

BLUEPRINT

**AN APPROACH TO
SCALE UP SOLUTIONS
TO ACHIEVE
“ZERO PLASTIC
POLLUTION” IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN
ISLANDS**



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WHY A BLUEPRINT

Many efforts are being made around the Mediterranean to reduce plastic pollution. Best practices need to be shared among practitioners and stakeholders to scale up results.

WHO IS CONCERNED

All organizations, citizens and politicians need to work together and share information and results as there is one Mediterranean and it is shared by all of us.

There could not be a unique solution but a summary of many. To solve the problem we all have to work together as we all live from and by the same sea.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This document combines best practices grouped in 7 different categories to be spread and used in other areas with the aim of scaling up the existing tools and methodologies, speeding up the change.



Assemble allies & Mobilise: bring people together in a community of practice to focus, coordinate and collaborate.



Experimentation & data collection: collect and analyse data concerning the sources of plastics and their impacts.



Reuse & find alternatives to plastics: eliminate single use, give second life to plastic and develop alternatives to limit the production and/or use of plastic.



Recommendations & new regulations: develop and implement action plans and new regulations concerning plastic.



Improve waste management: improve systems to collect and process plastic wastes.



Spread the word: raise awareness amongst both the public and institutions concerning the sources and consequences of plastic pollution.



Capitalisation activities: organise technical sessions, transfer workshops, etc. to put lessons learned into practice.

MAIN MESSAGE

Share best practices to scale up results, scale up results to achieve a zero pollution in islands

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SECTION 1: THE PLASTIC POLLUTION PROBLEM IN MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

"The Mediterranean contains just 1% of the world's waters but concentrates 7% of global microplastics"

The Mediterranean region is 5.000 km from west to east and over 2.000 km wide. Looked as a hotspot of global biodiversity with a high rate of endemism, it is also seen as one of the most threatened environments in the world as result of high population densities, lack of consistent waste-management schemes, and large influxes of tourists and strategic merchant navigation, among others.

It is estimated that the total plastic accumulated in the Mediterranean Sea is in the order of magnitude of 1.178.000 tonnes, and that every year circa 229.000 tonnes of plastic is flowing into the Mediterranean.

Plastic pollution is a challenge in all its phases: design, production, consumption and disposal and therefore it must be tackled across its entire lifecycle. Most efforts to minimise and mitigate the impacts of plastic pollution are focused on the mainland and little attention has been given to islands and how this problem affects them.

WHY IS THE MEDITERRANEAN SO POLLUTED?

-  **LACK OF CONSISTENT WASTE-MANAGEMENT SCHEMES**
-  **HIGH POPULATION DENSITY**
-  **HUGE ANNUAL INFLUX OF TOURISTS**
-  **LARGE FISHING SECTOR, HIGH SHIPPING TRAFFIC**
-  **SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA AREA NATURALLY ACCUMULATES DEBRIS**



The Mediterranean islands

The coastline of all the islands extends to about 18.000 km, or circa 39% of the Mediterranean coastline, even if the total area of islands is only about 4% of the entire Mediterranean marine area.

The definition of an island is different depending on the organisation that describes it. For example, the UN convention on the law of the seas Part VIII article 121 vaguely states that an island is “a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide”. Eurostat (the EC statistics service) provides a more precise definition in which “an island is of at least 1 km² permanently inhabited by at least 50 people and separated from the European continent by an area of water of at least 1 km”.

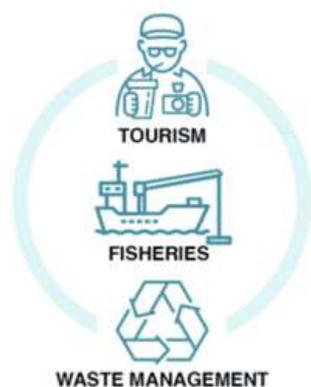
Following the definition of Eurostat, in the Mediterranean Sea there are circa 4.000 islands of less than 10 km² in area and 162 islands which are at least 10 km². There are 9 Mediterranean islands of over 1.000 km² accounting for 83% of the total island area. They are very diverse: there are two of them that are island-states (Cyprus and Malta) and some are autonomous regions (Balearics, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, etc.).

Some islands are very populated and very big such as Sicily, Crete, Sardinia or Corsica, and there are archipelagos and coastal islands.

Isolation, limited size, vulnerability and fragile and weakening ecosystems are common challenges for all. They are threatened by anthropic pressure or habitat degradation and face similar problems and limitations even if they are heterogeneous in terms of administrative, socio-cultural and economic issues.

In terms of nature, the island's biodiversity is extremely fragile. Of incredible richness of ecosystems, they are vulnerable to climate change as they are exposed to extreme weather events (worsen inundation, erosion, storm surge, invasion by non-native species) and changes in sea level and also reduction of the already limited water resources. This leads to a deterioration in coastal conditions, such as beach erosion, which will likely affect local resources such as fisheries, as well as their value as tourism destinations.

