



United Nations
Environment Programme



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



*The Mediterranean
Biodiversity
Centre*

SPA/RAC activities implemented within the Marine Litter Regional Action Plan.

Marine litter MED 2016-2019

The overall objective of this EU-funded [project](#) is to support UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Contracting Parties:

to prevent and manage Marine Litter through the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan adopted by COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Istanbul, 2013, in synergy with the relevant work under:

- UNEP/GPA Global Partnership for Marine Litter,
- the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD),
- the UfM H2020 initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean,
- the EU SwitchMed Programme and
- in coordination with the other European Regional Seas.



EU-Funded marine Litter Med project

With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, “Marine Litter-MED” project aims to specifically support the Contracting Parties from Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighborhood to implement the Marine Litter Regional Plan.



D. Reducing impacts of marine litter in biota with a particular focus in endangered species

Within the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP):

The trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine turtles, among the other marine species, have been identified as the **Candidate Indicator 24 of the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP)**

- **Report “Defining the most representative species for IMAP candidate Indicator 24”**



EU-Funded marine Litter Med project

- **Protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entangling) with a view to harmonising methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean**
- Organisation of a sub regional training workshop on the monitoring of the amount of litter ingested by or entangling the marine turtles (Monastir, Tunisia 1-2 November 2018)

The goal: to enhance the implementation of the Specific Protocol on monitoring the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine turtles to harmonize methods and data collection by the national experts (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon) working on the national stranding networks.



EU-Funded marine Litter Med project

Assessment of the available data to propose GES Targets with regards to the amounts of litter ingested by or entangling the sea turtles: In order to collect specific information on the current methodologies in use for the analysis of marine litter ingested by sea turtles, from the Mediterranean Countries, Parties to the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, a questionnaire was prepared.

The Questionnaire is made of 29 questions and is structured in three parts:

Part I : identification of the subjects involved in the analysis of litter ingested by sea turtles; acknowledgment of the projects developed and/or ongoing and availability of data obtained

Part II : collection of information on typology and quantity of marine litter ingested by dead Seaturtles or found in the excrements (*faeces*) of living turtles in rescue centers;

Part III : assessment of criteria and methodologies used for the analysis of marine litter and identification of eventual gaps.

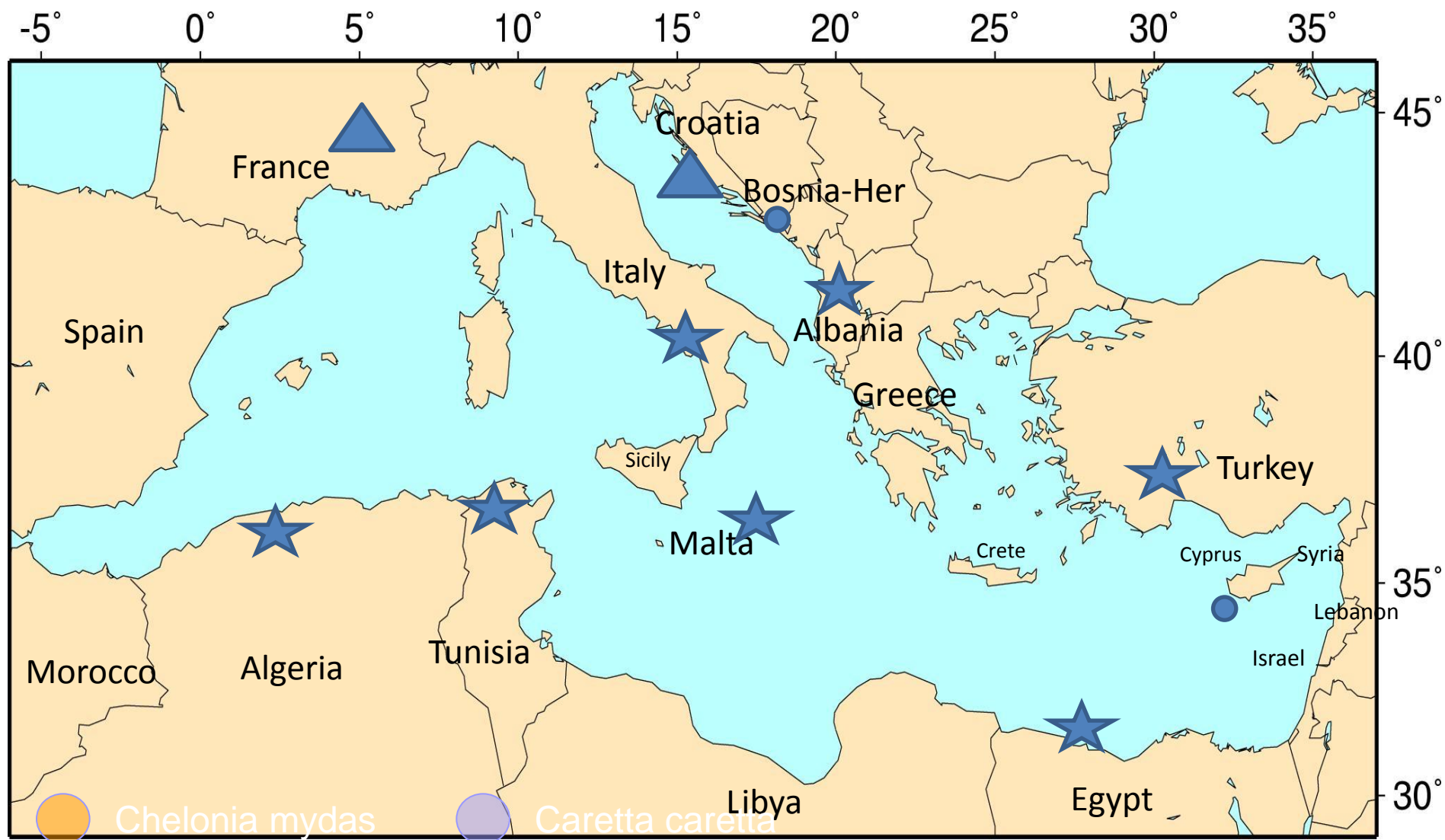
11 Countries have sent their feedback to the survey: 7 Countries (**Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Malta, Tunisia and Turkey**) have replied to the questionnaire. **France and Croatia** have contributed to the analysis by sharing the outcome of specific project and publications.

Cyprus and Bosnia-Herzegovina do not conduct analysis of marine litter ingested by sea turtles

★ Countries that have replied to the questionnaire

▲ Countries that have shared the outcome of specific project and publication

● Countries not conducting analysis of marine litter ingested by Turtles



Suggested actions:

- ✓ organization of trainings at regional and subregional levels;
- ✓ identification of subjects, Institutes and Scientific Centers to be involved in specific projects on litter ingested by sea turtles;
- ✓ promotion of twinning programs or collaborations between different Countries for the sharing of data and the transfer of knowledge and technology;
- ✓ set up of Rescue centers in those Countries where they are absent by ensuring the transfer of technical know-how as well as training programs for the personnel in charge of the maintenance and cure of sea turtles, in compliance with the RAC/SPA guidelines (2004);
- ✓ Ensure long-term consistent monitoring;
- ✓ Guarantee bigger availability of resources, both human and financial, for the development of all the said activities.



Dead turtles examined through necropsy



Presence of marine litter in the marine turtles *faecis*

Next steps:

- Develop an operational strategy for monitoring Sea turtle Candidate Indicator 24
- Create and improve a Mediterranean network on IMAP Common Indicator and exchanges of good practices.