

UNEP/MAP-EEA Joint Work Plan 2022-2030



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Foreword

The long-standing cooperation between the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) has delivered successive harvests of knowledge products, such as the EEA-UNEP/MAP report titled *Towards a cleaner Mediterranean: a decade of progress — Monitoring Horizon 2020 regional initiative*, and several joint activities driving forward the collective endeavour for a healthy Mediterranean Sea and coast in the context of sustainable development.

Working together on tackling the multiple environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region continues to grapple with has forged a strong partnership between our two institutions. Under the Joint Work Plan 2016-2021 this cooperation generated important results especially in the field of data management and assessment, including the development and population of H2020 Indicators which are fully embedded in the scope of land-based sources Protocol to the Barcelona Convention and the National Action Plans/Programmes of Measures elaborated in its, and the Ecosystem Approach framework, and strengthening of national capacities for data collection and management. Our work on building a knowledge base for the benefit of the Mediterranean region deserves to be further nurtured in the years to come.

The present Joint Work Plan (JWP 2022-2030) builds on the one our institutions implemented together during the 2016-2021 period. Themes that will continue to be addressed in the JWP 2022-2030 include the use, access and management of environmental information and data. This will require additional support to Mediterranean countries, including through enhancing capacity at the national level, better monitoring and assessment, and robust networking. New themes included in

our joint workplan 2022-2030 include harnessing the digital transformation and enhancing communication and stakeholder interaction to achieve our common objectives.

The JWP 2022-2030 is a response to challenges and priorities expressed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It is aligned with the strategic outlook of both our institutions as outlined in the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030 and the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2027. These strategies have injected into the joint workplan important elements pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG framework, the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and the Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions, as well as the EU Green Deal implementation.

Recognizing the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and associated thematic regional action plans and measures as a regional public good form which all Mediterranean countries and citizens stand to benefit, we will continue to harness the renewed impetus that recent political platforms have given to the importance of environment as a shared home for us all, including the [Antalya Ministerial Declaration](#) adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021).

A healthy Mediterranean Sea and coast with robust patterns of sustainable development is essential to the fulfilment of the EEA mission, as it is to the mandate of UNEP/MAP.

We look forward to achieving tangible results through our joint activities that the work plan provides to the benefit of the Mediterranean region as a whole.



Hans Bruyninckx
Executive Director
European Environment Agency



Tatjana Hema
Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinator
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UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) have a longstanding successful cooperation in areas related to knowledge base strengthening and public awareness raising for the protection of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean region and its sustainable development. During the last years, UNEP/MAP and EEA collaboration has built upon the main priorities and joint activities included in the Joint Work Plan 2016-2021.

The finalization of the current Joint Work Plan 2016-2021 and the preparation of multi-year strategic documents by both Organisations, namely the EEA–Eionet Strategy 2021-2030 and the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2027, provide the right moment for the development of a new Joint Work Plan for the period beyond 2021, building on and enhancing the mutual cooperation for the achievement of common objectives, taking into account priorities deriving from relevant global and regional instruments and processes. The duration of the new Joint Work Plan will be from 2022 to 2030.

With regards to the global context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG framework is a main process to which both Organisations contribute and should be therefore a central element in the conceptualization of

the future cooperation. Other global instruments to be considered in this exercise include the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and the Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions. Furthermore, due consideration should be also given to the implementation of the EU Green Deal, being the main policy framework for EEA action and highly relevant for UNEP/MAP in its efforts to ensure synergies with EU legal and policy framework to the extent possible. The renewed partnership of the European Union with Southern Neighbourhood as proposed in the new Agenda for the Mediterranean as well as the Union for the Mediterranean post-2020 Environment and Climate Action priorities will also inform this future cooperation. Every effort will be made to maximise synergies and complementarities with the above-mentioned global and regional processes, policy and assessment frameworks of relevance to both Organisations, with a particular focus on UNEP work in European context.

This cooperation framework between UNEP/MAP and EEA focuses on convergence points between their multi-year strategic documents for this period. Relevant objectives are listed in the table on the following page.

