



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

15 April 2025  
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring  
(CORMON Marine Litter)

Videoconference, 29 January 2025

## **Report of the Meeting**

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## Introduction

1. In accordance with Decision IG.26/14 on “UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2024 – 2025”, and Decision IG.26/3 on “The 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean”, as adopted by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023, including the revision of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and the enhancement of IMAP, UNEP/MAP (MED POL Programme) organized the “Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring” (CORMON Marine Litter) on 29 January 2025, through teleconference.
2. The objectives of the CORMON Marine Litter Meeting, were to review and endorse the:
  - a) Preliminary proposal for revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) on Marine Litter;
  - b) Proposal for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24;
  - c) Proposal for updating the environmental targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter;
  - d) Preliminary elements for an intercalibration exercise for the collection and analyses of floating microplastic samples between Mediterranean laboratories.

## Participation

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, State of Libya, Tunisia, Türkiye, and the European Union. The following representative was present as observer: State of Palestine.
4. The following non-governmental organizations and other institutions were also represented as observers: Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), Youth Loves Egypt (YLE), Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, Surfrider Foundation Europe (SFE), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, WWF Italy, Association of continuity of Generations, Fondazione Marevivo, Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Black Sea Commission's Permanent Secretariat, Turkish Marine Research Foundation, Turkish Shipbuilders' Association.
5. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) was represented by the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL). The following MAP Component also participated in the Meeting: Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC), Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC); Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (PB/RAC), Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC).
6. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting was opened at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, by the MED POL Programme Management Officer, Ms. Olfat Hamdan.
8. In her opening speech, Ms. Olfat Hamdan outlined the meeting's objectives and underscored the crucial role of quality-assured data in achieving the good environmental status of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. She emphasized that the meeting aims to support the

revision of the ecosystem approach policy, particularly for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) and recalled that the initial elements for all Ecological Objectives (EO) of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) were presented during the 11th EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) meeting, held online on 2 October 2024. Furthermore, Ms. Hamdan highlighted the importance of reinforcing national-driven data collection efforts, recognizing their essential contribution to enhancing the monitoring and assessment of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

**Agenda Item 2: Organizational matters**

*a) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting*

9. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols were applied mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

*b) Election of Officer*

10. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned in para. 2(a) for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting elected one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents, and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

|                   |                                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| President:        | Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Senida Dzajic - Rghei |
| Vice President 1: | Tunisia, Mr. Noureddine Zaaboub                   |
| Vice President 2: | Türkiye, Ms. Sevil Öksüz                          |
| Vice President 3: | Cyprus, Mr. Konstantinos Antoniadis               |
| Rapporteur :      | Italy, Mr. Marko Mattidi                          |

*c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*

11. Subject to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure mentioned in para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.601/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.601/2 was reviewed and accepted. The Annotated Agenda was adopted by the Meeting as appended in **Annex II** to the present document.

*d) Organization of Work*

12. The discussions were held in two plenary sessions, from 9:30 to 12:30 and from 14:30 to 17:30.

13. No simultaneous interpretation in English and French was available for all sessions.

14. The Meeting addressed all agenda items during the one-day meeting. The Meeting closed on 29 January 2025 at 17:30 pm after the adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations as appended in Annex III to this present document.

**Agenda Item 3: Proposal for Revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter**

15. Under this agenda item, UNEP/MAP representative presented the Working Documents; UNEP/MED WG.601/3 “Preliminary Proposal for Revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) on Marine Litter” and UNEP/MED WG.601/4 “Proposal for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24”, summarizing the proposal for upgrading Candidate Indicator 24 into a Common Indicator, introducing a new Common Indicator on riverine litter, as well as the proposal for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 (ingestion and entanglement on marine litter).

16. A number of Contracting Parties welcomed the proposal for upgrading IMAP EO 10, in particular through the introduction of 2 Common Indicators (one coming from upgrade, and a new one).

