collaboration among contracting parties, regional stakeholders within relevant sectors, regional organisations, and the scientific community. In the Mediterranean region there are several actors contributing to ML prevention, reduction, assessment and research such as

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (**GFCM**), Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (**ACCOBAMS**), the Union for the Mediterranean (**UfM**), research institutions and regional projects with EU funding, such as H2020¹⁰, EcAp-MED¹¹ and SWITCH-MED¹². Partnership should be also established with relevant professional associations (i.e fishermen), plastic and shipping industry and NGOs as well as local authorities to enable their involvement in the implementation of the Regional Plan.

With the financial support from GPA, a regional node will be established thus identifying and networking the key Mediterranean Actors working on marine litter management. This initiative will be further strengthened and maintained under this project with the view to ensure coordinated action for the implementation of the ML Regional Plan by all concerned actors.

In line with the above, the planned activities under Output 3 are the following:

1. Establish and support a Mediterranean ML regional coordination group (MLCG) led by UNEP/MAP with other organizations as specifically mandated by the ML Regional Plan in accordance with Article 18 to support its implementation (regular coordination meetings and joint work plan);
2. Support the establishment of an interregional ML coordination and consultation mechanism with the other European Regional Seas to enhance synergies and cost efficiency in the implementation of Marine Litter Regional Plans; at no cost for EU member states involved in such activities (yearly meetings and joint work plan)
3. Strengthen the database of existing tools, expert networks, associations and organizations addressing ML management and of programmes of measures implemented in the Mediterranean using the extent possible the work carried out by other ML projects;
4. Establish bilateral collaboration with Black Sea Commission to support:
 - A) to finalize the Regional Plan on ML for the Black sea based on the Mediterranean experience
 - B) to draft and finalize the ML Monitoring Programme for the Black sea based also on the Mediterranean experience
 - C) to draft a detailed joint work plan UNEP/MAP-Black Sea Commission
5. Implement/organize joint activities with other EU Regional Seas Programmes to exchange experience and best practices on the implementation of the ML Regional Plan and development of common tools (to prepare and finalize the guidelines a, b and c under output 2 as described above), including participation of UNEP/MAP in MSFD TG on ML (at no cost for EU member states involved in such activities).
6. Liaise with GMLP, UNEP/GPA, IMO and FAO to explore the possible linkage between the relevant Global ML Information System and the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter to avoid duplication and facilitate the access of information.

¹⁰ <http://www.h2020.net/>

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/pdf/Implementation_EcAp.pdf

¹² <https://www.switchmed.eu/en/corners/start-up>

Project Overall outcome:

Progress towards ML GES and ML Reduction targets as agreed by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention, February 2016, and the implementation of the ML Regional Plan through the implementation of selected and common ML measures of the NAPs/Programme of Measures.

Outcome 1

- 1.1 Assessment of NAPs/Programmes of Measures on planned ML related measures and identification of key common ones per country (Activity 1-2);
- 1.2 Implementation of selected key common measures/demonstrations at sub regional/national levels (Activity 3.1-3.5, 4);
- 1.3 Countries, including Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighbourhood countries, begin regular reporting on the implementation of the ML RP, including the activities in the project against agreed indicators (Activity 4, 3.1-3.4).

Outcome 2

- 2.1 Common and harmonized guidelines and other supporting tools developed/ updated and commonly agreed to facilitate the implementation at sub-regional/national levels of the selected common ML NAP measures in a coherent manner (Activity 1,2,3);
- 2.2 Mediterranean countries capacities enhanced in applying harmonised tools and guidelines to implement common selected measures (Activity 3.1-3.4, 4). Link to Activity 1.3.1-1.3.5

Outcome 3

- 3.1 Mediterranean ML regional coordination mechanism established and operational (Activity 1);
- 3.2 Public and stakeholder access to information on measures taken by the Contracting Parties and partners in implementing the ML ensured (Activity 3); Link to Activity 1.4
- 3.3 Assistance to the Black Sea Commission to develop key elements of a ML regional action plan and ML monitoring programme (Activity 4);
- 3.4 Inter-regional coordination mechanism established with other European regional Seas; Joint actions implemented periodically such as development of joint guidelines and other tools, capacity building and training (Activity 2, 3-4);
- 3.5 ML best practices and lessons learned shared among the four regions (Activity 3-6).
- 3.6 Project coordinated and implemented in an efficient manner (outputs 1-3)

Resource Mobilization Strategy for the project:

This project will be co funded with MTF funding to cover the cost of participation of the Contracting parties which are not eligible for EU funding under this project. Synergies and complementarities will be ensured with other projects such as Plastic Buster, Derelict fishing gear, GPA, Switch MED, etc.