These impacts reduce their chances to compete with continental areas threatening the livelihood of island communities as they are usually much specialised, mainly in primary sector activities such as agriculture or fisheries and seasonal activities like tourism (this latter one is responsible for the economic success of many islands), which makes their production structure very weak. Many of the islands lack secondary industries due to the absence of raw materials.



Plastic pollution in the islands

While plastic pollution is not a problem only for islands, it is exacerbated there due to seasonality, or transport waste. Islands usually have fragile environments, with the waste disposal and management and the supply of drinking water as problematic.

Islands can be affected in many ways by plastic pollution. This problem can result in less income and reduced employment in coastal communities due to decreased tourism related to dirty and less attractive beaches, or in artisanal fisheries due to reduced catch or harm to the ship propulsion equipment. But it can also increase the costs for coastal and beach clean-ups, increase the risk of flooding due to blockage of stormwater systems and drainage with higher maintenance for water-using infrastructure or reduce the opportunities of recreational activities.

ISLANDS' VULNERABILITY TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

- Many Mediterranean islands tend to have economies that largely depend on tourism and fisheries.
- Islands have to deal with plastic waste they generate themselves, as well as plastic debris that washes ashore from other places.
- In most cases, islands do not have any recycling facilities and, for this reason, they export plastic waste collected.

On islands, waste management could be a serious problem as there is a variation in volume of waste depending on the season (higher during tourism months), not many facilities to treat it (including recycling centres), limited availability of land to store and process waste among others.



For instance, the development of tourism also gives further pressure on them. Some of the findings of the [Blueisland project](#) confirmed by the [Plastic Waste Free Islands-med](#) project in Cyprus and Menorca, are on the impact of tourism period on waste production. In those islands, the development of the hotspot methodology highlighted that tourism was one of the sectors with high rate of plastic leakage to the Mediterranean.

Cyprus and Menorca take-away from the analysis of hotspot methodology. Results highlight the waste generated by tourists.

SECTION 2: ENVISIONING “ZERO PLASTIC POLLUTION” MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

"Zero Plastic Pollution in the Mediterranean islands aligning with conventions and international strategies"

To achieve a “Zero plastic pollution” in the Mediterranean islands, initiatives need to align, support or inform conventions and international strategies in which plastic pollution in islands are included.

In the case of the Barcelona Convention, a multilateral legal framework for the protection of the marine and coastal environment and sustainable use of their resources in the Mediterranean, even if there are no specific provisions on islands, they are addressed at the UNEP/MAP Medium-term strategy 22-27 programme: programme 1 towards a pollution and litter free Mediterranean Sea and coast embracing circular economy or programme 4 towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy among others.

Additionally, a legally binding Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management (RPML) (originally adopted in 2013 in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol by the countries of the Mediterranean basin), pays attention to the actions

to reduce plastic pollution in the Mediterranean basin.

Despite the fact that the Mediterranean islands do not have a dedicated international convention, partnerships have been created with the aim of putting island sustainability at the top of the decision makers’ list. Among them, the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) Island Commission, the clean energy for islands community, the Mediterranean Islands Collective and other several networks and organisations working towards building resilient island communities and supporting people, culture and livelihoods while protecting the environment.

Another example is the BeMed Islands Community which aims to bring stakeholders from different islands working on plastic pollution to share know-how and knowledge. Several EU programs such as Interreg med have specific projects on Mediterranean islands such as the Blueisland or Wintermed projects.



SECTION 3: UNCOVERING SOLUTIONS TO PLASTIC POLLUTION. EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS IN ISLANDS

"Share best practices to scale up results"

With the objective of protecting the uniqueness of the islands as well as to reinforce islands communities' resilience, this document aims to create synergies with regional initiatives and other organisations working in the basin to achieve a long-term impact to reduce plastic pollution in the Mediterranean islands. This blueprint groups best practices and actions of organisations and different practitioners working on islands around the Mediterranean in 7 different categories, all of them interlinked and needed, to scale-up the results.

Those categories are arranged as follows:

1. Creating allies to unify efforts in sharing state-of-the-art knowledge
2. Collecting information
3. Finding alternatives to plastics
4. Developing new recommendations and regulations
5. Improving waste management
6. Spreading the word
7. Capitalising the process.

To facilitate the understanding of the categories, some preliminary best practices and actions have been selected

1. ASSEMBLE, ALLIES & MOBILISE

Under this category we group activities that generate **synergies between various stakeholders** (including private sector) involved in plastic in order to facilitate **exchanges, know-how and lessons learn** to implement concrete solutions to combat plastic pollution.

This category is the starting point as it is important to build and unify efforts, sharing state-of-the-art of the knowledge to improve the common work and decide what information or innovations are missing.