17. Regarding IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, proposed as a Common Indicator, it was noted that this indicator embeds the effect of marine litter on marine biodiversity, so beyond marine turtles, however the current focus will be on marine turtles and in particular ingestion and entanglement. Reference was also made to the report “[Defining the most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator](#)”<sup>1</sup> where a shortlist of the most representative species was prepared including birds, cetaceans, marine turtles, nekto-benthic fishes, demersal fishes, pelagic fishes, molluscs, crustacean and other invertebrates, was agreed.

18. Regarding the new Common Indicator on riverine marine litter (i.e. Common Indicator 23bis), a number of Contracting Parties welcomed the proposal and requested for a number of clarifications:

- a) Whether riverine structures are part of the scope of the Barcelona Convention;
- b) Whether this indicator will be based on the agreed guidelines (UNEP/MED WG.550/14<sup>2</sup>)

19. In response, the Secretariat provided clarification regarding the scope of the “Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and Its Protocols” and particular reference was made on its Article 4 “Protocol Application”, as well as on the fact that the guidelines are in place to serve the implementation of the new Indicator while in parallel considering that the Contracting Parties should choose any of the proposed methodologies (i.e., Sampling floating macro-litter through visual observation, Sampling litter deposited on riverbanks, Sampling microplastics in river outlets with the use of manta net, Sampling microplastics in the water column with the use of a water pump and filtration system).

20. One Contracting Party proposed a slight modification in wording for Common Indicator 23bis, to include reference to microplastics. Further to the approval of the Meeting and as also reflected in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting, the updated wording for this new indicator reads as follows:

Common Indicator 23 (bis): Trends in the amount of litter including microplastics coming from riverine sources (EO10).

21. With regards to the proposal for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 (UNEP/MED WG.601/4), the Meeting welcomed this proposal, agreed on the Methodology and requested the Secretariat to initiate a call for data submission, as well as clearance to provide written comments on the document after the Meeting.

22. A number of Contracting Parties took the floor and provided specific comments, including the following:

- a) The need to increase the number of turtles, to support the elaboration and calculation of meaningful threshold values;
- b) Requested the refinement of the total dry weight of the total ingestion and requested the addition of a table summarizing the information for the collection of the food;
- c) Elaborate on the dietary differences between the individual specimens

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC, 2018. Defining the most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24. By Fr. Galgani. Ed. SPA/RAC, Tunis: 37 pp + Annexes.

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for Monitoring Riverine inputs of Marine Litter. Integrated Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups (CORMONs), Athens, Greece, 27-28 June 2023.

23. One Contracting Party took the floor and requested clearance to provide written comments after the Meeting.

24. In response, the Secretariat, and as also indicated in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting, agreed on the following way forward:

- a) Contracting Parties to provide MED POL with specific written comments on the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/4, by 14 February 2025 at the latest.
- b) MED POL to send by 5 February 2025 a data call to Contracting Parties, through IMAP InfoSystem, setting a deadline to submit data by 28 February 2025 at the latest.
- c) MED POL to invite the Online Working Group on Marine Litter (OWG-ML), led by Italy, to review the revised version of the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/4, for its submission to the CORMON Marine Litter Meeting, to be held in Athens, Greece, in May 2025 (tbc).

25. The Meeting: (a) endorsed Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/3 further, to incorporating the revised wording for Common Indicator 23bis, and requested its submission to MED POL Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, June 2025, exact date to be confirmed); and (b) welcomed the methodology used under Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/4 and requested the Secretariat to revise this document further, to the new data submission that will take place from the Contracting Parties and the specific comments from the Contracting Parties on the Working Document, for subsequent submission to the next CORMON Marine Litter Meeting to be held in Athens, Greece, May 2025 (tbc).