National or Regional Relevance

This project has a very strong dimension of national, regional and global relevance. It will contribute to the work of a considerable number of the Contracting Parties to progress towards achieving relevant ML SDG, Manila Declaration of GPA, MSSD, ML Regional Plan and ecosystem approach roadmap implementation in the Mediterranean to achieve GES as well as UfM H2020 Initiative. At national level this project will directly contribute to the implementation of the updated NAPs.

Stakeholder Analysis and roles

UNEP MAP relies on and has close ties with numerous internal and external stakeholders who are instrumental in ensuring the ongoing success of initiatives and resource efficiency approaches. Challenges to effectively engage partners and stakeholders include accurately identifying the issues on

the table, credibility of the process, impartiality of facilitation and coordination body and vision and commitment of key stakeholders. Different level of engagement will be established: low that involves of exchange of ideas and perceptions through consultative seminars and interviews with objective to contribute inputs to the process, medium that requires proactive participation in meetings and workshops, and high which is based on key stakeholders' engagement also in management of the process.

Specific Stakeholder groups vary from project to project, however an encompassing representation includes:

Government decision-makers at national and local levels - representatives from the beneficiary country ministries of environment

International/Regional Institutions (IGOs, etc) - global initiatives and institutions incorporating experts and representatives from government, business and industry

Other Regional Seas Action Plans and Conventions around Europe (Black Sea, OSPAR, HELCOM,)

Civil Society/MAP Partners -, play a crucial role in society by raising awareness of important issues and linking society with decision makers in both government and the private sector. Due consideration will be given to work with professional association on issues of their mandate and concern such as fishery and aquaculture communities.

With regards to international/Regional Institutions, in addition to the Secretariats of the three other European Seas, a high level of engagement will be pursued with the following bodies:

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Consisting of 23 Member countries along with the European Union, the GFCM's objectives are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters. It plays a key role in the implementation of the Ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean. The GFCM has the authority to adopt binding recommendations for fisheries conservation and management in its Convention Area and plays a critical role in fisheries governance in the Region including its authority for the creation of fisheries restricted areas (FRA) in open seas, including deep seas.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

ACCOBAMS is a cooperative tool for the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. It is an Agreement of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Its purpose is to reduce threats to cetaceans in Mediterranean and Black Sea waters and improve our knowledge of these animals.

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)/Secretariat of the UfM

The Union for the Mediterranean is a multilateral partnership aiming at increasing the potential for regional integration and cohesion among Euro-Mediterranean countries. The Union for the Mediterranean is inspired by the shared political will to revitalize efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean was created by 43 Euro-Mediterranean Heads of State and Government in 2008, with the mandate to identify, process, promote and coordinate regional projects, which are in line with the principles and rules of international law, and that enhance and strengthen cooperation and positively impact the lives of citizens.

UfM Horizon 2020 Initiative

The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution. Horizon 2020 was endorsed during the Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in November 2006 and is one of the key initiatives endorsed by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) since its launch in Paris in 2008. In 2014, the Athens Ministerial Declaration renewed commitment to this Initiative and extended its scope to include the ML

The EU funded ENPI-SEIS and Capacity Building projects under the Horizon 2020 Initiative aims to promote the SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System) principles in the ENP regions (South and East), through the development of national and regional environmental information systems in line with the EU approach.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations' specialized agency responsible for safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. In particular, IMO has recognized that the provision of reception facilities is crucial for effective implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) has strongly encouraged Member States, particularly those Parties to MARPOL as port States, to fulfil their treaty obligations on providing adequate reception facilities.

