



Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan

BSC,
Istanbul, 2018

The 34th Meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (BSC),

Recognizing that marine litter in the basin of the semi-closed Black Sea exerts an especially negative impact on marine and coastal ecosystems, health status of seaside population and normal development of sea-oriented economics, including the tourist industry, fishery and shipping, as well as potential danger to safety of ships,

Recalling that the state of the environment of the Black Sea and contiguous waters continues to be a matter of concern due to the ongoing degradation of their ecosystems and the unsustainable use of their natural resources,

Aware that marine litter issues are not properly addressed and managed so far on the regional and national scales, and even actual levels of marine litter pollution are not adequately evaluated and monitored in the Black Sea riparian countries,

Taking note of the *Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention, 1992)* and its Protocols and fully recognizing the need to preserve the Black Sea ecosystem as a valuable natural endowment of the region, whilst ensuring the protection of its marine and coastal living resources as a condition for sustainable development of the Black Sea coastal states, well-being, health and security of their population,

Taking note that the Contracting Parties to the Bucharest Convention agreed to further strengthen cooperation with international organizations in support of the implementation of the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols,

Bearing in mind that all of the Black Sea countries have signed and ratified the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78)*, the *Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention, 1989)*, the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992)*,

Also being Contracting Parties to Annex V of MARPOL 73/78, which provides *Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships*, and which designates the Black Sea as a *Special area* with regard to restrain solid waste/marine litter pollution originated from ships,

Recalling that the *Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention, 1972)* is destined to control the pollution by wastes and dredged spoils which are loaded on ships for the intentional purpose of dumping them at sea, and that this Convention is not ratified yet by some Black Sea countries,

Recalling the *Odessa Ministerial Declaration, 1993* and the *Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (BS SAP, 1996/2002)*, with particular reference to the reduction of pollution from ships, land based sources and dumping, to the waste management, and to the reporting of results of marine pollution monitoring and assessment,

Convinced that special activities should be applied to overcome marine litter problems in the Black Sea region,

Aware that the development and implementation of the BS ML RAP can and should facilitate the obligations of the Contracting Parties with respect to other multi-lateral environmental agreements to which they may also be Contracting Parties,

Taking note that Permanent Secretariat of the BSC and UNEP, on behalf of the Coordinating Unit for the MAP/Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention signed the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, 2016)* with the aim of consolidating and intensifying their cooperation, improving the exchange of information and strengthening regional synergy to achieve their common goals and objectives in the field of protection of the marine and coastal environment,

Committed to increased efforts to tackle the regional challenges for the prevention of marine litter in an efficient and effective way to achieve good environmental status and in harmony with the other European Regional Seas,

Decides to:

Adopt the *BS ML RAP* which is following this decision;

Adopt the Work Programme for the implementation of activities/measures of the *BS ML RAP* which is contained in Annex I to this decision.

Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan

Part I – General provisions

1. Rationale for the Regional Action Plan

Marine litter is a global concern affecting all the oceans of the world. It poses environmental, economic, health, aesthetic and cultural problems that are rooted in poor solid waste management practices, lack of infrastructure, indiscriminate human activities and behaviours, inadequate understanding on the part of the public of the potential consequences of their actions, lack of adequate legal and enforcement systems, lack of implementation of existing legal systems and a lack of financial resources. Marine litter is a complex multi-dimensional and transboundary problem and despite efforts made internationally, regionally and nationally, there are indications that the marine litter problem continues to worsen.

The rationale for the preparation of this Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (BS ML RAP) is to improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment in the Black Sea.

The implementation of the BS ML RAP will be facilitated with a number of international activities in which the Black Sea Commission (BSC) is taking part, among those:

- (a) *Joint Work Plan on Marine Litter between UNEP/MAP and the BSC PS (Joint Work Plan) and*
- (b) *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)¹ between the United Nations Environmental Programme, on behalf of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan/Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC PS).*

2. Area and Scope of application

The geographical scope of BS ML RAP extends over the area as defined in Article I of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), Article 3 of the Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) and the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (BS SAP). The BS ML RAP shall apply to discharges referred to in Article 1 of the LBS Protocol and any

¹ Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environmental Programme, on behalf of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan/Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC PS) adopted by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Athens, Feb. 2016) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision 22/18, Annex III, pp. 693-699).

operational discharge from ships, platforms and other man-made structures at the Black Sea.