**Agenda Item 4: Proposal for Updating the Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter**

26. Under this agenda item, UNEP/MAP representative presented the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/5 “Updated Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter”, comprising of final (by 2030) and interim (by 2028) environmental targets for the 2 Common Indicators (i.e., CI 22 - Beach Macrolitter (item/100m); CI23 - Seafloor Macrolitter (item/km<sup>2</sup>); and CI23 - Floating Microplastics (item/m<sup>2</sup>).

27. Several Contracting Parties took the floor and welcomed this working document and the calculation of the updated environmental targets. Discussion took place whether these values are too ambitious, and the Secretariat provided clarifications, stating that the proposed environmental targets are in lieu of the established Threshold Values and that by default the targets should give a strong and ambitious signal towards protecting the marine and coastal environment.

28. The Meeting endorsed Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/5 “Updated Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter”, the proposed methodology, timelines, and targets. This Working Document will be submitted to MED POL Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, June 2025, exact date to be confirmed).

**Agenda Item 5: Supporting the Initiation of an Intercalibration Exercise for Collection and Analyses of Floating Microplastic Samples from Mediterranean Laboratories**

29. Under this agenda item, UNEP/MAP representative presented the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/6 “Preliminary Elements for an Intercalibration Exercise for Collection and Analyses of Floating Microplastic Samples between Mediterranean Laboratories”. It was noted that this Working Document aims to supplement the guidelines for monitoring floating microplastics through a two-phase process including: (a) a dedicated in situ training session in two reference laboratories; and (b) an Intercalibration exercise between the different Mediterranean laboratories.

30. Several Contracting Parties took the floor, welcomed this working document, and stated that such an exercise is essential for harmonizing monitoring, sampling and analysis methods. A number of proposals were made to: (a) introduce a theoretical session during day-1 (so, before going at sea for sampling); and (b) enhance homogeneity for the reference materials and negative controls and exploring the possibility for purchasing pre-prepared samples.

31. In response, the Secretariat welcomed the proposal stated under point (a) above. For point (b) it was stated that such an option could be explored depending on budget availability.

32. A number of Contracting Parties expressed interest and volunteered to participate to this exercise; namely: Greece, Italy, Spain, and Tunisia.

33. The Meeting endorsed the proposed elements included in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/6 and requested MED POL to: (a) further advance towards operationalizing this exercise and providing technical support to enhance capacity building and achieve harmonized methods within the region; and (b) include a dedicated activity in the new Programme of Work for 2026-2027.

**Agenda 9: Any Other Business**

34. No additional element was presented under this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations**

35. The Meeting participants reviewed, amended, and adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations from the Meeting discussions, which appear in **Annex III** of this Meeting report.

**Agenda Item 11: Closure of the Meeting**

36. After the expression of usual courtesies, the President declared the Meeting closed at 17:30 on Wednesday, 29 January 2025.