University of Siena (Italy) as the coordinator of the Plastic Buster Project labelled by UfM

EU MSFD TG on Marine Litter

Other regional initiatives such as:

SweepNet with a reach expertise on solid waste management in the southern Mediterranean countries)

MEDASSET a regional MAP Partner with recognised contribution to the protection of sea turtles in the Mediterranean

EU funded SWITCH Med Project

Horizon 2020 Programme Research scientific projects

New scientific projects are emerging currently under various financing instruments of the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework (mainly under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, so called Horizon 2020 Programme); with specific relevance to the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a particular focus on ML.

Regional networks and association of plastic recycling, fishermen, local authorities, etc.

Other Socio-economic and Environmental Issues

Gender Analysis

Gender considerations will be consistently taken into account, in line with relevant UN guidelines all through the project implementation.

The achievement of gender equality and equity is a development objective in its own right. As a driver for transformational change and effective management of natural resources, gender equity is a pre-condition for sustainable development. Improving women and vulnerable group's access to economic opportunities, such as healthy coasts and oceans, has become rightly recognized as a critical element to achieve the relevant SDG.

Traditionally women are key actors in livelihoods directly linked to natural resources. By improving the quality of the ecosystems and their resilience, through reduction and prevention of marine litter, the project outcomes will have direct or indirect positive impacts on socio-economic life, health and social inclusion of women.

Work on marine litter may create opportunities for women and vulnerable groups to diversify their livelihoods and access higher income. Special attention to gender concerns will also be given while designing and implementing the measures on the ground in particular to those where women can make a special difference (*i.e* use of plastic and micro plastic or plastic bags) as well as to awareness raising activities.

Management interventions in ecosystems often have unknown or unpredictable effects on other ecosystems; therefore, possible impacts need careful consideration and analysis. This may require new arrangements or ways of organization for institutions involved in decision-making to make, if necessary, appropriate compromises.

The collection, treatment, and disposal of ML involve considerable economic and environmental costs. Generating less ML would therefore be better both for the economy and the environment of the region.

Litter in the marine environment gives rise to a wide range of economic and social impacts and negative environmental effects are often also interrelated and frequently dependent upon one another (Ten Brink *et al.*, 2009). Ghost fishing, for example, can result in harm to the environment, economic losses to fisheries, and reduced opportunities for recreational fishing (Macfayden *et al.*, 2009). Our understanding of these impacts remains limited, particularly for socio-economic effects. For the European commission, the total costs of marine litter is estimated at 263 million euros (Arcadis, 2014), with a value for the closed Mediterranean Sea likely even more important due to the population in the region, maritime traffic, and tourism. The social impacts of marine litter are rooted in the ways in which marine litter affects people's quality of life and include reduced recreational opportunities, loss of aesthetic value, and loss of non-use value (Cheshire *et al.*, 2009).

In the Mediterranean, there is little or no reliable data on what the exact costs are. Furthermore, the loss of tourism and related revenues due to marine litter both on the beaches and in the sea, although recognized and considered, has not been quantified in detail. Economic impacts are most often described as including the loss of aesthetic value and visual amenity, discouraging users in polluted areas (Ballance *et al.*, 2000), the loss of non-use value (Mouat *et al.*, 2010), public health and safety impacts (extent and frequency of incidents), navigational hazards (fouling and entanglement in derelict fishing gear, burnt out water pumps, collisions with large marine litter can damage, etc.) that are often unreported, and impacts on fishing, fishing boats, and fishing gears (cleaning), as well as the costs that burden local authorities and other bodies for monitoring and clean-ups.

In practice, the wide diversity of impacts makes measuring the full economic cost resulting from marine litter extremely complex (Mouat *et al.*, 2010). Direct economic impacts such as increased litter cleansing costs are clearly easier to assess than the economic implications of ecosystem degradation or reduced quality of life due to the wide variety of approaches for valuing the environment and detrimental anthropogenic impacts.

