



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.526/4



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

18 April 2022  
Original : English

---

**Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices  
(Organized back to back with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy)**

Seville, Spain, 17-18 May 2022

**Agenda item 4: Best Practices Addressing the New Elements of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**

**Contribution from the Plastic Busters MPAs project to the Barcelona Convention ECAP process and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean: presentation of the policy recommendations in order to move forward towards GES for D10 (Marine litter).**

For environmental and cost-saving 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.

## Table of Contents

<b>List of Abbreviations / Acronyms</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Objective</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Context</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. About Plastic Busters MPAs</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4. The Plastic Busters MPAs featured marine litter prevention and mitigation measures</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5. Policy Recommendations for the implementation of Part II - Measures and Operational Targets: Article 9 and 10 and Part III Assessment: Articles 11 and 12 of Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (RAP)</b> .	<b>7</b>
<b>6. Final considerations</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## **List of Abbreviations / Acronyms**

<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Areas
<b>ML</b>	Marine Litter
<b>MSFD</b>	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
<b>RAP:</b>	Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean
<b>SUP</b>	Single-use Plastics
<b>SCP/RAC</b>	Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and
Production (SCP/RAC)	
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## 1. Objective

1. The aim of this document is to provide key messages and recommendations to tackle Marine Litter in and around Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or SPAMI areas, emanating from the analysis of the results, findings and outcomes of the Plastic Busters MPAs project. These recommendations will guide the implementation of agreed measures of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The knowledge and experiences gained by the Plastic Busters MPAs which tested marine litter mitigation measures in Mediterranean MPAs, provide lessons to guide future aspirations and challenges.
2. Likewise, these recommendations will contribute to pave the way towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) and in particular Descriptor D10 on marine litter. They are addressed to policy and decision-makers representing Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention level. Notwithstanding, other stakeholders involved in marine litter management will benefit from this work.
3. In addition to the Plastic Busters MPAs, this working document also considered the best measures addressing Marine Litter in Mediterranean Islands capitalised under the BeMed Islands Community, led by SCP/RAC.

## 2. Context

4. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the areas most affected by marine litter worldwide. Marine litter is found lying on the shores, as well as floating anywhere from the surface to the bottom of the sea. Even in pristine environments of the Mediterranean, such as coastal and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), marine litter is building up threatening habitats and species. Impacts vary from entanglement and ingestion to bio-accumulation and bio-magnification of toxic substances released from litter items, facilitation of introduction of invasive species, damages to benthic habitats, etc.
5. The Mediterranean Sea is at the same time a marine biodiversity hotspot. Though it only covers 0.3% of the world's ocean volume, it is one of the major reservoirs of biodiversity, with more than 17,000 species inventoried. This corresponds to 4-18% (according to taxonomic group) of the world's known marine species. It is therefore urgent to increase efforts to tackle effectively Marine Litter within MPAs.
6. MPA managers stand at the forefront of this issue, and sadly they lack the tools, knowledge, and often the resources to effectively tackle it. As a result, the achievement of the conservation goals set is hampered.

## 3. About Plastic Busters MPAs

7. Plastic Busters MPAs<sup>1</sup> (PB MPAs), is a 4-year-long Interreg Mediterranean funded project (activities concluded in April 2022) aiming to contribute to maintaining biodiversity and preserving natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal marine protected areas by defining and implementing a harmonized approach against marine litter. The project entailed actions addressing the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation, as well as actions to strengthen networking between and among pelagic and coastal MPAs.
8. The Plastic Busters MPAs project consolidated Mediterranean efforts against marine litter by:
  - Assessing the impacts of marine litter on biodiversity in MPAs and identifying marine litter 'hotspots';
  - Defining and testing tailor-made marine litter surveillance and prevention and

---

<sup>1</sup> Plastic Busters MPAs project: <https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu/>

- mitigation measures to tackle marine litter in MPAs;
- Developing a common framework of marine litter actions for Interreg Mediterranean regions towards conserving biodiversity in Med MPAs.