3. Definition of terms

For the purpose of the BS ML RAP:

Marine litter, regardless of the size, means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded or unintentionally lost into the sea and on beaches including such material transported into the marine environment from land by rivers, draining or sewage systems or winds. It mainly consists of plastics, wood, metals, glass, rubber, clothing and paper.

Macro litter means the fraction of marine litter of more than 2.5 cm in size;

Micro litter means the fraction of marine litter of less than 5 mm in size with a further division into “Large Micro Particles” (1-5 mm) and “Small Micro Particles” (<1 mm);

Marine litter monitoring means repeated surveys of coastline, beaches, seafloor, water columns, surface waters and biota to determine litter types and quantities in a representative manner such that information can be compared with baseline data to follow trends.

Bucharest Convention means the Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, 1992, hereinafter referred to as the Bucharest Convention.

BS LBS Protocol means the Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities, 1992, hereinafter referred to as the BS LBS Protocol.

BS Permanent Secretariat means the body referred to in Article XVII of the Bucharest Convention.

Solid waste means non-hazardous solid or semi-solid materials which result from residential, institutional, commercial, office, industrial, construction, or demolition activities, and that are discarded as garbage, refuse, or other waste, provided that 'solid waste' does not include material that is intended or collected for the purpose of recycling.

Special areas (Black Sea area is one of the special areas) established under the MARPOL Convention are sea areas where for technical reasons relating to their oceanographic and ecological condition and to their sea traffic, the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution is required. Under the Convention, these special areas are provided with a higher level of protection than other areas of the sea.

4. Objectives

The overall objective of the BS ML RAP is to consolidate, harmonize and implement necessary environmental policies, strategies and measures for sustainable integrated management of marine litter issues in the Black Sea region.

The main objectives of the BS ML RAP are to:

- (a) *Prevent and reduce* to the minimum marine litter pollution in the Black Sea and its impact on ecosystem services, habitats, species, in particular the endangered species, public health and safety;
- (b) *Remove* to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally respectful methods;
- (c) *Enhance* knowledge on marine litter;
- (d) Achieve that the *management of marine litter in the Black Sea* is performed in accordance with accepted international standards and approaches as well as those of relevant regional organizations and as appropriate in harmony with programmes and measures applied in other seas;
- (e) *Contribute* to the full implementation of the Joint Work Plan on Marine Litter between UNEP/MAP and the BSC PS in order to achieve synergistic effects through coordinating activities; and
- (f) *Contribute* to the full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and the BSC PS with the objective to consolidate and intensify their cooperation in order to achieve their common goals and objectives.

5. Principles and Tools

Principles

In implementing the BS ML RAP the Contracting Parties shall be guided by:

- (a) *Integration principle* by virtue of which marine litter management shall be an integral part of solid waste management and other relevant strategies;
- (b) *Prevention principle* by virtue of which any marine litter management measure should aim at addressing the prevention of marine litter generation at the source;
- (c) *Precautionary principle* by virtue of which where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;

- (d) *Polluter-pays principle* by virtue of which the costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures are to be borne by the polluter, with due regard to the public interest;
- (e) *Ecosystem-based approach* by virtue of which the cumulative effects of marine litter on marine and coastal ecosystem, habitats and species with other contaminants and substances that are present in the marine environment should be fully taken into account;
- (f) *Public participation and stakeholder involvement*; and
- (g) *Sustainable Consumption and Production principle* by virtue of which current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production must be transformed to sustainable ones that decouple human development from environmental degradation.