Cost-effectiveness

The costs related to the pollution of coastal and oceans waters due to ML are significant and are related to:

(i) Litter cleansing costs:

- (ii) Losses to tourism: Marine litter can reduce tourism revenue and consequently weaken coastal economies.
- (iii) Losses to fisheries. Marine litter has a twofold impact on fisheries by increasing costs to fishing vessels as well as reducing potential catches and revenue through ghost fishing. The direct costs include repairing damage to the vessel and equipment, disentangling fouled propellers, replacing lost gear, lost earnings from reduced fishing time, restricted and/or contaminated catch, and cleaning of nets. Studies in Northern Europe demonstrated experienced losses reaching 25-40000 € per vessel/year (Mouat *et al.*, 2010).
- (iv) Losses to aquaculture: Entangled propellers and blocked intake pipes present the most common problems for aquaculture operators and can result in costly repairs and lost time (UNEP, 2009). In addition, the time required to remove debris floating in or around stock cages and to clean nets can represent a significant cost to aquaculture organisations, ranging around 1 hour per month for cleaning, with a cost of up to 1500€ per incident (Hall, 2000).
- (v) Costs to shipping: Costs from marine litter are a result of vessel damage and downtime (Ten Brink *et al.*, 2009), litter removal (manual or not) and management in harbours and marinas (UNEP, 2009), and emergency rescue operations to vessels (pleasure or commercial) stricken by marine litter (Macfayden *et al.*, 2009). However, the vast majority of incidents are unreported.
- (vi) Costs to power stations: The effects of marine litter on power stations can include the blockage of cooling water intake screens, an increased removal of debris from screens, and additional maintenance costs (Mouat *et al.*, 2010).
- (vii) Ecosystem degradation: The potential for marine litter to contribute to ecosystem deterioration is a critical concern. However, damage is extremely complex to evaluate and has not been addressed by research. Establishing what the long-term effects of marine litter will be on the environment is similarly highly complex and difficult to translate in terms of costs.

Therefore actions of this project are estimated to be highly cost-effective. The implementation of this project will thus reap benefits in the three dimensions of sustainable development. The failure to act has negative impacts to the people, the environment and the economy.

Environmental Rule of Law

This project will support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and enhance the compliance of its Contracting Parties with the provisions of the LBS Protocols in specifically with the obligations of the ML Regional Plan.

Implementation of measures and development of the Guidelines create real opportunity for public participation and access to information. In addition, through the strengthening of a regional network/forum of policy makers, the private sector, NGOs and international/regional organizations, linked to GPML, the project provides an avenue for public participation of various stakeholders concerned with marine litter management. In addition, the project's goal of raising awareness and facilitating exchange of good practices to address the marine litter challenge directly enhances access to information pursuant to Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention.

The project, through improved ML management, also seeks to improve human health and wellbeing, as well as sea water quality, all of which are closely linked with human rights and the environment..

Project Sustainability Strategy

This project will be implemented by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (through its MED POL Programme) in cooperation with three MAP Regional Activity Centres and other partners with strong comparative advantages based on clear mandates.

All stakeholders that will be involved do have the capacity to fully contribute to project implementation. An important sustainability dimension comes from the fact that other marine litter projects or projects contributing to marine litter reduction and prevention are ongoing in the region and or will supported in the future due to the fact that ML is a common regional and national priority for many countries.

The project results will be fully used by the beneficiary countries and acknowledged and or endorsed by MAP /Barcelona Convention decision making bodies and as appropriate by other bodies (i.e the guidelines).

Project Replicability and Mainstreaming Strategy

The project will deliver guidelines subject to adoption by the decision making bodies of the MAP system for use and implementation by the countries and partners. Strong linkages will be secured with GPA and its project on ML to ensure synergies, to benefit to the extent possible from the work carried out from other regional seas and share relevant products. Every effort will be made to ensure that the exit of this project become the start of other national and or regional/sub regional projects to upscale the action on marine litter in the Mediterranean.

Public Awareness, Communications Strategy

The objective is to promote the visibility of the project activities at the widest possible regional and national levels and through appropriate tools and events. A strong link with the communication activities would be ensured, aligning the project implementation with other relevant UNEP/MAP products and assessments, as well as with UNEP-MAP Information and Communication Strategy, and in liaison with the relevant RACs as needed. All project activities and deliverables should follow the EU Guidelines for communication and visibility of EU-funded projects. The project plans to also publish in UNEP/MAP website the guidelines that will be prepared under the project.