Context: Strategic documents of EEA and UNEP/MAP

EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030 strategic objectives (SO)	UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2027 outcomes
<p>SO 1 — Supporting policy implementation and sustainability transitions</p> <p>Produce evidence-based knowledge to support policy implementation and development of new initiatives to accelerate and scale up the transition to sustainability.</p>	<p>Outcome 5.1. Effective Implementation and Enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, including Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels;</p>
<p>SO 2 — Providing timely input to solutions for sustainability challenges</p> <p>Deliver targeted inputs to inform policy and public discussions, by organising and communicating knowledge on responses, including innovative solutions to societal challenges.</p>	<p>Outcome 5.2. Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensured, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches;</p>
<p>SO 3 — Building stronger networks and partnerships</p> <p>Strengthen our network through more active engagement at the country level and work with other leading organisations in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise.</p>	<p>Outcome 5.3. Policy coherence and complementarity ensured among relevant work at global, regional and national levels and among MAP-Barcelona Convention system's policy and regulatory instruments;</p>
<p>SO 4 — Making full use of the potential of data, technology and digitalization</p> <p>Embrace digitalisation, including new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and earth observation that will complement and potentially replace established information sources to better support decision making.</p>	<p>Outcome 5.4. Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface;</p>
<p>SO 5 — Resourcing our shared ambitions</p> <p>Develop structures, expertise and capacity across our network to meet evolving knowledge needs, securing and diversifying the resources needed to achieve our joint vision.</p>	<p>Outcome 5.5. Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;</p>
	<p>Outcome 6.1. Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national and local levels, with associated capacity-building;</p>
	<p>Outcome 6.2. Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making;</p>
	<p>Outcome 6.3. IMAP implementation and Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES;</p>
	<p>Outcome 7.1. Stakeholders and policy makers properly informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and aware of the environmental priority issues;</p>
	<p>Outcome 7.2. Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns; and</p>
	<p>Outcome 7.3. Towards a digital transformation: use of digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility.</p>

Thematic priorities:

EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030 Areas of work	UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2027 Thematic programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and ecosystems • Climate change mitigation and adaptation • Human health and the environment • Circular economy and resource use • Sustainability trends, prospects and responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution and marine litter • Biodiversity and ecosystems • Climate change • Sustainable use of resources, Circular and blue economy • Governance • Monitoring, assessment, knowledge and vision • Advocacy and communication

Joint Work Plan 2022-2030 Strategic Priorities

Considering the above stated elements, the cooperation between UNEP/MAP and EEA for the period beyond 2021 should build upon the following **strategic priorities**:

1. Building strengthened knowledge base

- Generate science-based knowledge on the status of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and key pressures, taking also into account socioeconomic aspects
- Provide timely inputs to support decision makers in finding appropriate solutions to environmental issues based on most recent data and information.

2. Responding to political priorities

- Develop and apply tools, methods and approaches to measure sustainability achievement and effectiveness of responses/measures, taking into account global developments, including by undertaking a 'sustainability gap report in the Mediterranean' highlighting shortcomings in the attainment of the SDGs and in the implementation of relevant targets and commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- In the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, undertake coordinated actions towards the objective of Building Back Better, including through advocacy for channeling stimulus package and recovery financial flows towards a Green Renaissance in the Mediterranean (especially in the sectors highlighted in SoED, the joint UNEP/MAP-EEA H2020 report and other evidence-based assessments)
- Ensure coordinated advocacy for the universal ratification of all Protocols and, most importantly, for the effective implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as the Mediterranean principal MEA and the region's best chance to ensure GES while paving the way for a more sustainable and more resilient future for all in the region.

3. Supporting digital transformation

- Promote digital transformation and the use of new technologies in the areas of environmental monitoring, reporting and assessment, as well as for governance related issues.

4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction

- Undertake a systemic analysis, including the EEA ETCs and UNEP/MAP RACs and set up mutually beneficial systemic arrangements for the implementation of joint activities.
- Further promote science-policy interface for sustainable development, strengthening and expanding established networks and engaging more actively local expertise.
- Ensure stronger communication reaffirming the added value from the cooperation of the two best placed entities to ensure achievement of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, founded on science-based information, including through the planning of regular sessions dedicated to the shared vision for the Mediterranean in the context of future EU Green Week editions.
- Achieve an enhanced and more coherent resource mobilization for joint actions towards a strong common vision and associated strategic objectives.

In line with the strategic orientations and the EEA and UNEP/MAP areas of work (see below), a Joint Work Plan with key products, links to UNEP/MAP and EEA strategic priorities, timeline and resources needed, is developed and presented in Table 1. which will be operationalized through an Implementation/Action plan to be prepared and reviewed every two years jointly by the two Organisations.

Joint Work Plan 2022-2030 Working Areas

In delivering the agreed Strategic Priorities in the above-listed thematic areas, the implementation of the Joint Work Plan will focus on the following working areas:

A. Use of digital technologies and innovation to improve monitoring and assessment systems

Working areas	Links with Joint Work Plan strategic priorities (SP)
A.1 Deployment of new technologies in the areas of environmental monitoring	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 3. Supporting digital transformation
A.2 Efficient and automated reporting infrastructures	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 3. Supporting digital transformation
A.3 Tools for knowledge management and improving multi-stakeholder governance frameworks	SP 3. Supporting digital transformation SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction
A.4 Improving data availability and analysis for the purpose of integrated assessments	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 2. Responding to political priorities SP 3. Supporting digital transformation
A.5 Needs assessment to evaluate the feasibility/limitations of the 'digital transition' in the Mediterranean region	SP 3. Supporting digital transformation
A.6 Use of WISE-Marine as communication tool	SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction

B. Data and Information on point and diffuse pollution sources

Working areas	Links with Joint Work Plan strategic priorities (SP)
B.1 Regional PSI model	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 2. Responding to political priorities
B.2 Diffuse emissions in NBB/PRTR	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base
B.3 Point Source (Aquaculture) emissions in NBB/PRTR	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base
B.4 Dissemination of 2020 SEIS deliverables	SP 2. Responding to political priorities SP4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction
B.5 Linking pollution with other work areas	SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction
B.6 Marine litter from sea-based sources	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 3. Supporting digital transformation
B.7 Air pollution from ships	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 2. Responding to political priorities

C. Data and Information on biodiversity and ecosystems – focus on restoration and connectivity

Working areas	Links with Joint Work Plan strategic priorities (SP)
C.1 Multiple pressures and cumulative impacts	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 2. Responding to political priorities
C.2 Cooperation Eionet-RAC	SP 1. Building strengthened knowledge base SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction
C.3 EU Destination Earth and the Digital Twins initiatives	SP 3. Supporting digital transformation SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction
C.4 Sea-floor integrity	SP 2. Responding to political priorities SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction

D. Cross-cutting issues

Working areas	Links with Joint Work Plan strategic priorities (SP)
D.1 Sustainability achievement	SP 2. Responding to political priorities
D.2 Partnership, networking and stakeholder interaction	SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction
D.3 Coordinated advocacy and communication	SP 2. Responding to political priorities SP 4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction

Joint Work Plan 2022-2030 Implementation Table

Strategic priorities	Major products	Timeline	UNEP/MAP MTS	EEA-Eionet strategy	Possible resources
1. Building strengthened knowledge base	1.1. Assessment of the marine and coastal environment status and key pressures, taking into account socioeconomic aspects	2023 (QSR) 2025 (SoER) 2027 (SoED)	6.1, 6.2, 6.3	SO 1, SO 2	UNEP/MAP and EEA
	1.2 Generation of data and information including indicators development/population	2022-2030	6.2, 6.3	SO 1, SO 4	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed to extend the countries' support on data generation to additional sets of indicators and strengthen integration among them (Eastern and Southern Med countries)
	1.3 National capacity building activities on the use, access and management of environmental information and data	2022-2030	5.5, 6.3	SO 4	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed to complement existing support provided to the countries on monitoring and assessment in view of higher integration of knowledge base and strengthening the overall information management capacity
2. Responding to political priorities	2.1 Development of tools, methods and approaches to measure sustainability achievement and effectiveness of responses	2022-2024 2028-2029	6.1, 6.2	SO 2, SO 4	UNEP/MAP and EEA
	2.2. Sustainability gap report in the Mediterranean, addressing achievement of SDGs and targets and Barcelona Convention and Protocols objectives	2024 2030	5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3	SO 1, SO 2	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed to ensure a more inclusive process for the preparation of the sustainability gap report with participation of all Mediterranean countries
	2.3. Coordinated actions towards the objective of Building Back Better, including advocacy for stimulus package and recovery financial flows for Green Renaissance	2022-2023	7.1	SO 2	UNEP/MAP and EEA
	2.4. Coordinated advocacy for effective implementation and compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and Protocols increased ratifications	2022-2030	5.1, 7.1	SO 1, SO 3	UNEP/MAP and EEA

Strategic priorities	Major products	Timeline	UNEP/MAP MTS	EEA-Eionet strategy	Possible resources
3. Supporting digital transformation	3.1. Digital transformation and use of new technologies for environmental monitoring, reporting and assessment	2024-2030	6.2, 7.2, 7.3	SO 4	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed to further build capacities at regional and national country level on use of new technologies and digital tools
	3.2. Digital transformation and use of new technologies for governance related issues	2022-2025	5.2, 7.3	SO 4	UNEP/MAP and EEA
4. Ensuring coordinated networking, communication and stakeholder interaction	4.1. Systemic analysis, including the EEA ETCs and UNEP/MAP RACs and establishment of systemic coordination arrangements	2022-2023	5.2, 5.4, 5.5	SO 3, SO 5	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed to support the coordination arrangements resulting from the analysis, including setting up of structures, organization of meetings etc.
	4.2. Promotion of science-policy interface for sustainable development, strengthening and expanding established networks and engaging more actively local expertise	2022-2030	5.4	SO 1, SO 3	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed for enhanced stakeholders' engagement
	4.3. Stronger and coordinated communication activities	2022-2030	7.1, 7.2	SO 2	UNEP/MAP, EEA and External resources needed to support the ambition of this JWP in terms of visibility, material production, outreach and impact
	4.4. Coherent resource mobilization for joint action, including national projects development and resource mobilization campaigns	2022-2023 and throughout	5.2, 5.4	SO 5	UNEP/MAP and EEA



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