Tools

In implementing the BS ML RAP the Contracting Parties may apply the following tools:

- (a) The *BS ML RAP will be implemented* as an integrated mechanism for the Black Sea cooperation in the field of management and abatement of marine litter pollution in order to achieve the BS ML RAP objectives and objectives set up in the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols;
- (b) The Contracting Parties to the Bucharest Convention may *incorporate the provisions of the BS ML RAP* into their national marine strategies, plans and/or programmes for the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources paying due attention to national, sectoral and intersectoral interactions;
- (c) The Contracting Parties will endeavour to *apply ecosystem approach* to any human activities that may contribute to marine litter pollution in the region and damage the Black Sea marine and coastal environment;
- (d) The *implementation of the BS ML RAP* will be closely coordinated with respective global, European and regional relevant legal instruments and initiatives covering a wide range of the environment-oriented fields, including management of waste, water pollution, nature conservation, and relevant European criteria and standards. The BS ML RAP is consistent with already existing national obligations of the Contracting Parties associated with European Marine Strategy Framework Directive. BS ML RAP implementation and compliance with the relevant international legal instruments and regulations will be monitored;
- (e) The BS ML RAP will to the full extent *contribute to the full implementation of the Joint Work Plan* on Marine Litter between UNEP/MAP and the BSC CP; and

- (f) The BS ML RAP will contribute to the *full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding* between UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and the BSC PS and strengthening regional synergy to achieve their common goals and objectives.

Part II – Measures and operational targets

The *Contracting Parties shall make their best effort* that the measures provided for in points 8 to 10 (present) are implemented, as specified in the respective articles, in a coherent manner to achieve good environmental status and relevant targets on marine litter. Various actors shall be involved in the development and implementation of agreed measures as provided for in point

6. Integration of marine litter measures into National Action Plans (NAPs)

The Contracting Parties of the Bucharest Convention will elaborate and implement, individually or jointly, as appropriate, *national and regional action plans and programmes*, containing measures and timetables for their implementation.

Contracting Parties shall prepare *National Biennial Reports on NAPs* and BSC PS shall prepare *Regional Biennial Reports on NAPs* on the basis of National Reports. The *Structure for National Biennial Reports (the basic elements of reporting format)* shall be approved after being developed and proposed by the BSC PS.

The National Action Plans may include:

- (a) Development and implementation of *appropriate policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements*, including adequate management plans for solid waste, also including those originating from sewer systems, which incorporate marine litter prevention and reduction measures;
- (b) *Monitoring programme for assessment* of the current status of marine environment with respect to marine litter;
- (c) *Measures* to prevent and reduce marine litter;
- (d) Programmes of *removal and environmentally sound disposal* of existing marine litter according to the national legislation about management of this kind of waste; and
- (e) *Awareness raising and education* programmes and campaigns.

7. Legal and institutional aspects

For the purpose of implementing the BS ML RAP, the Contracting Parties of the Bucharest Convention may *adopt as appropriate the necessary legislation and/or establish adequate institutional arrangements* to ensure efficient marine litter reduction and the prevention of its generation.

To this aim the Contracting Parties may:

- (a) *Establish institutional coordination*, where necessary, among the relevant national policy bodies and relevant regional organisations and programmes, in order to promote integration;
- (b) *Review and revise* the existing legislation related to marine litter and solid waste and implement the relevant legislation at the national level;
- (c) *Establish marine litter regional experts group (or task force)* under BSC PS and stimulate activities relevant to marine litter management;
- (d) *Integrate marine litter issues* into existing legal and administrative instruments relevant to the implementation of waste and water management policies;
- (e) *Give due consideration* to the implementation of the relevant related provisions of the Protocols adopted in the frame of the Bucharest Convention, affecting marine litter management to enhance efficiency, synergies and maximize the results; and
- (f) *Ensure close coordination and collaboration* between national, regional and local authorities in the field of marine litter management.

8. Prevention of marine litter pollution

In conformity with the objectives and principles of the BS ML RAP the Contracting Parties may explore and implement to the extent possible:

Land-based Sources

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.