9. The Plastic Busters MPAs project deployed the multidisciplinary strategy and common framework of activities developed within the Plastic Busters initiative, labelled under the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in 2016, capturing the political support of 43 Euro-Mediterranean countries. The project is also part of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community<sup>2</sup> (MBPC) which objective is to strengthen networking and linkages among Interreg Med community institutions and projects towards common identified strategic targets.

---

<sup>2</sup> Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community: <https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/>

#### 4. The Plastic Busters MPAs featured marine litter prevention and mitigation measures

10. Marine litter prevention and mitigation actions<sup>3</sup> lay at the heart of the Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs project. Working for and from the perspective of an MPA manager, Plastic Busters MPAs sought to offer concrete solutions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of marine litter by showcasing marine litter measures in 9 Mediterranean MPAs, listed below:

<b>National Marine Park of Zakynthos</b>	GREECE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promoting SUPs-free beaches</li> </ul>
<b>Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas</b>	GREECE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing an awareness raising campaign for cigarette-butt free beaches</li> </ul>
<b>Miramare MPA</b>	ITALY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promoting the sustainable management of mussel farming nets</li> </ul>
<b>Pelagos Sanctuary</b>	ITALY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up a SUPs-free network of coastal food and beverage outlets</li> </ul>
<b>Tuscan Archipelago National Park</b>	ITALY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up a SUPs-free network of coastal food and beverage outlets</li> </ul>
<b>Strunjan Landscape Park</b>	SLOVENIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up a SUPs-free network of coastal food and beverage outlets</li> <li>▶ Setting up the adopt-a-beach scheme</li> </ul>
<b>Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park</b>	SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing a network of collection points for beverage containers</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Park of Ebro Delta</b>	SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up a reusable cup delivery system for beach bars and festivals</li> </ul>
<b>Cabrera National Park</b>	SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promoting best practices for reducing the use of SUPs</li> </ul>

11. The collective experience of the pilot actions tested in Plastic Busters MPAs provided better insight and identified the main lines of action in MPAs that may underpin the implementation of policy recommendations for further enforcement regarding tested marine litter prevention and mitigation measures.

<sup>3</sup> D.4.6.2 The Plastic Busters MPAs showcases on how to prevent and mitigate marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs: [https://interreg-med.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Sites/Biodiversity\\_Protection/Projects/PlasticBusters\\_MPA/Deliverables/WP4/PBM\\_Deliverable\\_4.6.2\\_DEMOS\\_SYNTHESIS\\_REPORT\\_01.pdf](https://interreg-med.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Sites/Biodiversity_Protection/Projects/PlasticBusters_MPA/Deliverables/WP4/PBM_Deliverable_4.6.2_DEMOS_SYNTHESIS_REPORT_01.pdf)

12. The measures tested in the pilots MPAs were clustered as follows:

- Setting up a scheme to phase out the use of single-use plastics;
- Developing awareness-raising campaigns;
- Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme;
- Implementing the extended producer responsibility scheme

13. These tested measures serve potentially as catalysts to up-scaling and replication of the tested marine litter solutions in around all the coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea (including MPAs and islands).

**5. Policy Recommendations for the implementation of Part II - Measures and Operational Targets: Article 9 and 10 and Part III Assessment: Articles 11 and 12 of Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (RAP)**

14. The potential contribution from the project to the ongoing efforts agreed upon in the updated Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean approved by COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021) and in particular to the Part II - Measures and Operational Targets: Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter and Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal are presented in the table 1. Table 2 presents the contributions of the project to *Part III – Assessment: Article 11 – Assessment of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean and Article 12 - Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme*. The table is structured around the following structure:

- The first column includes articles of the updated Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean<sup>4</sup> and
- the second includes the Tested measures & Findings from the project and
- the third one provides Policy Recommendations & Key Messages in order to move forward towards GES for descriptor 10 (Marine litter).

