

Balanced and equitable participation and different modalities for engaging stakeholders

The UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention experience

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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

Thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums - Aarhus Convention WGP-27 (Geneva, 26–28 June 2023)

UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention

**Regional governance framework
gathering the 21 Mediterranean
countries and EU.**

- MAP is the First Regional Sea Programme under UNEP (1975)
- UN Treaty (since 1976) - Regional Multilateral Environmental Agreement
- Institutional, regulatory and implementation framework

**Working together to fulfill the vision
of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and
Coast that underpin sustainable
development in our region.**



Albania



Algeria



Bosnia
Herzegovina



Croatia



Cyprus



Egypt



France



Greece



Israel



Italy



Lebanon



Libya



Malta



Monaco



Montenegro



Morocco



Slovenia



Spain



Syria



Tunisia



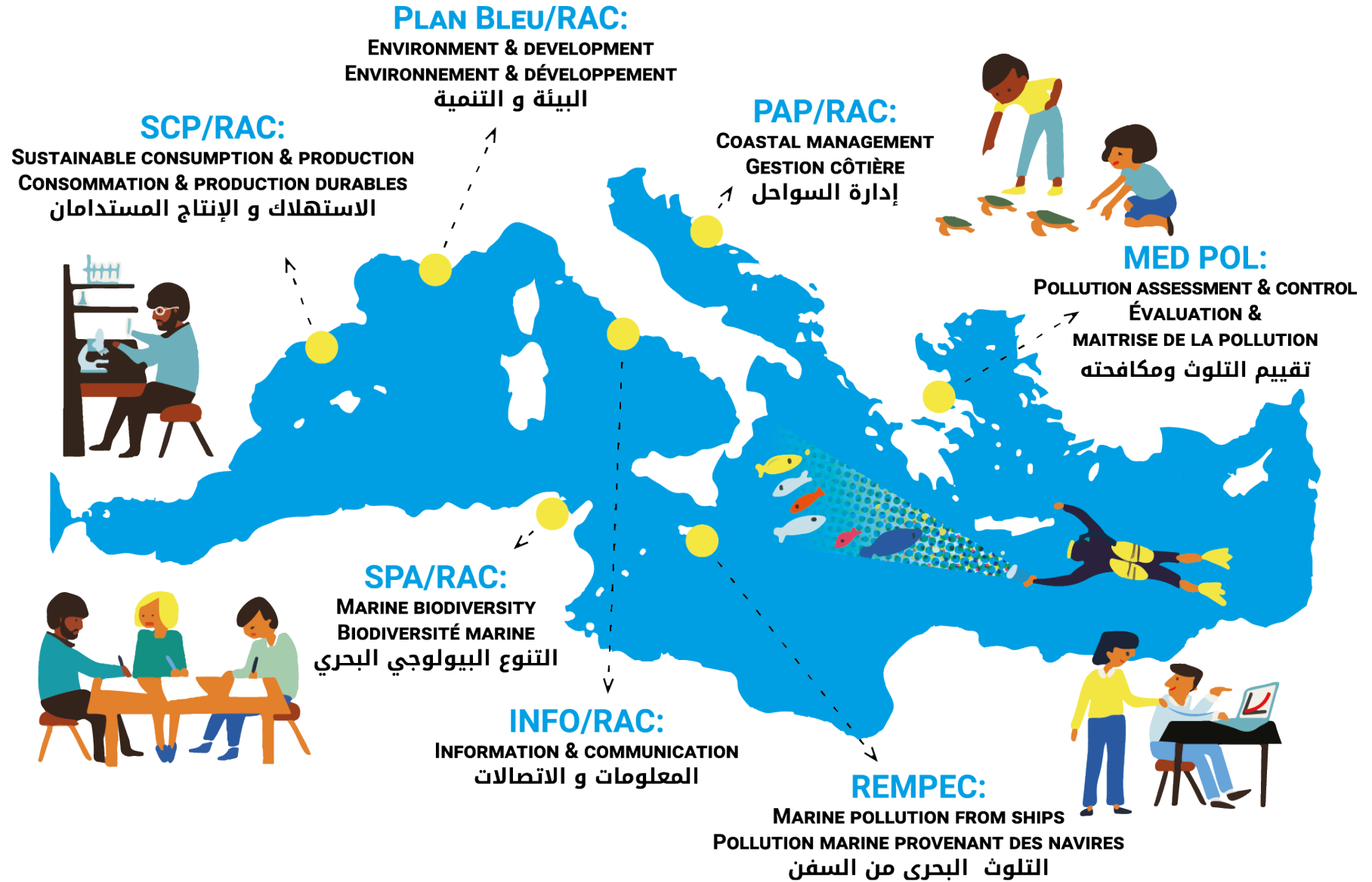
Turkey



The European
Union

Institutional set-up

- **Coordinating Unit** under **UNEP**, based in Athens (Greece)
- **MAP components** : 6 Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL)



The MAP Data Management Policy

Decision IG. 25/10 of 2021 on "MAP Data Policy", *inter alia* refers to **Acess to and Redistribution of Data:**