Explore and implement to the extent possible the following prevention measures:

- (a) *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;
- (b) *Extended Producer Responsibility* strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste

management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity;

- (c) *Sustainable Procurement Policies* contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products;
- (d) Establishment of *voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets* to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers;
- (e) *Fiscal and economic instruments* to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption;
- (f) Establishment of *Deposits, Return and Restoration System* for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling;
- (g) Establishment of *procedures and manufacturing methodologies* together with the plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro-plastic;
- (h) Improved *solid waste infrastructure* in order to reduce entry of litter into the marine environment; and
- (i) Improve or develop *permanent services for marine litter collection* and removal along the entire coastline of the BS ML RAP area including the populated and unpopulated sections of the shore.

Explore and implement to the extent possible following prevention measures:

- (a) Establish as appropriate *adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems* to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter;
- (b) Close to the extent possible the *existing illegal dump sites on land* in the area of the application of the BS ML RAP;
- (c) Enforcement measures to *combat illegal dumping* in accordance with national and regional legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the sea, the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the BS ML RAP; and
- (d) Develop and implement measures aimed to prevent *litter carried by rivers* from deposition at sea.

Sea-based Sources

Explore and implement to the extent possible:

- (a) *“Gear marking to indicate ownership”* concept and ‘reduced ghost catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and

traps concept', in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector;

- (b) Organize training courses on *ghost fishing*;
- (c) Contact the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control and carry out a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) focussing on how requirements for preventing marine pollution from ships (MARPOL Annex V) have been implemented. Such campaign is to be conducted in connection with the new amendments to Annex V of MARPOL convention related to products which are hazardous to marine environment (HME) and Form of Garbage Record Book adopted by resolution MEPC.277 (70) and which will be effective from 01st March 2018;
- (d) 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; and
- (e) Apply enforcement measures by the Contracting Parties to *combat dumping* in accordance with national and regional legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the sea, the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the BS ML RAP.

9. Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal

Where it is environmentally sound, in order to remove existing accumulated litter, in particular from specially protected areas and litter impacting endangered species, the Contracting Parties undertake to explore and implement to the extent possible the following measures:

- (a) "*Fishing for Litter*" environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, 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 gears;
- (b) Improve *Port reception facilities* in order to fully implement obligations arising from Annex V of the MARPOL Convention;
- (c) Charge reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable apply the *No-Special-Fee system*, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations, when using port reception facilities;
- (d) Identify, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, accumulations *hotspots of marine litter* and implementation of national actions for their regular removal and sound disposal;

- (e) Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, *remove existing accumulated litter*;
- (f) Apply as appropriate *Adopt-a-Beach* or similar practices and enhance the public participation role with regard to marine litter management;
- (g) Implement *National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns* on a regular basis;
- (h) Participate in *International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes*; and
- (i) Participate in the *Blue Flag certification* by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

10. Other activities

In addition to activities presented above, the following activities may be implemented:

- (a) Establishment of *direct cooperation of Contracting Parties*, with assistance of competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary ML cases;
- (b) *Identification of international, regional and national potential financial sources* and proposal of projects in order to raise funds. Allocation of essential funds for the implementation of marine litter projects;
- (c) *Establish marine litter baseline values*, using available data in the Black Sea and in coordination with existing regional and global processes;
- (d) *Establish basin-wide marine litter reduction targets*, based on available data from the Black Sea region and harmonized with regionally and globally defined targets. *Indicators and thresholds regarding each target for the Black Sea region* should be established, taking into account the specifics of the Black sea environment;
- (e) Contracting Parties and BSC PS may identify financial sources and allocation of essential funds for the implementation of national and regional marine litter projects and ensure that relevant programmes and projects are properly incorporated in national budgets;
- (f) BSC may support development and use of *common basin scale models of circulation* in connection with marine litter movement;
- (g) Enhancement of usage of *circular economy in marine litter management*; and
- (h) Establishment of *institutional cooperation* with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.