15. These efforts are also complemented by the BeMed-Islands Community<sup>5</sup> initiatives in Mediterranean islands. The important impacts of waste and mass tourism make these bounded territories excellent pilot sites to experiment actions to tackle marine litter. The CapiMed Islands project, a capitalisation process is being conducted to maximize the project impacts, including on regional policies such as the Barcelona Convention and therefore some examples are also included in the following tables as part of the practical evidence and experiences that converge to similar findings and support target policy recommendations. A policy brief<sup>6</sup> depicts particular projects and action responding to commitments of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

---

<sup>4</sup> Updated Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean  
[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37131/21ig25\\_27\\_2509\\_eng.pdf](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37131/21ig25_27_2509_eng.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> BeMed-Islands Community initiatives: <https://www.beyondplasticmed.org/en/projects/>

<sup>6</sup> Policy brief December 2021 COP22 of the Barcelona Convention and marine litter: Contribution from BeMed-Islands: <https://www.beyondplasticmed.org/en/resources/awareness-raising-tools/policy-brief/>

**Table 1: Proposal of Plastic Busters MPAs Recommendations regarding article 9 and 10 of the RAP**

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<i>In conformity with the objectives and principles of the Regional Plan the Contracting Parties shall:15.1 Apply to the extent possible instruments needed to regulate and prevent marine litter pollution including plastic waste from land-based and sea-based sources, in particular the implementation of economic instruments, bans and design requirements:</i>		
<i>a) Extended Producer Responsibility;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up a reusable cup delivery system for beach bars: practice implemented at the Natural Park of the Ebro Delta (Spain) and National Marine Park of Zakynthos (Greece) <sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Developing a network of collection points for beverage containers made of PET and aluminium at Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, Spain <sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enforce the establishment of a deposit-refund scheme.</li> <li>➤ Avoid use of SUP items in MPAs, include it in concessions and permits of beach bars and festivals by local responsible authorities.</li> </ul>
<i>b) Safe/formal markets for recycled plastics that incentivize the collection of plastic waste and, hence, reduce marine litter generation;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public authorities to draft legislation and action plans to address SUPs. For Plastic Free Croatian Islands<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>• Public events without single-use plastics (adopted by local authorities). For Plastic Free Croatian Islands<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>• Work with authorities to prepare the waste legislation. SOS Mediterranean: for a plastic-free sea (Balearic Islands, Spain)<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Promotion of best practices to reduce significantly and/or phase out items addressed by the Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fiscal Incentives for recreation related businesses investing in environmentally friendly techniques</li> <li>➤ Promote the establishment of a strategic plan of actions for businesses based in MPAs including consumer charges for throw-away cups and containers, plus mandatory reuse.</li> <li>➤ Ban single-use plastic items and packaging from the recreational beaches, and in particular in MPAs.</li> </ul>



Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets		
Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter & Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal		
Actions / Measures	Tested measures & Findings	Policy Recommendations & Key Messages
	<p>Cabrera National Park (Spain)<sup>3</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"SUPs-free Snack Bars" initiative, where beach snack bars voluntarily register on a list and commit themselves to comply with the "Decalogue of Good Environmental Practices". Strunjan Landscape Park Slovenia<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>c) Fiscal and economic incentives or other equally effective measures (e.g. market restrictions) to promote the phasing out, of light weight plastic carrier bags and other single-use plastic items which are most found and cause the most impact on the marine and coastal environment;</i></p>		
<p><i>d) Innovative business practices to prevent plastic waste generation in line with the Extended Producer Responsibility approach by:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary measures at local scale, have been tested such as setting up a deposit-refund scheme for a reusable alternative in collaboration with local businesses. Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park Spain<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote voluntary agreements with retailers and suppliers to reduce packaging and SUP.</li> <li>➤ Certification and awards for businesses, services providers to include specific criteria on single-use.</li> <li>➤ Enhancement of strategies for Extended Producer Responsibility.</li> </ul>
<p><i>i. Establishment of Deposit/Refund System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors.</i></p>		
<p><i>ii. Establishment of Deposit/Refund System for food and beverage packaging, prioritizing when possible their reuse and recycling including deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastic and aluminium).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting up a reusable cup delivery system for beach bars: practice implemented at the Natural Park of the Ebro Delta (Spain) and National Marine Park of Zakynthos (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>a) Best practices to create incentives for:</i></p>		

