

Barcelona Convention Policy Advances on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

The Plastic Busters MPAs Capitalization Conference
Athens, Greece, 12-13 April 2022

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



Mediterranean Response

Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

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

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

MEETING

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

7 - 10 December 2021
Antalya , Turkey



BARCELONA CONVENTION
COP22
ANTALYA2021

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

Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter

Mandated during COP21 (Naples, Italy, Dec. 2019) and adopted during **COP22** (Antalya, Turkey, Dec. 2021, Decision IG.25/9)

PART I: General
Provision

PART II:
Measures &
Operational
Targets

PART III:
Assessment of
Marine Litter in the
Mediterranean

PART IV:
Concrete Support
to its
Implementation

PART V: Final
Provisions

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

- ✓ United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions on (i) marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.1/Res.6; UNEP/EA.2/Res.11; UNEP/EA.3/Res.7; UNEP/EA.4/Res.6) (ii) Single-use plastic products pollution (UNEP/EA.4/ Res.9).
- ✓ Upcoming UNEA 5.2 (Feb.–Mar. 2022, Nairobi, Kenya): Resolution aims to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a mandate to negotiate a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution with the objective of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment by covering all stages of the plastic life cycle and by adopting a circular economy approach to plastics.
- ✓ UNEP Marine Litter Partnerships and Initiatives: Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and Clean Seas Campaign
- ✓ IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships
- ✓ Basel Convention - Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP)
- ✓ EU Policies on Marine Litter and Plastic: MSFD, EU Plastics Strategy, New Circular Economy Action Plan, Single-use Plastic Directive, European Green Deal Policy Framework, Waste Framework Directive

International Conventions linked to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

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

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

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

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

**United Nations Convention
on the Law of the Sea**

**London Convention and
Protocol**

**Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals
Management**

**United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate
Change**

**Convention on Biological
Diversity**

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

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

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

- Phase out single use plastic items and promote reuse options;
- Set targets for plastic recycling and other waste items
- Introduce economic instruments such as environmental taxes, bans and design requirements; EPR (land and sea-based sources)
- Promote new technologies and measures for the removal of marine litter;
- Apply preventions measures to achieve a circular economy for plastics;
- Reduce packaging;
- Promote voluntary agreements with industry;
- Take measure to integrate the informal sector into regulated waste collection and recycling schemes
- Strengthen measures related to SCP programmes
- Phase-out chemical additives used in plastic products, in particular those under Stockholm Convention
- Introduce a concrete measures on microplastics reduction
- Implement measure to prevent and reduce ML in MPA
- Minimize the amount of marine litter associated with fishing/aquaculture
- Establish Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes as part of IMAP EO10 including riverine inputs and WWTP
- Enhance Public Awareness and Education
- Include in the SPAMIs measures to combat marine litter



Added Value of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Reflects and addresses recent directions by UNEA resolutions, global conventions and regional initiatives;
- Encompasses substantive elements and lessons learnt over the 2013 version of Regional Plan;
- In support of implementation of its activities, the PoW (2022-2023) allocates approximately USD 235,000. These are included under:
 - Outcome 1.1 of MTS: Strategies and Action plan addressing marine litter and plastics developed and implemented through comprehensive, coherent and collaborative approaches
 - Outcome 5.4 of MTS: Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface
 - Outcomes 6.2 and 6.3 of MTS: Science-based implementation of IMAP
- Resource mobilization (e.g., Marine Litter MED II, EcAp MED III, IMAP-MPA, WES, and Plastic Busters Project; and the Cooperation with the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition).

Legal Implications of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management (2021)

- The majority of deadlines for implementation of measures are for 2025.
- The year 2025 constitutes an important milestone in the implementation of the Regional Plan as it coincides with the commitments under SDG 14 and the Naples Declaration.

Achievements of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter

- Development and implementation of National Monitoring Programmes for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators (CI22 and CI23).
- Effect of Marine Litter on Biota: development of IMAP Cand. Ind. 24 (Reg. Operational Strategy, Protocols, and under development (pilot) Nat. Monitoring Programmes, BV-TV).
- Assessment Criteria: ML Baseline and Threshold Values (BV-TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 22 adopted by COP22 and for CI23 will be concluded within 2022.
- 19 National Action Plans (NAPs)/ Programmes of Measures (PoMs).
- Banning of single-use plastic bags in 17 Mediterranean Countries (Regulations/National Laws including total and partial bans, taxes/levies).
- Phase-out SUP items & ML Guidelines (work beyond plastic bags).
- Recycling: Legislations and Policies in 8 Mediterranean Countries.
- More than 20 Marine Litter Pilots in 9 (non-EU) Countries.
- Regional Cooperation Platform - Civil Society & NGO Involvement & Industry (updated approved joint work plan for 2022-2023).
- Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter.

Thank you



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