Part III – Monitoring and Assessment

11. Marine Litter Monitoring and Assessment

Following activities are proposed to Contracting Parties to assess in the framework of the ecosystem approach the impact of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment and human health, the state of coastal and marine environment due to marine litter, as well as the socio-economic aspects of marine litter management based on coordinated and, if possible, common agreed monitoring methodologies and programmes, environmental targets and indicators for assessment of the status of marine environment, cost-benefit and cost-efficiency assessment methodologies (CBA and CFA), national surveys and projects carried out:

- (a) Prepare the *Guidelines on monitoring of marine litter in the Black Sea*. During preparation of the Guidelines the *European Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas (2013)* and *Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Guidance* of the MAP may be consulted;
- (b) Prepare *National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes* following the recommendations of the relevant available European and other regional Guidelines, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations;
- (c) Implement *Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP)* based on the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes developed by the Contracting Parties;
- (d) The Secretariat will work further with relevant partner organizations, in order to strengthen technical support that countries might need to implement their National Monitoring Programmes on Marine Litter (ML NMPs) and to integrate environmental targets addressing marine litter in BSIMAP that are not yet included in its initial phase;
- (e) To take into account the *different monitoring capacities* of the Contracting Parties and the need for capacity building and technical assistance for implementation;
- (f) Encourage the Contracting Parties to undertake, when appropriate, *joint monitoring initiatives on a pilot basis*, with the aim to exchange best practices, use harmonized methodologies, and ensure cost efficiency;
- (g) Encourage the Contracting Parties to support and take part in *regional initiatives and projects* lead by competent partner organizations in order to strengthen strategic and operational regional synergies;
- (h) Request the BSC PS to work further with relevant partner organizations, in order to *strengthen technical support* that countries might need to implement

BSIMAP;

- (i) The BSC PS will prepare and publish the *Marine Litter Assessment in the Black Sea every five years* using the 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;
- (j) *Regional Data Base on Marine Litter*, based on national data basis, compatible with other regional or overarching databases will be established for the Black Sea;
- (k) Contracting Parties shall prepare and publish *Biennial Reports on National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes*. May implement marine litter projects at local, national and regional levels on marine litter monitoring and management incorporated within the national budgets and with international financial support.

Part IV – Support to Implementation

12. Research topics and scientific cooperation

The *Contracting Parties agree to cooperate*, with support from the Secretariat, with competent international and regional organizations and relevant scientific institutions, on marine litter issues that due to their complexity require further research.

13. Technical assistance

For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the measures and monitoring obligations as provided above in the BS ML RAP, *technical assistance, transfer of knowhow and technology* shall be provided, including capacity building, by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties in need of assistance.

14. Enhancement of public awareness and education

Due to the nature/sources of the marine litter management issue *enhancement of public awareness and education* is a very important component of the marine litter management.

To this aim the Contracting Parties will undertake, where appropriate, in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and environment and partnership with civil society, *public awareness and education activities*, with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

The following activities are proposed:

- (a) Enhancement of *public awareness and education* by holding a set of national and regional awareness seminars/workshops, including higher and secondary education institutions involvement; and
- (b) Participation in *UNEP Open online course on marine litter*.

15. Major groups and stakeholder participation

For the effective implementation of the BS ML RAP, the Contracting Parties should encourage appropriate involvement of various *authorities* and other stakeholders as appropriate:

- a) Regional, National and local authorities;
- b) Shipping sector;
- c) Tourism sector;
- d) Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- e) Agriculture;
- f) Industry;
- g) Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and
- h) Civil society.

The following activities are proposed:

- (a) *Cooperation* of administrative stakeholders;
- (b) *Enhancement* of public-private partnership including local authorities, civil society, private sector (producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.);
- (c) Appropriate *involvement* of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to implement the measures provided for in the BS ML RAP and other measures;
- (d) Organising *national and regional meetings/workshops* of different stakeholders for the initiation of multilateral partnerships campaigning for clean beaches and water; and
- (e) *Enhancement* of cooperation with national, regional and international NGOs on the issues related to marine litter pollution.

16. Regional and international cooperation

For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the BS ML RAP the Secretariat will establish *institutional cooperation* with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.

17. Reporting

The Contracting Parties will *report on a biennial basis on the implementation of the BS ML RAP*, in particular the implementation of the above measures, their effectiveness and difficulties encountered and data resulting from monitoring and assessment programmes. The BSC PS will prepare and distribute to Contracting Parties the structure for preparation of the National Biennial Reports.