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<i>i. Fishing vessels to retrieve derelict fishing gear, collect other items of marine litter, and deliver it to port reception facilities;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries &amp; aquaculture related litter: Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>Promotion of sustainable management of mussel farming nets in Miramare MPA (Italy)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a derelict fishing gear management scheme.</li> </ul>
<i>ii. Delivering waste in port reception facilities such as the non-special fee system.</i>		
<i>15.1 Apply by the year 2025, prevention measures aiming to achieve, to the extent possible, a circular economy for plastics:</i>		
<i>a) Regulate the use of primary microplastics, as appropriate, by promoting voluntary commitments (e.g. certification schemes) or other actions (e.g. legal instruments);</i>		
<i>b) Implement Sustainable Procurement Policies prioritizing the phase out of single-use plastic products and promoting reuse options. To this aim, the Contracting Parties may consider the list of Single Use Plastic Items presented in Appendix I to the Regional Plan;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public authorities to draft legislation and action plans to address SUPs. For Plastic Free Croatian Islands<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>Public events without single-use plastics (adopted by local authorities). For Plastic Free Croatian Islands<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>Certification system for tourism businesses and reduction SUP strategies. Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Certification and awards for businesses, services providers to include specific criteria on single-use.</li> <li>➤ Enhancement of strategies for Extended Producer Responsibility.</li> </ul>
<i>c) Establish voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of light weight plastic carrier bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certification system for tourism businesses and reduction SUP strategies. Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Certification and awards for businesses, services providers to include specific criteria on single-use.</li> <li>➤ Formal engagement with businesses in MPAs and signing the SUPs-free ("zero-plastic") commitment</li> </ul>

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<i>d) Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with the plastic industry in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic and reduce microplastic;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local alternatives to single-use plastic . Îles d’Or archipelago and replication in the Mediterranean Sea (France)<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>Guide of honest alternatives to to Single-use Plastics (SUP) for the Hospitality Sector” Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of design of SUP alternatives based on local by-products, promoting local economy and sound solutions.</li> </ul>
<i>e) Identify single-use plastic products which are most found and cause impacts on the marine environment and implement sound measures to phase out consumption and production and minimise the risk to end up in the marine environment. To this aim, the Contracting Parties may consider in addition to the list of Single Use Plastic Items presented in Appendix I, the List of Chemical Additives of Concern Used in Plastic Production in Appendix II to the Regional Plan;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toolkit for monitoring marine litter and its impacts on biodiversity in Mediterranean MPAs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of Marine Litter Action Plans.</li> <li>Use of protocols to implement a harmonized marine litter monitoring strategy.</li> <li>Promotion of regular beach clean-up campaigns.</li> </ul>
<i>f) Set targets to phase out production and use of nonreusable, non-recyclable, and non- compostable plastic products;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tested practices to target tourism and recreation sector with regard to reducing significantly and/or phasing out single-use plastics (SUPs). Demos in Spain, Greece, Slovenia<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>Guide of honest alternatives to to Single-use Plastics (SUP) for the Hospitality Sector” Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation for the use of specific foodware items in beach bars, and ban single-use plastics in particular in beach bars and related business in MPAs. The reusable requirement should apply to utensils, plates, bowls, glasses, bags and cups.</li> </ul>
<i>g) Take adequate measures to increase the reuse and recycling of plastics toward total plastic products;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting up a reusable cup delivery system for beach bars: practice implemented at the Natural Park of the Ebro Delta (Spain) and National Marine Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposit-refund scheme for cups and guidance for business and services with honest alternatives to single-use plastics for different sectors: tourism &amp; recreation, transport, and fisheries sectors operating in the national parks and protected areas.</li> </ul>

Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets		
Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter & Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal		
Actions / Measures	Tested measures & Findings	Policy Recommendations & Key Messages
	<p>of Zakynthos (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide of honest alternatives to Single-use Plastics (SUP) for the Hospitality Sector” Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>h) Phase-out chemical additives used in plastic products, that may have serious and often irreversible effects on human health and the environment, and in particular those chemicals already listed under the Stockholm Convention contained as Annex II of this Regional Plan;</i></p>		
<p><i>i) Promote the use of recycled plastics and disincentivize the use of plastic, resins and additives which hinder products recyclability;</i></p>		
<p><i>j) Endeavor to substitute plastics causing substantial impacts on the marine environment with materials with net positive impacts verified by life cycle assessment;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local alternatives to single-use plastic . Îles d’Or archipelago and replication in the Mediterranean Sea (France)<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>• Guide of honest alternatives to Single-use Plastics (SUP) for the Hospitality Sector” Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	<p>➤ Formal engagement with businesses in MPAs and signing the SUPs-free (“zero-plastic”) commitment.</p>
<p><i>k) Implement standards for product labelling (including on packaging) to provide consumers with clear and reliable information on sustainable choices;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification system for tourism businesses and reduction SUP strategies. Plastic Free Balearics (Spain)<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>• SUPs-free Snack Bars” initiative, where beach snack bars voluntarily register on a list and commit themselves to comply with the “Decalogue of Good Environmental Practices”. Strunjan Landscape Park</li> </ul>	<p>➤ Promote the establishment of a “zero plastic” certification to commit the tourism sector to reduce the use of single-use plastic.</p>

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
	Slovenia <sup>3</sup> .	
<i>l) Establish dedicated collection and recycling schemes supported by Extended Producer Responsibility approach for end-of-life products;</i>		
<i>m) Implement measures to minimize the amount of marine litter associated with fishing/aquaculture;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries &amp; aquaculture related litter: Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>Promotion of sustainable management of mussel farming nets in Miramare MPA (Italy)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a derelict fishing gear management scheme.</li> </ul>
<i>Scale-up and replicate sustainable models providing solutions to reduce single-use plastic products consumption;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All tested measures in the Plastic Busters MPAs project can be scale-up and replicable across the Mediterranean MPAs. “The Plastic Busters MPAs showcases on how to prevent and mitigate marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs”<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement prevention and mitigation measures to tackle marine litter.</li> </ul>
<b>15.1 Land-based Sources</b>		
<i>a) By the year 2025, base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal;</i>		

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<i>b) By the year 2019, implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery;</i>		
<i>c) Take the necessary measures by the year 2020 to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land in the area of the application of this Regional Plan;</i>		
<i>d) Take the necessary measures by 2027 to identify and, to the extent possible, restore and contain, the coastal landfills that are a source of marine litter;</i>		
<i>e) Apply in accordance with national and regional legislation enforcement measures to combat dumping, littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal from land sources in the sea, the coastal zone, marine litter in line with the scope of application of the LBS Protocol in the area of the application of this Regional Plan;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “adopt-a-beach scheme” measure was tested in the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement an “Adopt-a-Beach” scheme.</li> <li>➤ Promotion of regular beach clean-up campaigns.</li> </ul>
<i>f) Taking into consideration the occurrence and extent of marine litter accumulations, identify and assess by the year 2025, impacts of these accumulations in upstream regions of rivers and their tributaries, and apply measures to prevent or reduce their leakage into the Mediterranean, particularly during flood seasons and other extreme weather events;</i>		
<i>g) Apply enforcement measures to prevent, reduce and sanction illegal dumping and illegal littering in accordance with national and regional legislation, in particular on coastal zones</i>		

Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets		
Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter & Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal		
Actions / Measures	Tested measures & Findings	Policy Recommendations & Key Messages
<i>and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan</i>		
<i>15.1 Sea-based Sources</i>		
<i>h) In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, explore and implement by 2017, to the extent possible, ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system. The Contracting Parties shall also take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligations arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field;</i>		.
<i>i) Implement targeted measures by 2025 aiming at preventing and reducing marine litter impact in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs);</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “adopt-a-beach scheme” measure was tested in the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia)<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>• Toolkit for monitoring marine litter and its impacts on biodiversity in Mediterranean MPAs.</li> <li>• All tested measures in the Plastic Busters MPAs project can be scale-up and replicable across the Mediterranean MPAs. “The Plastic Busters MPAs showcases on how to prevent and mitigate marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs”<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promotion of harmonized monitoring programs based on agreed and tested methodologies.</li> <li>➤ Implement prevention and mitigation measures to tackle marine litter.</li> <li>➤ Implement an “Adopt-a-Beach” scheme.</li> </ul>
<i>j) Explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2017 “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced fishing catches through the use of</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a derelict fishing gear management scheme.</li> </ul>

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<i>environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept,” in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector;</i>	<p>fisheries &amp; aquaculture related litter: Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of sustainable management of mussel farming nets in Miramare MPA (Italy)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<i>k) Apply by the year 2020 the cost-effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention;</i>		
<i>l) Take the necessary measures to ensure that cruise ships flying their flag or entering their ports implement the procedures for minimizing, collecting, storing, processing and disposing of garbage;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative work with business sectors such as cruise ships to phase out SUP. Cruise Ships against plastic pollution in the Med (Cyprus)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<i>m) Take the necessary measures to promote best practices to prevent plastic waste and particularly single use plastic products in tourism and leisure activities including cruise shipping, including through regional cooperation;</i>		
<i>Implement measures on prevention, response and remediation regarding litter from maritime accidents, including containers lost at sea</i>		
<b>Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<i>a) Identify, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, accumulations/hotspots of marine litter at sea and implement, as appropriate, national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model for identification of ML hotspot in MPAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promotion of harmonized monitoring programs based on agreed and tested methodologies.</li> </ul>



<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets</b>		
<b>Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter &amp; Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Tested measures &amp; Findings</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<p>b) <i>Implement National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis and evaluate their effectiveness;</i></p> <p>c) <i>Implement Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis driven by beach; concessionaries/managers/ local authorities, including outside the touristic season;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “adopt-a-beach scheme” measure was tested in the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement an “Adopt-a-Beach” scheme.</li> <li>➤ Promotion of regular beach clean-up campaigns.</li> </ul>
<p>d) <i>Participate in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes; e.g. International Coastal Clean-Up Day; the Ocean Day; etc.</i></p> <p>e) <i>Apply as appropriate ‘Adopt-a-Beach’ or similar practices<sup>6</sup> and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “adopt-a-beach scheme” measure was tested in the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promotion of International Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes led by a network of Mediterranean MPAs.</li> <li>➤ Implement an “Adopt-a-Beach” scheme.</li> </ul>
<p>f) <i>Apply Fishing for Litter in an environmentally sound manner, based on agreed guidelines and best practice, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting, recycling and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries &amp; aquaculture related litter: Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>• Promotion of sustainable management of mussel farming nets in Miramare MPA (Italy)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a derelict fishing gear management scheme.</li> </ul>
<p>g) <i>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.</i></p>		
<p>17 <i>The Contracting Parties shall explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2017 the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound</i></p>		

Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean / PART II - Measures and Operational Targets		
Article 9 – Prevention of marine litter & Article 10 - Removing Existing Marine Litter and its Environmentally Sound Disposal		
Actions / Measures	Tested measures & Findings	Policy Recommendations & Key Messages
<i>practices to facilitate clean-up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gear.</i>		
<i>18 The Contracting Parties shall explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2025, targeted activities for the localization and retrieval, and where possible, reuse or recycling of derelict fishing gear including through new environmentally sustainable technologies.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries &amp; aquaculture related litter: Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece)<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>• Promotion of sustainable management of mussel farming nets in Miramare MPA (Italy)<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a derelict fishing gear management scheme</li> </ul>

