

# Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

22 October 2021

**Agenda Item 3 (a): Promotion and capacity-building: Coordination mechanisms and synergies**



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

Erol Cavus,  
Pollution Control Officer

UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan  
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control  
Programme (MED POL)

# Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)—Barcelona Convention System works with Contracting Parties and partners to fulfill the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast that underpin sustainable development in the region.

[READ MORE](#)

MAP was established in 1975 as a multilateral environmental agreement in the context of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mediterranean countries and the European Community approved MAP as the institutional framework for cooperation in addressing common challenges of marine environmental degradation.

Under the auspices of UNEP/MAP, a framework convention dedicated to the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution was adopted in 1976 and amended two decades later to encompass the key concepts adopted at the landmark 1992 Rio Conference and to include coasts in its scope. The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) was adopted in 1995.

UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention – 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union – have progressively erected a uniquely comprehensive institutional, legal, and implementing framework integrating essential building blocks for sustainability in the Mediterranean.



## Background information regarding NBB/PRTR in UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL

- The **National Baseline Budget** of pollutants (NBB) was agreed by the Contracting Parties as “the monitoring tool” to track progress, on a five-yearly basis, of loads of released pollutants.
- To assist the Countries in this mandate, updated NBB guidelines were developed in 2015 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.404/7).

4<sup>th</sup> Cycle of NBB Update in 2018-2019 collected data for assessing the implementation of legally binding Regional and National Action Plans (NAPs)



5<sup>th</sup> Cycle of NBB Update in 2024-2025 to collect data for assessing the implementation of legally binding Regional and National Action Plans (NAPs)

# Biennium 2018-2019: Coordination and Capacity Building

The Regional Meeting on Reporting of Releases to Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities and related Indicators held on 19-20 March 2019, Tirana, Albania.

- **Template on PRTR Regulation:** reviewed in depth and proposed a number of modifications emphasizing further need for streamlining it with the Aarhus Convention PRTR Protocol and E-PRTR, especially regarding the clauses related to minimum requirements for reporting, establishment of thresholds, and information disclosure;
- **MEDPOL NBB/PRTR Implementation Guide:** further streamlining with NBB reporting obligations; complementarity and comparability with the other PRTRs system; establishment of clear linkages between NBB and PRTR (UNECE PRTR and E-PRTR) in terms of pollutants and group of activities

**MED POL FPs (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-30 May 2019)  
with small modifications approved two documents**



**EP**

UNEP/MED WG.473/12



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

25 April 2019  
Original: English

Meeting of MED POL Focal Points

Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019

Agenda item 8: Introduction to Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and Guidelines for Reporting  
MEDPOL PRTR Implementation Guide

**Appendix X: Linking the NBB with (e-)PRTR(s)**

**The Meeting Recommended** to address guidelines on estimation techniques for pollutants from non-point (diffuse) sources and aquaculture.



This United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) report provides the most comprehensive assessment of the state of the environment and development in the region. It includes a set of key messages that can inform an adequate policy response.

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (UNEP/MAP) produced the report as a comprehensive assessment study on the interactions between Environment and Development. SoED responds to provisions of the [Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development \(MSSD\)](#) under the Barcelona Convention.

[Learn more and download the SoED publications:](#) Full Report (ENG), Summary for Decision-Makers (ENG/FRE) and Key Messages (ENG/FRE).

linked NBB, (e-)PRTR was used for two Regional Assessment Reports



Towards a cleaner Mediterranean: a decade of progress  
Monitoring Horizon 2020 regional initiative  
Joint EEA-UNEP/MAP Report



← [4<sup>th</sup> Cycle of NBB Update in 2018/19](#)

↓  
Under Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and EEA EU Funded project

↓  
This joint report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) takes stock of the progress achieved and challenges ahead in the Horizon 2020 initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean (H2020).

Achieving a cleaner Mediterranean Sea requires better implementation of policies and enhanced environmental data and information. Cumulative effects of waste and marine litter, and wastewater and industrial emissions remain key challenges for the region. Current interventions are effective in keeping up with increasing environmental pressures but their scale may not be enough to improve the environmental status of the Mediterranean.

- [Press release: Stronger joint efforts needed to achieve cleaner Mediterranean >](#)
- [Download the report >](#)

# Biennium 2018-2019: Capacity Building

Meeting on the Best Practices on Enforcement and Compliance for Industrial Sectors,  
Athens, Greece, 9-10 October 2019

The main objectives of the meeting are to bring together national experts working in the environmental permitting and inspection systems to:

- a) Bridge the link between industrial operators and governmental agencies/authorities **to ensure that polluters/emitters do comply with the legal and reporting requirements, and permit obligations;**
- b) Strengthen national inspection and permitting systems **by promoting the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT);**



[The Meeting recommended](#) to further explore complementary tools for compliance assessment such as PRTR systems including NBB that can further solicitate compliance and enforcement mechanisms;



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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

6 March 2017  
Original: English

Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement

Greece, 6-7 April 2017

Agenda item 4: Strengthening the Inspection and Permitting Systems to promote the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT)

Guide on Inspection of Industrial Facilities



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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

6 March 2017  
Original: English

Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement

Greece, 6-7 April 2017

Agenda item 4: Strengthening the Inspection and Permitting Systems to promote the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT)

Guide on the Selection of Best Available Techniques (BAT) in Industrial Installations

# Biennium 2020-2021: Capacity Building

Meeting on Evaluation of Implementation of National Action Plans and Assessments, and Tools to estimate pollutant load from diffuse sources, (Videoconference, 22-23 April 2021)

The objectives of this meeting are to:

- (a) review and approve **the proposed estimation techniques for loads from agriculture, catchment runoff, and aquaculture** aiming to complement the NBB/PRTR Methodology;
- (b) Review and approve the Midterm Evaluation of the National Action Plans implementation based on the NAP Indicators and data collected.

**MED POL FPs approved the documents (Videoconference, 6-7 October 2021)**

The Meeting **approved the document and recommended the use of the Guidelines** for the preparation of the 5th Cycle of NBB update for the biennium 2024-2025.

**The Meeting further recommended** its use to plan the collection of data for assessment of pressures and development of an indicator on nutrient releases from **the aquaculture sector**.



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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

07 May 2021  
Original: English

Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points

Videoconference, 27-28 May 2021 and 6-7 October 2021

Agenda item 5: Indicator-based midterm evaluation of the implementation of National Action Plans/Programme of Measures (2015-2020)

**Draft Indicator-based Midterm Evaluation of the Implementation of National Action Plans/Programme of Measures (2015-2020)**

# Thank you

**Erol Cavus**

Pollution Control Officer

**UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan  
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)**

Barcelona Convention Secretariat  
Vas. Konstantinou 48, Athens 11635, Greece  
Telephone: + 30 210 7273123

[erol.cavus@un.org](mailto:erol.cavus@un.org)

[Twitter: @UNEPMAPNews](https://twitter.com/UNEPMAPNews)

[www.unepmap.org](http://www.unepmap.org)



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