## **Annex I**

### **List of Participants**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES / REPRESENTANTS DES  
PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA /<br/>BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE</b> | <b>Ms. Senida Dzajic-Rghei</b><br>Researcher<br>Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>CROATIA/CROATIE</b>                                    | <b>Mr. Pero Tutman</b><br>Scientific adviser with tenure<br>Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>CYPRUS/CHYPRE</b>                                      | <b>Mr. Konstantinos Antoniadis</b><br>Officer of Fisheries and Marine Research<br>Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and<br>Environment                                                                                            |
| <b>EGYPT/ÉGYPTE</b>                                       | <b>Mr. Sameh Ayoub</b><br>Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>FRANCE/FRANCE</b>                                      | <b>Ms. Alexane Lovat</b><br>Ministère de la Transition Ecologique de l'Energie, du<br>Climat et de la Prévention des Risques I<br><br><b>Ms. Sandrine Nougier</b><br>Marine Litter policy officer<br>Ministry in charge of the environment |
| <b>EUROPEAN UNION/<br/>UNION EUROPÉENNE</b>               | <b>Mr. Michail Papadoyannakis</b><br>Senior Expert<br>European Commission/Marine Environment and Clean<br>Water Services                                                                                                                   |
| <b>ISRAEL/ISRAEL</b>                                      | <b>Mr. Dror Zurel</b><br>Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection<br>Marine Monitoring and Research Coordinator<br><br><b>Ms. Yael Segal</b><br>Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Institute (IOLR)                                  |
| <b>ITALY/ITALIE</b>                                       | <b>Ms. Cecilia Silvestri</b><br>Researcher ISPRA<br><br><b>Ms. Erika Magaletti</b><br>ISPRA<br><br><b>Mr. Marco Matiddi</b><br>ISPRA<br><br><b>Mr. Pierpaolo Consoli</b><br>Researcher<br>Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn                   |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LIBYA/LIBYE</b>                                                 | <b>Mr. Salih Diryaq</b><br>Director of Sirte Branch Ministry of Environment<br>MED POL National Focal Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>MALTA/MALTE</b>                                                 | <b>Ms. Marta Curmi</b><br>Environment Protection Officer<br>Environment & Resources Authority                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>MONTENEGRO/MONTENEGRO</b>                                       | <b>Ms. Tamara Brajovic</b><br>Ministry of ecology, sustainable development and develop of North<br><br><b>Ms. Ivana Mitrovic</b><br>Chief of Department for Pollution Control and Chemical Management<br><br><b>Ms. Jelena Kovacevic</b><br>Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development             |
| <b>MOROCCO/MAROC</b>                                               | <b>Mr. Mohammed El Bouch</b><br>Directeur, Département du Développement Durable<br><br><b>Mr. Moulay Lahcen Ouahidi</b><br>Chef de Service Analyse des Micropolluants<br>Département du Développement Durable du Ministère de la Transition Energétique<br><br><b>Mr. Abeslam Abid</b><br>LNESE/Département du Développement Durable |
| <b>STATE OF PALESTINE/ETAT DE PALESTINE</b><br><br><b>OBSERVER</b> | <b>Mr. Doaa Draid</b><br>Environmental Engineer (Inspector)<br>Environment Quality Authority (EQA)<br><br><b>Mr. Bahjat Jabareen</b><br>Environment Quality Authority<br><br><b>Mr. Amer El- Hamouz</b><br>An Najah University<br>Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering                                                |
| <b>SLOVENIA/SLOVÉNIE</b>                                           | <b>Ms. Klara Jarni</b><br>Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>SPAIN/ESPAGNE</b>                                               | <b>Ms. Beatriz Rios Fuster</b><br>Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO, CSIC)<br><br><b>Ms. Pilar Zorzo</b><br>Researcher (CEDEX)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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| <b>TUNISIA/TUNISIE</b> | <b>Mr. Nouredine Zaâboub</b><br>National institute of marine sciences and technologies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>TURKIYE/TURQUIE</b> | <b>Ms. Ebru Olgun Eker</b><br>Expert<br>Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change<br><br><b>Ms. Sevil Oksuz</b><br>Environment and Urbanization Expert<br>Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change<br><br><b>Ms. Hacer Selamoğlu Çağlayan</b><br>Ministry of Environment Urbanization and Climate Change |

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS /ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

|                                                                       |                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HELLENIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (HELMPEA) -</b> | <b>Ms. Eleni Tsolka</b>                                            |
| <b>MOHAMMED VI FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b>            | <b>Mr. Sami El iklil</b>                                           |
| <b>SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE (SFE)</b>                              | <b>Ms. Clémence Baudu-Descamps</b>                                 |
| <b>WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE INTERNATIONAL</b>                        | <b>Ms. Stefania Campogianni</b><br><br><b>Mr. Tolga Yücel</b>      |
| <b>YOUTH LOVES EGYPT</b>                                              | <b>Mr. Ahmed Fathy</b><br>CEO of YLE                               |
| <b>ASSOCIATION OF CONTINUITY OF GENERATIONS</b>                       | <b>Ms. Sana Taktak</b><br>President of the association             |
| <b>FONDAZIONE MAREVIVO</b>                                            | <b>Mr. Pier Paolo Celeste</b><br>Director                          |
| <b>MIO-ECSDE</b>                                                      | <b>Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni</b><br>Senior Policy/Programme Officer |
| <b>BLACK SEA COMMISSION'S PERMANENT SECRETARIAT</b>                   | <b>Ms. Iryna Makarenko</b><br><b>PMA Officer</b>                   |
| <b>WWF ITALY</b>                                                      | <b>Ms. Erica de Rysky</b><br>Sustainability officer                |
| <b>TURKISH MARINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION</b>                             | <b>Ms. Ülgen Aytan</b>                                             |
| <b>TURKISH SHIPBUILDERS' ASSOCIATION</b>                              | <b>Mr. Talha Yigen</b>                                             |