**Table 2: Proposal of Plastic Busters MPAs Recommendations regarding Articles 11 and 12 of the RAP**

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) PART III - Assessment</b>		
<b>Article 11 – Assessment of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean &amp; Article 12 - Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Findings &amp; Tested Measures</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<b>ARTICLE 11 Assessment of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean</b>		
<i>The Contracting Parties shall assess in the framework of ecosystem approach the state of marine litter, the impact of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment and human health, as well as the socio-economic aspects of marine litter management based on coordinated and, if possible, common agreed methodologies, national monitoring programmes and surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toolkit for monitoring marine litter and its impacts on biodiversity in Mediterranean MPAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement an “Adopt-a-Beach” scheme.</li> <li>➤ Promotion of regular beach clean-up campaigns.</li> <li>➤ Promotion of harmonized monitoring programs based on agreed and tested methodologies</li> </ul>
<i>The Secretariat shall prepare the assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean every six years using results of the national monitoring programmes and applied measures with the view to address priority issues and major information and data gaps, using all other available relevant regional and international data and where appropriate responses by the Contracting Parties to specific marine litter related questionnaires prepared by the Secretariat.</i>	.	
<i>The first Assessment of the state of marine litter in the Mediterranean based on the existing information shall be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties two years after entry into force of the Regional Plan.</i>		
<b>ARTICLE 12 Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme</b>		
<i>a) Prepare the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP);</i>		
<i>b) Establish in the year 2016 the Regional Data Base on Marine Litter which should be compatible with other regional or overarching databases;</i>		
<i>c) Establish by the year 2014 Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, in the framework of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach</i>		
<i>For the purpose of this Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol, the Contracting Parties shall design by the year 2017 National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter.</i>		
<i>The National Monitoring Programmes should address:</i>		
<i>a) The need for harmonization and consistency with the integrated regional monitoring programme based</i>		

<b>Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)</b>		
<b>PART III - Assessment</b>		
<b>Article 11 – Assessment of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean &amp; Article 12 - Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme</b>		
<b>Actions / Measures</b>	<b>Findings &amp; Tested Measures</b>	<b>Policy Recommendations &amp; Key Messages</b>
<i>on ecosystem approach and consistency with other regional seas;</i>		
<i>b) Aspects related to monitoring litter originating from riverine inputs;</i>		
<i>c) The need for litter monitoring in high sensitivity areas (endangered species, key habitats, etc.), and in Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (SPAMIs).</i>		
<i>To this aim, the Secretariat shall prepare, in collaboration with the relevant regional organizations, by the year 2014 the Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes.</i>		

## Final considerations

16. Based on the content of the table above a set of policy recommendations is listed:

- **Promote local and regional legislative framework to tackle marine litter in MPAs**, including: fines for littering in MPAs, ban SUP items from recreational beaches, ban of SUP included in concessions and permits of beach bars and festivals by local responsible authorities.
- **Promote the establishment of Marine Litter Actions Plans** to tackle this issue including specific prevention and mitigation measures.
- **Promote the establishment of a harmonized marine litter monitoring strategy.**
- **Promote the formal engagement with local businesses**, and in particular the tourism sector by signing SUPs-free “Zero Plastic” commitments or giving certification and awards to SUP free businesses.
- **Promotion of honest SUP alternatives based on local by-products.**
- **Enhance strategies for Extended Producer Responsibility**, including the establishment of a deposit-refund scheme to collect beverage containers.
- **Implement an “Adopt-a-Beach” scheme and promote regular beach clean-up campaigns**, including Public awareness-raising activities to communicate about marine litter problem.
- **Enhance the establishment of a derelict fishing gear management scheme:** removal of derelict fishing gear and appropriate sorting and treatment.

17. The intention was to provide policy recommendations toward the improvement of current marine litter and waste management systems in and around MPAs. Measures may be initiated not only by authorities but also by industry and other interest stakeholders.