Use of Legal Instruments

The range of legal instruments commonly used by UNEP, such as consultancies, internal and external cooperation agreements will be used to execute project activities:

- with institutions to assist in providing technical and logistical support.;
- for individual contracts to provide technical expertise and support to initiative activities and documentation;
- with institutions to define strategic alliances for long-term collaboration on various activities;
- for inter-UNEP project implementation;
- with donors for shared funds and obligations; and
- any other deemed necessary.

Project Implementation Structure

The Project organization has assigned roles and responsibilities with respect to:

- Project governance (Project Steering Committee) and links to external partners,
- Project management both on the UNEP MAP (Project Manager) and any partner organizations side, and

Project Management

UNEP rules and regulations will be applied on the management of the Project.

MED POL Programme as part of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat will be responsible for coordination, management, monitoring, supervising and evaluating the implementation of the project as well as implementing some of the activities. UNEP/MAP RACs will implement several project activities. UNEP/MAP RACs will also nominate responsible officers for their respective activities. Where necessary, consultants will be recruited to assist project management and needed activities in line with applicable UNEP rules.

MED POL Programme

In addition, MED POL will lead the implementation of all activities under output 3 of the project, and activities related to FfL, oversees activities related to IMAF common indicator 18 and the non single use plastic bags under output 1 and 2 of the project.

The MED POL Programme (the marine pollution assessment and control component of MAP) is responsible for the follow up work related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (1980, as amended in 1996), and of the dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols. MED POL assists Mediterranean countries in the formulation and implementation of pollution monitoring and assessment programmes, as well as pollution control measures, including drafting of action plans aiming to eliminate pollution from land-based sources.

Three Regional Activity Centres (RACs) will play a critical role in the implementation.

Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC's objective is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2016 which key objectives and targets are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025. The Centre also assists the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol. REMPEC is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

REMPEC will specifically lead the activities under outputs 1 and 2 related to better management of sea-based litter in ports as well as contribute to output 3.

Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production

SCP/RAC will specifically lead the activities under output 1 and 2 related to pilots and guidelines addressing prevention, EPR and banning of single use of plastic bags as well as contribute to output 3.

The Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) is a centre for international cooperation with Mediterranean countries on development and innovation in the production sector and civil society, based on more sustainable consumption and production models. The Centre is based in Barcelona, Spain and it is hosted by the Catalan Waste Agency, a public service agency considered a reference organization in waste prevention and management and the promotion of eco-design and circular economy (<http://residus.gencat.cat/en/index.html>)

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), Tunisia

SPA/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol, especially in regard to developing and promoting Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity

SCP/RAC will specifically co lead the activities under output 1 and 2 related to the work addressing IMAP common indicator 18 as well as contribute to output 3.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC will have overall responsibility for project activities. It will provide strategic guidance and oversight and approve the work plans and budgets. The members of the PSC will include a representative of European Union, the chair of MED POL FP meeting, the MED POL Programme Officer and the UNEP/MAP Coordinator (Chairperson). The PSC will meet annually. As need be, upon agreement by the SC, the directors of the relevant MAP components (RACs) will be invited to attend the SC to report the status of the activities under their implementation. Additional meetings based on the requirements of the Project may be convened exceptionally. The meetings will be convened by the Chairperson. For emergency issues the PSC may conduct its business electronically. The agenda and supporting documentation will be prepared and disseminated by the UNEP MAP MED POL Programme. PSC members may make requests for items to be included on the agenda. The quorum of the PSC will consist of all the committee members.

The primary responsibilities of the PSC will be to:

- Review and endorse the Annual Work Plan and Budget submitted by project coordinator; ensure their conformity with the requirements of the EU Fund; ensure the quality of project documents to receive funding from the Fund.
- Discuss the project requirements and priorities concerning, inter alia:
 - project management, including consistent and common approaches to project costing, cost recovery, implementation modalities, results-based reporting and impact assessment,
 - information management, including appropriate Fund and donor visibility.
- Ensure that appropriate consultative processes takes place with key stakeholders at the regional level in order to avoid duplication or overlap between the Fund and other funding mechanisms.
- Approve the reporting mechanism for the project

4 Risk Analysis

General success factors for the project include:

- Adequate resources to undertake the activities and meet the expectation of key stakeholders supporting the process;
- Commitment and engagement of key stakeholders in the process;
- Effective and transparent coordination and management between UNEP staff and partners in the region;
- Effective support and delivery of administrative services in UNEP and UNON;
- Shared sense of responsibility and commitment for uptake of the concepts and best practices by the convened parties;
- Due to national focus of certain sub-activities the results will also depend on geo-political and social stability.