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - COORDINATING UNIT AND  
COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - UNITÉ DE  
COORDINATION ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

|                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UNEP/MAP COORDINATING UNIT<br/>PNUE/PAM UNITÉ DE<br/>COORDINATION</b>                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Ms. Olfat Hamdan</b><br/>Programme Management Officer<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:olfat.hamdan@un.org">olfat.hamdan@un.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Erol Cavus</b><br/>Pollution Control Officer<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:erol.cavus@un.org">erol.cavus@un.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis</b><br/>QSR Programme Management Officer<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:christos.ioakeimidis@un.org">christos.ioakeimidis@un.org</a></p> <p><b>Ms. Samar Kilani</b><br/>Programme Management Officer, EcAp MED plus<br/>E-mail : <a href="mailto:samar.kilani@un.org">samar.kilani@un.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Marc Attallah</b><br/>Associate Programme Management Officer,<br/>SEMPA Project Manager<br/>E-mail : <a href="mailto:marc.attallah@un.org">marc.attallah@un.org</a></p> |
| <b>REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER<br/>FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED<br/>AREAS (SPA/RAC) /<br/>CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS<br/>RÉGIONALES POUR LES ZONES<br/>SPÉCIALEMENT PROTÉGÉES<br/>(SPA/RAC)</b>             | <p><b>Mr. Yassine Ramzi Sghaier</b><br/>Projects Officer (Ecosystem Approach)<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:yassineramzi.sghaier@spa-rac.org">yassineramzi.sghaier@spa-rac.org</a></p> <p><b>Ms. Imen Zribi</b><br/>Consultant Assistant</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE<br/>PLAN BLEU /<br/>PLAN BLEU CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS<br/>RÉGIONALES</b>                                                                                             | <p><b>Mr. Antoine Lafitte</b><br/>Director of the Observatory and relations with<br/>UNEP/MAP.<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:lalafitte@planbleu.org">lalafitte@planbleu.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>INFORMATION AND<br/>COMMUNICATION REGIONAL<br/>ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC) /<br/>CENTRE RÉGIONAL DES<br/>ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONAL POUR<br/>L'INFORMATION ET LA<br/>COMMUNICATION (INFO/RAC)</b> | <p><b>Mr. Arthur Pasquale</b><br/>Deputy Director<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org">arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME<br/>REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE<br/>(PAP/RAC) /<br/>CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS<br/>RÉGIONALES DU PROGRAMME<br/>D' ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES<br/>(CAR/PAP)</b>                 | <p><b>Mr. Marco Prem</b><br/>Deputy Director<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:marko.prem@papr.org">marko.prem@papr.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## **Annex II**

### **Agenda of the Meeting**

### **Agenda of the Meeting**

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational Matters
- Agenda Item 3:** Proposal for Revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) on Marine Litter
- Agenda item 4:** Proposal for Updating the Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter
- Agenda Item 5:** Supporting the Initiation of an Intercalibration Exercise for the Collection and Analyses of Floating Microplastic Samples from Mediterranean Laboratories
- Agenda Item 6:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 7:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

### ***Annex III***

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations Conclusions et recommandations**

## Conclusions and Recommendations

On 29 January 2025, the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring was held online. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and its MED POL Programme, in close collaboration with SPA/RAC.

