

Advancing regional best practices: Generating fit-for-purpose data for the Quality Status Reports for the Mediterranean



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

WES-BCA
Tuesday, 03 February 2026

2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

2023 MED QSR Mediterranean Quality Status Report

UNEP/MED IG.26/22
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Decision IG.26/3

The 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 23rd Meeting,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/296 of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,

Recalling the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res. 3 of 2 March 2022, entitled “Future of the Global Environment Outlook”,

Recalling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that was adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15),

Having regard to Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant articles of its Protocols addressing monitoring and assessment,

Recalling Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, i.e. Decision IG.17/6 (COP 15), Decision IG.20/4 (COP 17), Decision IG.21/3 (COP 18), Decision IG.22/7 (COP 19), Decision IG.23/6 (COP 20), and Decision IG.24/4 (COP 21) and their status of implementation,

Expressing appreciation for the work undertaken by the entire UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention system, in primis the Contracting Parties, Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, CORMON, CORESA, MAP and MAP Components Focal Points, MAP Partners, and the Secretariat including MAP Component for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap,

Home Introduction The Mediterranean Sea Mediterranean Quality Status Assessments Actions and Measures



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The MEDITERRANEAN QUALITY STATUS REPORT is an important MAP flagship publication for assessing the status of the Mediterranean ecosystem and the achievement of Good Environmental Status.

MEDITERRANEAN QUALITY STATUS REPORT



COMING SOON

<https://medqsr2023.info-rac.org/>

MEDITERRANEAN QUALITY STATUS REPORT The state of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast from 2018-2023 SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS



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What Does “Fit-for-Purpose” Mean

Standardized (methods, units, classifications)



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graph TD; A[Standardized (methods, units, classifications)] --> B[Comparable across sub-regions and countries]; B --> C[Policy-relevant for GES and target setting]; C --> D[Scalable from national to regional assessments]; D --> E[Action-oriented, supporting prevention and reduction measures];
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Comparable across sub-regions and countries

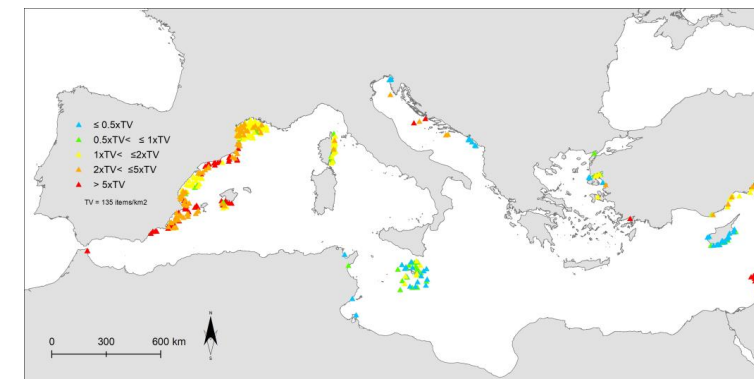
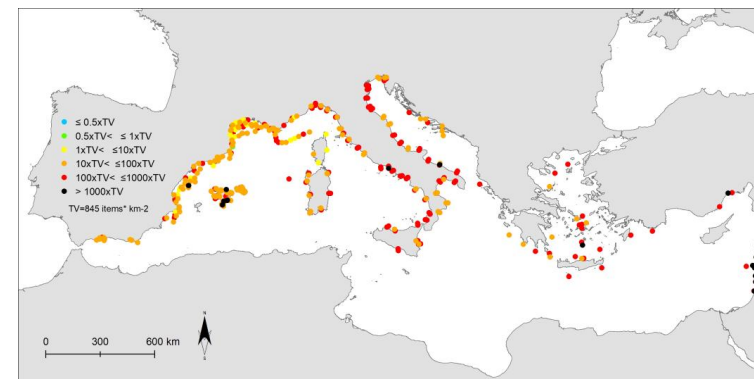
Policy-relevant for GES and target setting

Scalable from national to regional assessments

Action-oriented, supporting prevention and reduction measures

E010 (Marine Litter)