- The data made available by the UNEP/MAP platforms are accompanied by a data license.
- The data made available, as collected and coming from a third party may have agreements and licenses different from those defined and approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with license conditions agreed by INFO/RAC with the producers in order to guarantee the access limits and how to make the data available to others.
- Possible reclassifications of the data to less detailed scales can be made by UNEP/MAP, through INFO/RAC, in agreement with the data provider or the Contracting Parties, in order to make the dataset open or free of limitations of use.
- Access to data covers both technical access and the policies that govern access.
- Products created by UNEP/MAP, INFO/RAC and other MAP Components are considered a public good and where possible, they will be made fully, freely and openly available for others to use.
- **As a standard approach, all data held by UNEP/MAP shall be made available with minimum time delay and at no cost.**

MAP Partners

Decision IG.19/6 Of 2009 on "MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership"

a) Sets criteria and a procedure for admission as MAP Partners of the international, civil society organisations/NGOs as well as national and local non governmental organisations

b) Defines the rights and responsibilities of MAP partners - Code of Conduct for MAP Partners

- Every 6 years, **NGO observers ask the Secretariat to renew their accreditation**; the request should show what contribution the NGO has made to MAP activities and projects as well as its attendance at meetings/events
- There are currently **63 accredited MAP Partners**
- During the 94th Bureau meeting of the Contracting Parties (Izola, Slovenia, 20-21 June 2023), the Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal in order to allow more flexibility in the accreditation of MAP Partners, so as **to enlarge the scope to other stakeholders/non-profit organizations to become MAP Partners (such as scientific institutions/universities, private sector organizations, intergovernmental organizations)**

MAP Partners

Indicative rights of MAP Partners:

- NGOs may formulate comments, constructively criticize or make proposals on the activities of MAP and the Contracting Parties;
- NGOs may make written presentations on topics relevant to the objectives of the Convention during meetings and conferences.
- NGOs have the right to be informed.
- NGOs have the right to access environmental information.
- NGOs are associated as closely as possible in the various phases of preparation and follow-up of MAP's programmes and actions;
- NGOs may submit in writing to the MAP Secretariat general or specific comments and suggestions on topics within their competence;
- NGOs are invited to participate in seminars, colloquia and conferences organized by the various MAP bodies;
- Agreements may be concluded between the Secretariat or MAP bodies and the NGOs considered the most directly concerned/competent.

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

The MCSD is an **advisory body to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention** and a **forum for debate and exchange of experiences on sustainable development issues** that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region.

The Commission is composed of 40 members, consisting of **22 representatives designated by the competent bodies of the Contracting Parties**, and 18 representatives of six stakeholder categories (3 representatives of each category):

- **local authorities,**
- **NGOs,**
- **socio- economic stakeholders,**
- **scientific community,**
- **intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development,**
- **regional parliamentary associations**

All members shall participate in the Commission on an **equal footing.**

Preparation of COP 23 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Portoroz, Slovenia, 4-8 December 2023)

In the course of the preparation of the draft **Portoroz Ministerial Declaration**, the involvement of stakeholders will be sought, with a focus on MAP Partners and MCSD members, through:

- (a) the MAP Partners being invited to contribute to an **online Working Group formed of the Contracting Parties for the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration**; and/or
- b) **a meeting with the MAP Partners/stakeholders** being organized for their contribution to the draft Ministerial Declaration.

Special emphasis will be also provided to **the involvement of Youth**, following the successful example of COP 21 and COP22 (**youth event and participation of youth at the COP**).

The **Members of the MCSD** also addressed during the 20th Meeting of the MCSD (Marseille France, 14-16 June 2023) issues of relevance to the Ministerial-level discussions of COP 23 and provided **inputs on elements to be addressed in the draft Portoroz Ministerial Declaration**. The Meeting also proposed a **consultation process for further providing inputs of the MCSD to the Ministerial Declaration**, lead by the MCSD Steering Committee and other interested MCSD members (open-ended group).

Global / Regional interactions on sustainable development

The Barcelona Convention system has a leading role in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and in ensuring the transition towards a green and blue economy in the Mediterranean

Global	Regional (Mediterranean)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer National Review (VNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDG Index and Dashboards; UNEP World Environment Situation Room (WESR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard; Med-WESR

MSSD Flagship Initiative on Environmental Governance: *Encourage the Accession to and Implementation of the Aarhus Convention*

- **Target:** by 2025 two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded to the Convention
- **Current status:** 12 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are Parties to the Aarhus Convention, i.e. 54.5%

- **Desk study** for the development of a Foundation Discussion Document (FDD) for the "Mediterranean Accession Agenda" to the Aarhus Convention
Undertaken by MEPIELAN Centre
- **Side event** at the EfE9 Ministerial Conference (Cyprus, October 2022)
- **Experts meeting** to validate the FDD (2023)
- **Dissemination and regional capacity building** (2022-2024)

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Water and Environment Support
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Thank you!



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