Following the review and discussion of Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.601/3 “Preliminary Proposal for Revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) on Marine Litter”, UNEP/MED WG.601/4 “Proposal for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24”, UNEP/MED WG.601/5 “Updated Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter”, UNEP/MED WG.601/6 “Preliminary Elements for an Intercalibration Exercise for Collection and Analyses of Floating Microplastic Samples between Mediterranean Laboratories”, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

### **Agenda Item 3: Preliminary Proposal for Revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) on Marine Litter**

1. The Meeting endorsed the proposal for updating IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) as described in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/3, considering the following:
  - a. Convert Candidate Indicator 24 into Common Indicator 24;
  - b. Include a new Common Indicator on riverine input of litter (i.e., Common Indicator 23 bis).
2. The Meeting proposed a revised title for Common Indicator 23 (bis), to be read as follow:
  - a. Trends in the amount of litter including microplastics coming from riverine sources (EO10).
3. The revised version of Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/3 will be submitted to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting, to be held in Athens, Greece, in June 2025 (tbc).
4. The Meeting welcomed the UNEP/MED WG.601/4 “Proposal for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and establishing Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24”, endorsed the applied methodology and requested MED POL to update the document, after receiving additional datasets from the Contracting Parties. In this regard, the following actions were agreed:
  - a. Contracting Parties to provide MED POL with specific written comments on the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/4, by 14 February 2025 at the latest;
  - b. MED POL to send by 5 February 2025 a data call to Contracting Parties, through IMAP Info System, setting a deadline to submit data by 28 February 2025 at the latest;
  - c. MED POL to invite the Online Working Group on Marine Litter (OWG-ML), led by Italy, to review the revised version of Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/4, for its submission to the CORMON Marine Litter, to be held in Athens, Greece, in May 2025 (tbc).

### **Agenda Item 4: Proposal for Updating the Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter**

5. The Meeting welcomed the work conducted by MED POL as reflected in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.601/5 “Updated Environmental Targets for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) on Marine Litter”, endorsed the proposed methodology, timelines and targets.

**Agenda Item 5:            Supporting the Initiation of an Intercalibration Exercise for Collection and Analyses of Floating Microplastic Samples from Mediterranean Laboratories**

6. The Meeting welcomed MED POL's proposal for the establishment of an Intercalibration Exercise for Collection and Analyses of Floating Microplastic Samples between Mediterranean Laboratories, as reflected in UNEP/MED WG.601/6, endorsed the proposed elements, and requested MED POL to further advance towards operationalizing this exercise and providing technical support to enhance capacity building and achieve harmonized methods within the region.
7. The Meeting welcomed the willingness of Italy, Spain, Greece and Tunisia to volunteer as reference laboratories and encouraged additional candidatures from other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
8. The Meeting proposed to MED POL the inclusion of a dedicated activity in the new Programme of Work for 2026-2027.

## Conclusions et recommandations

Le 29 janvier 2025, la réunion du Groupe de Correspondance sur l'Approche Écosystémique pour la Surveillance des Déchets Marins a eu lieu en ligne. La réunion a été organisée par le Secrétariat UNEP/MAP et le Programme coordonné de surveillance continue et de recherche en matière de pollution dans la Méditerranée (MED POL), en étroite collaboration le Centre d'Activités Régionales pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées (CAR/ASP).