		GES Definition	GES Targets	GFS	Assessment Criteria/ TVs	DS/DD	Guidelines	GES Method/ Alternative Assessment Method
E010	CI22	✓	✓	✓ WG.439/12 (by 2027)	130 items/100m (2021)	M1: beach macro-litter	n/a	Beach macro: x5 GES/nonGES categories classification based on TV
	CI23	✓	✓	✓ WG.439/12 (by 2027)	38 i/km ² 0.000845 i/m ² (2023)	M2: seafloor macro M3: floating microplastics	Floating microplastics	Seafloor macro-litter: x5 GES/nonGES categories classification based on TV Floating Microplastics: x6 GES/nonGES categories classification based on TV
	CI24	✓	✓	✓ WG.439/12 (by 2027)	0.01gr dry weight ML ingested Entanglement: 9% affected sample (2025)	MLT1: ingestion and entanglement	Ingestion and entanglement	n/a
	CI28	✓	✓	n/a (by 2027)	n/a (by 2029 tbc)	n/a (by 2027)	- Floating macro (visual observations) - Macro on riverbanks - Micro on river outlets - Micro/nano with water pumps	n/a



What Guidance Factsheets Typically Cover



Baseline Values
and Targets



Methodology for
Indicator
Calculation



Indicator Units



Relevant Guidance
Documents



Data Confidence
and uncertainties



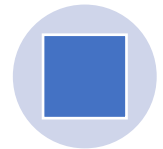
Available
Methodologies for
Monitoring



Spatial Scope
guidance and
Selection of
Monitoring
stations



Temporal Scope
Guidance



Statistical Analysis
and basis for
Aggregation



Known Gaps and
Uncertainties in
the Mediterranean

5. Baseline Values (BV) and Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 22

Table 15: Baseline Values and Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22 (i.e., beach macrolitter).

IMAP Indicator	Categories of Marine Litter	Baseline Values (BV – 2021)	Threshold Value (TV – 2021)
Common Indicator 22	Beach Macro-litter	369 items/100m	130 items/100m

6. Baseline Values (BV) and Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 23

Table 16. Baseline Values and Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 23 (i.e., seafloor macrolitter, floating microplastic).

IMAP Indicator	Categories of Marine Litter	Baseline Values (BV – 2023)	Threshold Value (TV – 2023)
Common Indicator 23	Seafloor Macro-litter	135 items/km ²	38 items/km ²
Common Indicator 23	Floating Microplastics	0.044338 items/m ²	0.000845 items/m ²

7. Baseline Values (BV) and Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 24⁵⁴

Table 17. Updated Baseline Values (BV) and Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 24 (i.e., for ingestion and entanglement on *Caretta caretta*).

IMAP Common Indicator 24	Updated BV (2025)	Proposed TV (2025)
Common Indicator24: Ingestion	0.07 gr dry weight ML ingested ⁵⁵	0.01 gr dry weight ML ingested
Common Indicator24: Entanglement	35% affected sample	9% affected sample