The Contracting Parties will *review biennially the status of implementation of the BS ML RAP*.

Part V – Final Provisions

18. Implementation timetable

The Contracting Parties will implement the BS ML RAP, in particular the above activities and measures according to the deadlines indicated in the Work Programme - *Annex I) of the BS ML RAP* , which includes: (a) relevant Articles; (b) Activities/ Measures; (c) Timetable; (d) Responsible Body; (e) Indicators; and (f) Cost.

19. Entry into force

The BS ML RAP *will enter into force* and become binding upon a decision by the BSC.

20. Enforcement of measures

The Contracting Parties shall *take the necessary actions to enforce the measures* in accordance with their national regulations.

Annex I

Work Programme for the Implementation of the Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (BS ML RAP)

	Articles	Activities/Measures	Timetable (deadlines)	Responsible Body	Indicator	Cost
1.	Rationale for the BS ML RAP	Implementation of the MoU between the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the BSC PS (signed in 2016)	Ongoing	BSC PS UNEP/MAP Secretariat	Implementation reports	
2.						
3.		Preparation, adoption and implementation of the Joint Work Plan on marine litter between BSC PS and UNEP/MAP	2018	BSC PS UNEP/MAP Secretariat	Signed Joint Work Plan	
4.		Establishment of the Joint Working Group (incl. Terms of Reference) supporting the work on the Joint Work Plan on ML between UNEP/MAP and the BSC PS to deal with issues relevant to the Joint Work Plan	2018	BSC PS UNEP/MAP Secretariat	Established Joint Working Group	
5.		Submission of National Biennial Reports on the implementation of the BS ML RAP	2022	Contracting Parties	Reports issued	
6.		Submission of Regional Biennial Report on the implementation of the BS ML RAP	2023	BSC PS	Report issued	
7.		Submission of the Report on the implementation of the Joint Work Plan on Marine litter between BSC PS and UNEP/MAP	2019	BSC PS	Report issued	
8.	Integration of marine litter	Contracting Parties develop or update Marine Litter National Action Plans (ML	2020	BSC PS Contracting	ML NAPs developed	

	measures into National Action Plans (NAPs)	<p>NAPs) which may include:</p> <p>(a) Development and implementation of appropriate policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements, including adequate management plans for solid waste, also including those originating from sewer systems, which shall incorporate marine litter prevention and reduction measures;</p> <p>(b) Monitoring programmes for assessment of the current status of marine environment with respect to marine litter;</p> <p>(c) Measures to prevent and reduce marine litter;</p> <p>(d) Programmes of removal and environmentally sound disposal of existing marine litter according to the national legislation about the management of this kind of waste; and</p> <p>(e) Awareness raising and education programmes and campaigns</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2018 (revised 2020)</p> <p>2020 (revised 2022)</p> <p>2020</p> <p>Continually</p>	<p>Parties</p> <p>Contracting Parties</p> <p>Contracting Parties</p> <p>Contracting Parties</p> <p>Contracting Parties</p> <p>Contracting Parties</p>	<p>Policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements developed</p> <p>Monitoring programmes on marine litter developed/revised and implemented</p> <p>Measures addressing marine litter developed/revised</p> <p>Programme developed</p> <p>Awareness raising and education programmes and</p>	
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					campaigns conducted	
9.		Preparation and adoption of the structure for National Biennial Reports (basic elements of reporting format)	2018	BSC PS Contracting Parties	Developed and adopted structure of National Biennial Reports	
10		Preparation of National Biennial Reports on National Action Plans (NAPs) by the Contracting Parties. Preparation of Regional Biennial Report by the BSC PC on the basis of National Biennial Reports on NAPs.	2022	BSC PS Contracting Parties	Reports issued	
11	Legal and institutional aspects	Ensure institutional coordination, where necessary, among the relevant national policy bodies and relevant regional organisations and programmes, in order to promote integration	2019	BSC PS Contracting Parties	Report issued	
12		Give due consideration to the implementation of the relevant related provisions of the Protocols adopted in the frame of the Bucharest Convention, affecting marine litter management to enhance efficiency, synergies and maximize the results	2018	Contracting Parties	Report issued	
13		Ensure close coordination between national, regional and local authorities in the field of marine litter management	2019	Contracting Parties	Report issued	
14		Review and revise the existing national legislation related to marine litter in order to implement the relevant legislation at the	2020	Contracting Parties	Report issued	