Critical Success Factors

One critical success factor is that the project meets the needs of the Contracting Parties. Another is that it does not compete for resources by duplicating the work of other projects. This project is designed based on the explicit commitment of the governments¹³ and other key stakeholders, and builds upon priorities identified in the ML Regional Plan/NAPs and UNEP/MAP Mid Term Strategy. Furthermore, this project aims to work in conjunction with other projects, e.g., GPA and other Resource Efficiency and Chemical and Waste sub-programmes of UNEP.

Another critical success factor is the willingness of the Contracting Parties to participate in country driven project. This may be constrained by either a political or economic prerogatives or lack of capacity by some countries.

The project implementation will consider these critical factors and make sure that representatives from all levels, regional, national and local governments will be involved from the beginning of the project. The engagement of all stakeholders is an important element of this project, not only for exploring the local knowledge but also for making sure that there is a sense of engagement and ownership over the project at an early stage.

Project Risk Log

RISK LOG						
Risk Description		Category	Impact Severity	Likelihood	Measures	By When/ Whom?
1	Resource availability	Financial/ Organization	High	Low	The funds secured from the EU and complemented with MTF and support from the Partners.	UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL, Key Partners
2	Commitment of target countries	Political	High	Low to Medium	Commitment through the NAPs, ML Regional Plan and 2016 Athens Declaration on COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention	Countries

23	Commitments of partners	Organization	Medium	Low	Partnership of UNEP/MAP with key Project partners is already formalized through bilateral agreements	UNEP/MAP and Key Partners
4	Regional support	Organization	High	Low	UNEP/MAP will continue to provide core resources to carry out the coordination and executing functions	UNEP/MAP-

5 Logical Framework

Table 5: UNEP Logical Framework¹

Relevant accomplishment: Progress towards ML GES and the implementation of the ML Regional Plan through the implementation of selected and common ML measures of the NAPs/Programme of Measures			
Project Outcome	Indicators	Means of Verification	
Substantive progress achieved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the implementation of the ML Regional Plan and the relevant part of the updated NAPs, in synergy with H2020 initiative and EU MSFD.	<p><i>1. Progress achieved towards reduction of ML items, quantities and impacts</i></p> <p><i>2. Capacities of local stakeholders enhanced to effectively address marine litter</i></p>	<p><i>Decision IG 22/10 of COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention</i> “Implementing the Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean (Fishing for Litter Guidelines, Assessment Report, Baselines Values, and Reduction Targets)”. <i>Reports of ML monitoring data in 2019 submitted by the Contracting Parties</i></p>	
Project milestones that show progress towards achieving the project outcome			Expected Milestone Delivery Date
M 1 First Progress report on selected measures and related monitoring plans, Report of Marine Litter Coordination Group (CG) and Project Steering Committee (PSC)			December 2016
M 2 Progress Report on implementation of selected measures			June 2017
M 3 ML guidelines delivered and used by the countries in implementing best practices , Report of ML Coordination Group and SC			December 2017
M 4 Second Progress Report on implementation of selected measures			June 2018
M 5 Overall progress towards ML reduction targets linked to the implementation of agreed measures and based on the ML IMAP indicators, Report of ML CG and SC			December 2018
M 6 Public and stakeholder access to information on measures taken by the Contracting Parties and partners in implementing the ML			June 2019
M 7 Final report, Report of the PSC			December 2019
2. Project Outputs:	Indicators	Means of Verification	PoW-EA Output
A) Assisting the implementation of the ML Regional Plan at sub-regional levels with a particular focus on the up to five most common	<p><i>Reports submitted by the CP on implementation of ML measures</i></p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p><i>Target 7 Country reports</i></p>	<p><i>CP Reports on the implementation of NAPs and ML Regional Plan</i></p>	<i>2.1.1</i>

