

SMILE Project International Conference

25 May 2016

Rome, Italy

Marine litter

Introductory remarks

UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat



United Nations Environment Programme /
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention

Background

Barcelona Convention (BC) and its Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) and other six Protocols

- Contracting Parties to BC adopted **the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in December 2013**
- The Plan came into force **on 8 July 2014 for all parties to the LBS Protocol** and it:
 - provides Mediterranean **countries with a framework** to elaborate national policies and action plans to address impacts of marine litter
 - creates momentum for addressing litter-related marine and coastal pollution in an integrated manner **including socio economic aspects and all related legal provisions under the BC and its Protocols**



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Why a Regional Plan on ML in the Mediterranean?

- The Mediterranean sea is a strongly affected area (in the world)
 - *A closed basin*
 - *ML is diverse; 75% of plastic*
 - *An estimated 36,5 tons of plastic generated*
 - *An estimated of 0,731 tons of plastic littered every day*
 - *Cigarette butts may reach 40% of total beach litter*
 - *30 % of world maritime traffic in the Mediterranean (litter from shipping is estimated in the range of one million every year)*
 - *Most elevated mean micro-particles densities are in the Mediterranean above 1 000 000 items/km² in the southern Adriatic)*
 - *Most litter transported to coastal canyons*
 - *Microplastic/litter Impacts on marine organisms and food chain to be further investigated and monitored*



Why the Regional Plan on ML in the Mediterranean?

- The Mediterranean sea is a strongly affected area (in the world)
 - *Sources are variable*
 - *Rivers,*
 - *Tourism, maritime transport,*
 - *Municipal waste and discharges,*
 - *Fishing,*
 - *Aquaculture*
 - *Industry and related discharges*
 - *Harm includes entanglement and ingestion of species (Environment)*
 - *Transport of species including pathogen for fish (Health)*
 - *Some possible accumulation areas overall the Med (ML hotspots) (health and environment)*
 - *Marine litter degrades to microparticles (health, marine organisms, and food chain)*



Commitments under the Regional Plan

- Prevent and reduce to the minimum marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean
- Remove to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally sound methods
- Enhance knowledge on marine litter
- Bring management of marine litter in the Mediterranean in line with accepted international standards and approaches

Main requirements set in Article 9 and 10 for a set of combined traditional and innovative/preventive measures



Overall: The MAP/BC ML Regional Response

1. Normative: ML Regional Plan (LBS Protocol)
2. COP 19 decision: 20% target by 2024
(beach litter reduction)
3. IMAP (Marine Litter section 3 indicators and ML Master list)
4. Regional plan on SCP with ML prevention objectives
5. Regional Strategy to combat pollution from ships)
addressing options for no special fee system
7. Assessment: 2015 ML Report
8. Awareness-raising, best practices promotion
9. Partnerships and Projects
10. Linkages with global partnerships and
contiguous Regional Seas



2016 Athens Ministerial Declaration:
A renewed commitment of UNEP/MAP including on ML



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Thank you



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