		national level				
15		Integrate marine litter issues into existing legal and administrative instruments relevant to the implementation of waste and water management policies	2020	Contracting Parties	Integrated	
16	Prevention of marine litter pollution	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	2025	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
17		Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic/microplastics packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery	2019	Contracting Parties	Implemented	
18		Implement Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	

19	Implement Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
20	Establish voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
21	Implement fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
22	Establish Deposits, Return and Restoration Systems for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
23	Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with the plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro-plastic	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
24	Improve solid waste infrastructure in order to reduce entry of litter into the marine environment	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
25	Improve or develop permanent services for marine litter collection and removal along the entire coastline of the BS ML RAP area including the populated and unpopulated	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	

		sections of the shore, where applicable				
26		Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
27		Take the necessary measures to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land in the area of the application of the BS ML RAP	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
28		Take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national and regional legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the sea, the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the BS ML RAP	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
29		Develop and implement measures aimed to prevent litter carried by rivers from deposition at sea	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
30		Implement "Gear marking to indicate ownership" concept and 'reduced ghost catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept', in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
31		Contact the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Memorandum of Understanding on	2019	Contracting Parties	Implemented	

		Port State Control and carry out a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) focussing on how requirements for preventing marine pollution from ships (MARPOL Annex V) have been implemented. Such campaign is to be conducted in connection with the new amendments to Annex V of MARPOL convention related to products which are hazardous to marine environment (HME) and Form of Garbage Record Book adopted by resolution MEPC.277 (70) and which will be effective from 1st March 2018		BSC PS		
32		Apply the cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
33		Take enforcement measures to combat dumping in accordance with national and regional legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the sea, the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the BS ML RAP	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
34		Organise training courses on ghost fishing	2019	Contracting Parties	Training course held	
35	Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal	Implementation of the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	

		incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears.				
36		Improvement of Port reception facilities in order to fully implement obligations arising from Annex V of the MARPOL Convention. The Contracting Parties shall also take necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information on Annex V of the MARPOL Convention	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
37		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	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
38		Identification, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, accumulations hotspots of marine litter and implementation of national actions for their regular removal and sound disposal	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
39		Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter	2020	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
40		Apply as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	

41		Participation in the International Coastal Cleanup events	Annual	Contracting Parties Organisations	Report on participation	
42		Implement National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis	Annual	Contracting Parties Organisations	Report on campaigns	
43		Participate in a Blue Flag certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)	Annual	Contracting Parties Organisations	Report on Blue Flag	
44	Other activities	Direct cooperation of Contracting Parties, with assistance of competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary ML cases	2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
45		Implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), where applicable	2018	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
46		Establish marine litter baseline values, using available data in the Black Sea and in coordination with existing global and regional processes, where applicable	2018	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
47		Establish basin-wide marine litter reduction targets, based on available data from the Black Sea region and harmonized with regionally and globally defined targets. Establishment of indicators and thresholds on ML for the Black Sea region, taking into account the specifics of the Black Sea environment, where applicable	2018-2019	BSC PS	Implemented	