E010 – Marine Litter

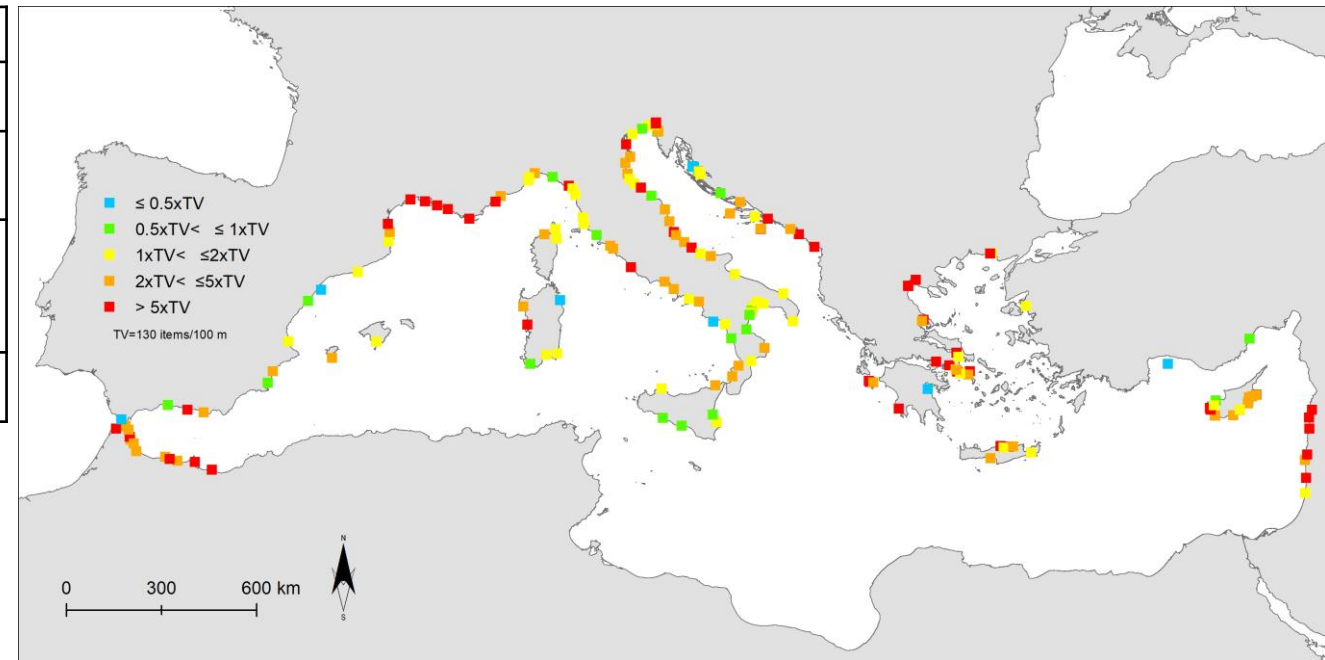
CI22 Beach macro-litter

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Mediterranean Quality Status Report

- ✓ GES/nonGES assessment for 192 beaches in the Mediterranean.
- ✓ C-Med least affected: 32% within GES.
- ✓ Adriatic, E-Med and W-Med show an equal distribution of beaches under GES (14 -16%) and nonGES (84 -86%).
- ✓ Plastic/polystyrene pieces (2.5cm–50cm) most abundant ML items in the Mediterranean → cigarette butts and filters, and plastic caps and lids (approx. 60% of recorded ML).

Boundary limits	GES- nonGES classes	No of Beaches	% of Beaches	
$\leq 0.5xTV$	HIGH	10	5	16% GES
$0.5xTV < \leq 1xTV$	GOOD	23	11	
$1xTV < \leq 2xTV$	MODERATE	49	24	79 % nonGES
$2xTV < \leq 5xTV$	POOR	59	29	
$> 5xTV$	BAD	51	25	
		192 beaches		



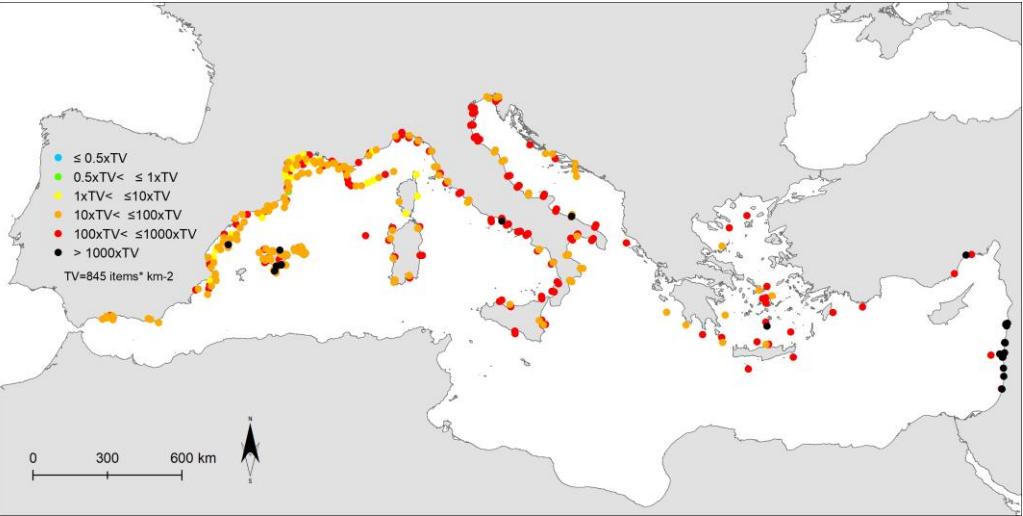
E010 – Marine Litter

CI23 Seafloor macro-litter | Floating microplastics

Floating Microplastics (679 stations):