Après examen et discussion des documents de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/3 « Proposition préliminaire de révision de l'Objectif Écologique 10 (OE10) du système IMAP sur les déchets marins », UNEP/MED WG.601/4 « Proposition de mise à jour des valeurs de référence (BV) et d'établissement des valeurs seuil (TV) pour l'indicateur candidat 24 du système IMAP », UNEP/MED WG.601/5 « Objectifs environnementaux mis à jour pour l'Objectif Écologique 10 (OE10) du système IMAP sur les déchets marins », UNEP/MED WG.601/6 « Éléments préliminaires pour un exercice d'intercalibration pour la collecte et l'analyse d'échantillons de microplastiques flottants entre les laboratoires méditerranéens », la réunion a abouti aux conclusions suivantes :

### **Point 3 de l'ordre du jour : Proposition préliminaire de révision de l'Objectif Écologique 10 (OE10) du système IMAP sur les déchets marins**

1. La réunion a approuvé la proposition de mise à jour de l'Objectif Écologique 10 (OE10) du système IMAP telle que décrite dans le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/3, en prenant en compte les éléments suivants :
  - a. Transformer l'indicateur candidat 24 en indicateur commun 24 ;
  - b. Inclure un nouvel indicateur commun sur les apports fluviaux de déchets (indicateur commun 23 bis).
2. La réunion a proposé un titre révisé pour l'indicateur commun 23 (bis) qui devrait se lire comme suit :
  - a. Tendances de la quantité de déchets, y compris les microplastiques, provenant des sources fluviales (OE10).
3. La version révisée du document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/3 sera soumise à la réunion des Points Focaux MED POL, prévue à Athènes, Grèce, en juin 2025 (à confirmer).
4. La réunion a salué le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/4 « Proposition de mise à jour des valeurs de référence (BV) et d'établissement des valeurs seuil (TV) pour l'indicateur candidat 24 du système IMAP », a approuvé la méthodologie appliquée et a demandé à MED POL de mettre à jour le document, après réception des jeux de données supplémentaires des Parties contractantes. À cet égard, les actions suivantes ont été convenues :
  - a. Les Parties contractantes doivent fournir à MED POL des commentaires écrits spécifiques sur le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/4, au plus tard le 14 février 2025 ;
  - b. MED POL enverra, au plus tard le 5 février 2025, un appel aux données aux Parties contractantes, via le système d'information IMAP, avec une date limite pour la soumission des données fixée au 28 février 2025 au plus tard ;
  - c. MED POL invitera le Groupe de travail en ligne sur les déchets marins (OWG-ML), dirigé par l'Italie, qui aura pour tâche de revoir la version révisée du document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/4, en vue de soumettre ce document à la réunion du CORMON sur les déchets marins, prévue à Athènes, Grèce, en mai 2025 (date à confirmer).

**Point 4 de l'ordre du jour : Proposition de mise à jour des Objectifs Environnementaux pour l'Objectif Écologique 10 (OE10) du système IMAP sur les déchets marins**

5. La réunion a salué le travail mené par MED POL, comme il est présenté dans le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/5 « Objectifs environnementaux mis à jour pour l'Objectif Écologique 10 (OE10) du système IMAP sur les déchets marins », a approuvé la méthodologie, les calendriers proposés et les objectifs.

**Point 5 de l'ordre du jour : Soutien à l'Initiation d'un Exercice d'Intercalibration pour la Collecte et l'Analyse des Échantillons de Microplastiques Flottants provenant des Laboratoires Méditerranéens**

6. La réunion a salué la proposition de MED POL concernant l'établissement d'un exercice d'intercalibration pour la collecte et l'analyse des échantillons de microplastiques flottants entre les laboratoires méditerranéens, comme il est présenté dans le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.601/6, a approuvé les éléments proposés et a demandé à MED POL de poursuivre l'avancement de l'opérationnalisation de cet exercice et de fournir un soutien technique pour renforcer le développement des capacités et parvenir à des méthodes harmonisées au sein de la région.
7. La réunion a salué la volonté de l'Italie, de l'Espagne, de la Grèce et de la Tunisie de se porter volontaires en tant que laboratoires de référence et a encouragé d'autres candidatures de la part des autres Parties contractantes à la Convention de Barcelone.
8. La réunion a proposé à MED POL d'inclure une activité dédiée dans le nouveau Programme de Travail pour 2026-2027.