48		Identify international, regional and national potential financial sources and propose projects in order to raise funds.	2018-2019	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Implemented	
49		Identify financial sources and allocation of essential funds for the implementation of national and regional marine litter projects and ensure that relevant programmes and projects are properly incorporated into national budgets	2019	BSC PS Contracting Parties	Identified	
50		Develop and use common basin scale models of circulation in connection with marine litter movement	2019	BSC PS	Published	
51		Enhance usage of circular economy in marine litter management	Continuous	Contracting Parties	Reported	
52		Establish institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives	Continuous	BSC PS	Established	
53	Marine litter monitoring and assessment	Contracting Parties will assess in the framework of ecosystem approach, the impact of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment and human health, the state of marine and coastal environment due to marine litter as well as the socio-economic aspects of marine litter management based on coordinated and, if possible, common agreed monitoring methodologies and programmes, environmental targets and indicators for assessment of the status of marine environment, cost – benefit and cost – efficiency assessment methodologies (CBA and CEA), national surveys and projects	2020	Contracting parties	Report	

		carried out				
54		Prepare Guidelines on Monitoring of Marine Litter in the Black Sea Environment. In the process of preparation of the Guidelines the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Guidance of the MAP and EU ML Monitoring Guidance (2013) may be consulted	2018	BSC PS	Guidelines prepared	
55		Submission of Guidelines on Monitoring of Marine Litter in the Black Sea Environment for adoption	2018	BSC PS	Adopted	
56		Implementation of Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme as a part of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) based on National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes of the Contracting Parties	2019	BSC PS	Implemented	
57		The Contracting Parties may consider to develop and implement National Monitoring Programmes on Marine Litter (ML NMPs) in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 2 of the Bucharest Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol, based on an ecosystem approach and consistent with other regional seas. The ML NMPs should take into account the need for harmonization and consistency with the BSIMAP	2019	BSC PS	Implemented	
58		Secretariat will work with relevant partner organizations, in order to strengthen technical support that countries might need to implement their National Monitoring	Continuous	BSC PS	Report	

		Programmes on Marine Litter (ML NMPs) and to integrate environmental targets addressing marine litter in BSIMAP that are not yet included in its initial phase				
59		Take into account the different monitoring capacities of the Contracting Parties and the need for capacity building and technical assistance for implementation	2019	BSC PS	Implemented	
60		Encourage the Contracting Parties to undertake, when appropriate, joint monitoring initiatives on a pilot basis, with the aim to exchange best practices, use harmonized methodologies, and ensure cost efficiency	2019	BSC PS	Implemented	
61		Encourage the Contracting Parties to support and take part in regional initiatives and projects lead by competent partner organizations in order to strengthen strategic and operational regional synergies	2018	BSC PS	Implemented	
62		BSC PS will work further with relevant partner organizations, in order to strengthen technical support that countries might need to implement BSIMAP	Continuous	BSC PS	Implemented	
63		The BSC PS will prepare and publish Marine Litter Assessment in the Black Sea every five years using results of the national monitoring programmes and applied measures with the view to address priority	2019	BSC PS	Published	

		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				
64		Implementation of marine litter projects at local, national and regional levels on marine litter monitoring and management is incorporated within the national budgets and with international financial support	Continuously	Contracting parties BSC PS	Implemented	
65		Establishment of the Black Sea National and Regional Data Bases on ML compatible with other regional or overarching data bases, where applicable	2019	Contracting parties BSC PS	Data Bases established	
66	Research topics and scientific cooperation	Consider Potential research topics relevant to marine litter	2018	BSC PS	Identified research topics	
67	Enhancement of public awareness and education	Enhancement of public awareness and education by holding a set of national and regional awareness seminars/workshops, including higher and secondary education institutions involvement	Continuous	MAP Secretariat BSC PS	Report on enhancement	
68		Participation in UNEP Open online course on ML	When scheduled	Individuals	Participation	
69	Major groups and stakeholder participation	Cooperation of administrative stakeholders	Continuous	Contracting parties	Reported	
70		Ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil	Continuous	BSC PS Contracting	Reported	

		society, private sector and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to implement the measures provided for in the BS ML RAP and other measures		parties		
71		Organise national and regional meetings/workshops of different stakeholders for the initiation of multilateral partnerships campaigning for clean beaches and water	Continuous	BSC PS	Meetings held	
72		Enhancement of public-private partnership including local authorities, civil society and private sector	Continuous	Contracting parties	Reported	
73		Enhance cooperation with national, regional and international NGOs on the issues related to marine litter pollution	Continuous	Contracting Parties BSC PS	Enhanced cooperation	