ML measures provided in the updated NAPs.			
Project output Milestones:			Expected Milestone Delivery Date
M 1.1 Pilots defined and agreements signed with target countries, including the Monitoring Plans			December 2016
M 1.2 Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighbourhood countries submit first reports on the implementation of the ML RP/selected measures			June –December 2017
M 1.3 Regional Meeting to review implementation of selected measures/demonstrations at sub regional/national levels implemented at national/sub regional levels and exchange best practices (linked with M2.3)			June 2018
M 1.4 Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighbourhood countries submit reporting on the implementation of the ML RP			December 2018
B) Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional level to reduce and prevent ML generation from land-based and sea-based sources	<i>ML Guidelines developed</i> <i>Baseline 2</i> <i>Target 7</i>	<i>Reports of Meetings reviewing and approving the Guidelines</i>	<i>2.2.1</i>
Project Milestones:			Expected Milestone Delivery Date
M 2.1 <i>State of play Report on existing and gaps related to specific guidelines on ML as provided for in Article 14 of the ML Regional Plan</i>			<i>December 2016</i>
M 2.2 <i>Firs drafts of up to 5 best practices/guidelines updated or newly developed addressing specific sectors to prevent and or reduce ML</i>			<i>June 2017</i>
M 2.3 <i>Regional expert Meeting(s) to review the Guidelines/Best practices/Guides (linked with M 2.3)</i>			<i>June 2018</i>
M 2.4 <i>Guidelines tested at country level for enhancing implementation of selected relevant measures</i>			<i>December 2018</i>
M 2.5 <i>Final Regional Meeting to review and approve the Guidelines/Best practices/Guides</i>			<i>June 2019</i>
C) Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the ML Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, with a particular focus on the	<i>Mediterranean Coordination Group on ML established and Operational</i> <i>At least one meeting per year held</i> <i>Baseline 0</i> <i>Bilateral Committee UNEP/MAP Black Sea Commission operational</i> <i>Number of bilateral meetings</i>	<i>Report of each meeting and joint work plan</i> <i>Report of bilateral meetings and joint work plan</i>	<i>1.3.1</i>

collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.	<i>Baseline 0</i> <i>Target Two meetings held</i> <i>Joint activities, including the preparation of guidelines held</i> <i>Baseline 0</i> <i>Target 4</i>		
Project Milestones:			Expected Milestone Delivery Date
M 3.1 Annual ML Mediterranean Coordination Group led by UNEP/MAP set up	<i>September 2016</i> <i>December 2017</i> <i>June 2018</i> <i>June 2019</i>		
M 3.2 <i>Bilateral Committee on ML set up between UNEP/MAP and Black Sea Commission including an agreed work plan</i>	<i>December 2016</i> <i>June 2017</i> <i>June 2018</i> <i>June 2019</i>		
M 3.3 Joint workplan with European Regional Seas on common activities	<i>December 2016</i>		
M 3.4 <i>Joint events/activities reported yearly</i>	<i>December 2016</i> <i>June 2017</i> <i>June 2018</i> <i>June 2019</i>		

6 Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring Plan

Progress & Financial Report

The Project will follow UNEP standard processes and procedures including for reporting and evaluation.

Reporting is an integral part of the UNEP Project Manager's responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.

A unified half-yearly 'Progress & Financial Report' will be submitted to the relevant Programme Framework Coordinating Division in an electronic format with a copy to QAS by:

- 31 July for the period between 1 January and 30 June or parts thereof for any given year **AND** by
- 31 January for the period between 1 July and 31 December or parts thereof for any given year.
- The last Progress & Financial Report (Final Report) must be submitted within 60 days of Project Closure.

Monitoring

Activity reports

On a half-year basis monitoring and evaluation information will be collected from partners and analyzed by the project coordinator and submitted to the UNEP/MAPCoordinator. Activities will be monitored against the Logical Framework and Objectively Verifiable Indicators. Moreover, the activity reports should include: progress achieved in the planned activities, targets reached, problems encountered and actions taken to overcome the difficulties and expenditures incurred. If deviations from planned project progress are detected corrective actions will be taken.

Final report

Within 60 days of the completion of the project, a final report will be prepared by Project Manager/Officer using the format required.

Administrative financial reports

Administrative and financial evaluation is to be conducted according to the UN Rules and Regulations and includes a final project evaluation.