Mediterranean Region				
Boundary limits	GES- nonGES classes	No of stations	% of stations	
≤ 0.5xTV	HIGH	4	1	1 % GES
0.5xTV< ≤ 1xTV	GOOD	1	0	
1xTV< ≤10xTV	MODERATE	40	6	99 % non-GES
10xTV< ≤100xTV	POOR	297	44	
100xTV< ≤1000xTV	BAD	306	45	
>1000x TV	VERY BAD	31	5	

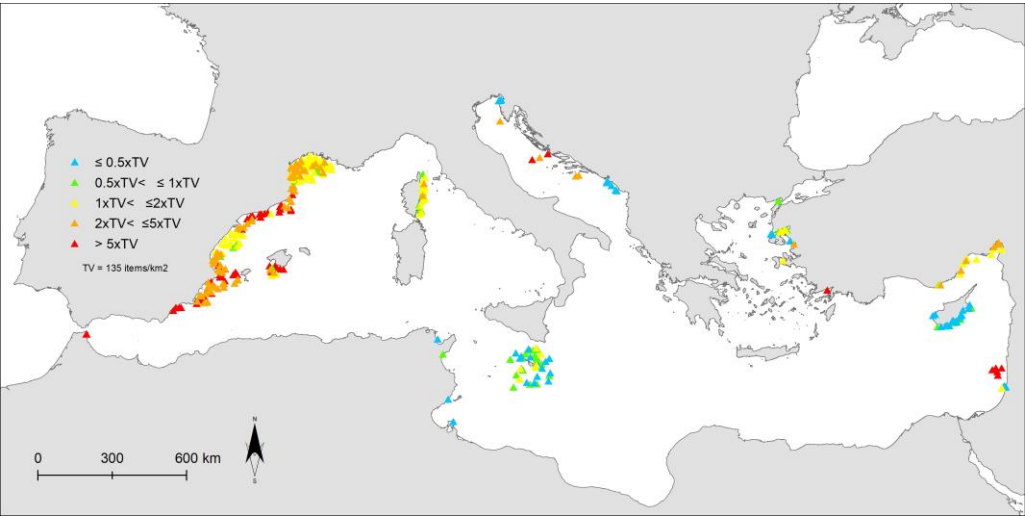
Sheets (37%), Filaments (30%), Pellets (21%),
Fragments (7%), Foam (4%), Granules (1%).



Seafloor Macroplastics (367 stations):

Mediterranean Region				
Boundary limits	GES- nonGES classes	No of stations	% of stations	
≤ 0.5xTV	HIGH	75	20	33 % GES
0.5xTV< ≤ 1xTV	GOOD	46	13	
1xTV< ≤2xTV	MODERATE	100	27	67 % nonGES
2xTV< ≤5xTV	POOR	83	23	
> 5xTV	BAD	63	17	

W-Med: 90% nonGES | Adriatic & E-Med: 30% & 39% nonGES (17% poor for Adri.)
E-Med: 22% non-GES (moderate) | C-Med: 14% non-GES.

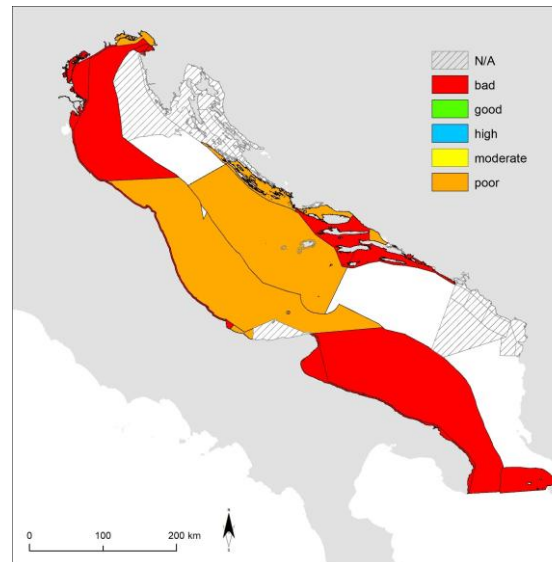
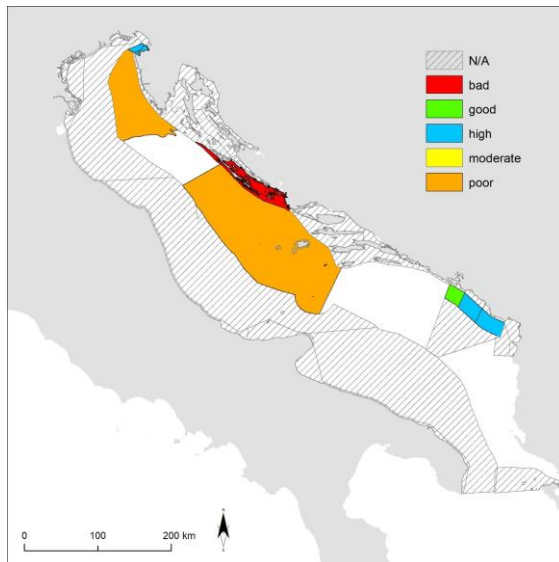
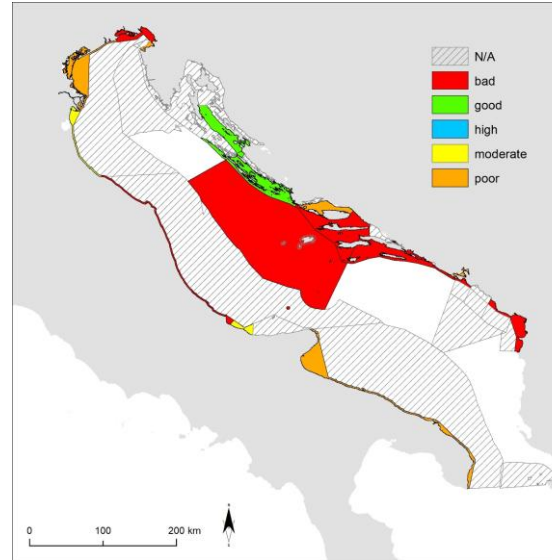
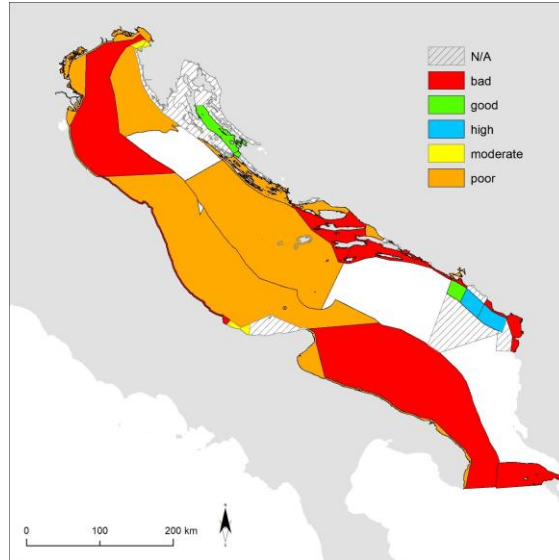
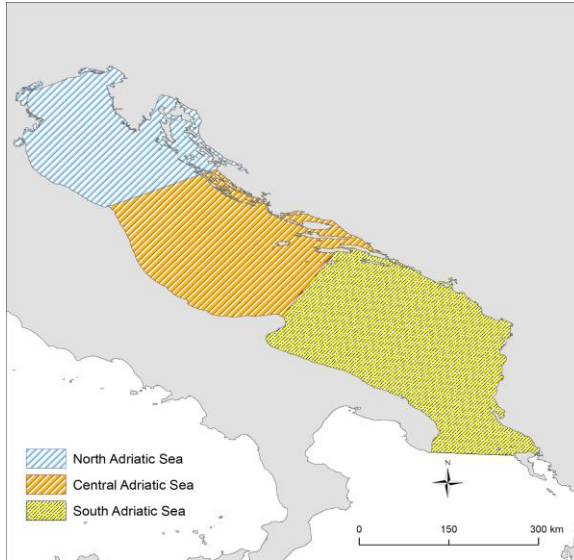


E010 – Marine Litter

Integrated GES-Assessment (CI22 & CI23) | The case study of the Adriatic Sea

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Data Policy
Privacy Policy



IMAP Info System



English French



Reporting



Explore



Info

Thank you !



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