The programme officers will regularly communicate with project partners to follow up with them on project expenditures. Project partners will submit financial reports to the project coordinator based on the schedule outlined in the project documents agreed. A final expenditure account will be prepared jointly with the programme officers within 90 days of the end of the project.

External evaluation

It will be carried out at the end of the project.

Indicators

The indicators proposed for the monitoring and evaluation are measurable (both by its nature and due to availability of information sources) and reflect desired expected accomplishments of the project. They are presented in the logical framework matrix.

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation

The project will be externally evaluated according to UNEP's standard procedures. The evaluation will use the indicators defined in the log-frame matrix as indicators on to what extent the project contributes to the global consensus and promotion of tools and training approaches, in striving towards global consensus.

The funds for evaluation of activities is included in the project budget, and will cover a desk study, on line data collection, and a representative number of missions to conduct face-to-face interviews.

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO ¹	Partner (s)	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
4)	Organise national meetings to raise awareness on the need to better manage sea-based litter in ports and 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.	MEDPOL	REMPEC														
5)	Undertake an assessment of national regulatory frameworks in five countries and develop where appropriate the required legal and regulatory framework to introduce the non-single use of plastic bags	MEDPOL	MED POL														
6)	Organize national meetings to raise awareness on prevention of ML and the need to promote extended producer responsibility with regards to plastic and microplastic production and consumption as well as circular economy with a particular focus on non-single use of plastic bags	MEDPOL	SCP/RAC														
7)	Organize a regional/subregional workshop to share best practices on EPR and non-single use of plastic bags	MEDPOL	SCP/RAC														
8)	Develop a risk assessment tool for identifying accumulations of ghosts nets	MEDPOL	MEDPOL														
9)	Organize Regional/Sub-regional workshop with targeted groups on the FfL guidelines and sharing of best practices	MEDPOL	MEDPOL														
10)	Select and implement FfL pilots in three areas and update the Guidelines	MEDPOL	MEDPOL and targeted countries														
11)	Organize the final Regional/Subregional Meeting to share the lessons learnt and submit reports on the implementation of the FfL Guide.	MEDPOL	MEDPOL and targeted countries														
12)	Prepare ToRs for adopt a beach system and regular beach clean-up and monitoring plans	MEDPOL	Other RSC														
12)	Select in collaboration with national authorities two beaches per target country and implement 10 pilots	MEDPOL	MEDPOL														

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO ¹	Partner (s)	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
5)	Draft template of legislation/regulation on the non-single use of plastic bags and Extended Producer responsibility	MEDPOL	SCP/RAC MEDPOL													
6)	Draft specific guidelines, awareness and training material to prevent the generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter with a particular focus on non-single use of plastic bags	MEDPOL	SCP/RAC													
7)	Organise regional and sub-regional expert meetings to review the guidance documents/guidelines for submission to MAP decision making bodies	MED POL	MED POL and the RACs													
C	Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the ML Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, with a particular focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.	MED POL														
1	Establish and support a Mediterranean ML regional Coordination Group(annual meetings)	UNEP/ MAP MED POL	Coordination Group													
2	Support the establishment of an interregional ML coordination and consultation mechanism with the other European Regional Seas (annual meetings)	UNEP/ MAP MED POL	European Regional Seas and RACs													
3	Strengthen the database of existing tools, expert networks, associations and organisations addressing ML management and of programmes of measures implemented in the Mediterranean	MED POL	Coordination Group													
4	Establish bilateral collaboration with Black Sea Commission (biannual meeting)	UNEP/MAP (MEDPOL)	PS of the Black Commission													
5	Support the development Black Sea ML RP	UNEP/MAP (MEDPOL)	PSBS													

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO ¹	Partner (s)	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
6	Support Black sea Commission monitoring programme	UNEP/MAP (MEDPOL)	<i>PSBC</i>													
7	Implement/organise joint activities with other EU Regional Seas Programmes to exchange experience and best practices on the implementation of the ML Regional Plan and development of common tools	UNEP/MAP (MEDPOL)	<i>European Regional Seas, RACs</i>													
8	Project management, reporting and evaluation	UNEP/MAP (MEDPOL)														

1: Must be the Division/Organisational Unit responsible for delivering Project Outputs (all activities below a Project Output fall under that Responsible Division).

2: Shade boxes below depending on the duration of the activity