SYNERGIES BETWEEN DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

The BeMed Business Club, created by the BeMed association, brings together companies committed to implement solutions to prevent plastic pollution and facilitate the science-industry dialogue to fill gaps, share expertise and best practices.



EXCHANGES, KNOW-HOW AND LESSONS LEARNED

The BeMed community of practice: Part of the results of the Plastimed BeMed project funded by Prince Albert II Foundation developed by the members of the BeMed association (IUCN, Surfrider foundation and Tara Ocean). This community is in its early phases but when built, it will bring NGOs that share the concern of the plastic pollution problem in the Mediterranean basin to share best practices, lessons learned, and start collaborating to scale up results. It will be managed by the BeMed association.



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The Islands Community: Promoted by MedWaves and SMILO, and supported by BeMed association, this community enhances the collaboration between organizations working on islands to exchange, transfer results, lessons learned and know-how.

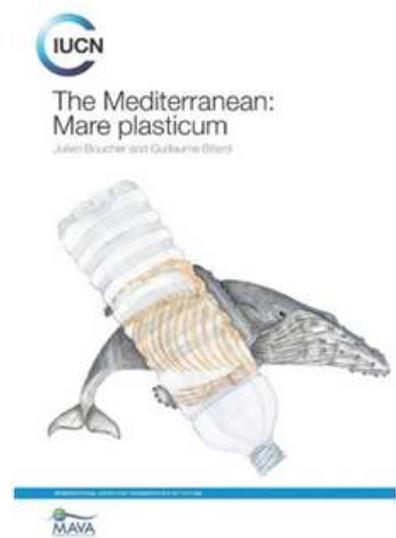
2. EXPERIMENTATION & DATA COLLECTION

In this category we group reports and studies or initiatives that provide analysis of data collected concerning the source of plastics and their impacts, to better understand the origin and fate of plastic in the Mediterranean Sea. The results of those studies will shape action based on scientific knowledge.

National guidance for plastic pollution hotspotting and shaping action: Using the National Guidance for Plastic Hotspotting and Shaping Action developed by IUCN and UNEP, reports such as the ones presented below (which are part of the results of the Plastic Waste Free Islands-Mediterranean project (PWFI) funded by the Primat Foundation and developed by IUCN), provide information of the polymers, applications, sectors, regional and waste management hotspots to formulate clear statements to shape action.



The Mediterranean: Mare plasticum: Developed by IUCN and funded by MAVA. This study estimates the plastic accumulated in the Mediterranean Sea, the plastic leakage into the sea, and an assessment of the initiatives being put in action to reduce the plastic pollution.

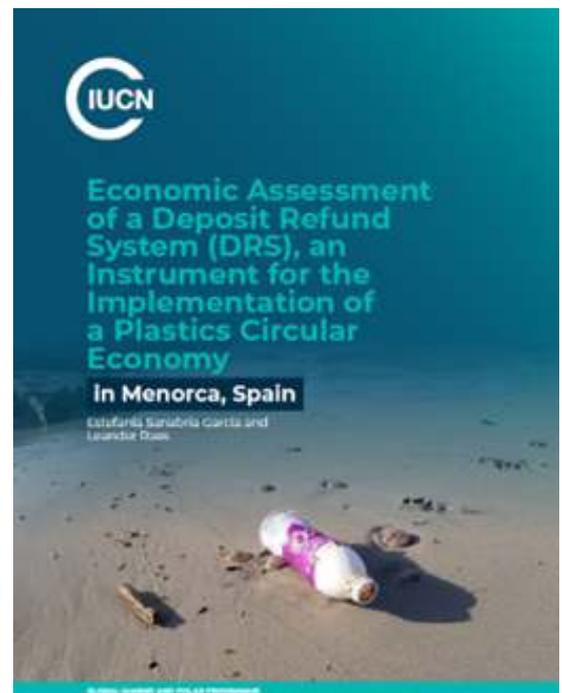


3. REUSE & FIND ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTICS

This category groups the actions and initiatives that focus in **giving a second life** to plastic, in **developing alternatives** to limit its production and/or use, and in **eliminating single use plastics**, to promote circular economy.

GIVING A SECOND LIFE

The example we present is part of the PWFI. The report “Economic Assessment of a DRS for the implementation of a plastic circular economy in Menorca”, carries out a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to identify whether the implementation of the instrument is economically feasible and sustainable over time, thus supporting the decision-making process for the government of Menorca.



DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES AND NEW PRODUCTS

Three examples: 1) a lamp (Menorca) and 2) a chair (Republic of Cyprus). Below are the proofs-of-concept of commercially viable products made of locally sourced plastic waste developed under the PWFI.

LAMP *by Silvia Vivó*

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION



Weight:
650 grams

Intended use:
Interior Decor
Lampshade

Source: Trammel net used for small-scale artisanal fishing (Lobster, cuttlefish or palangre) - Nylon monofilament net

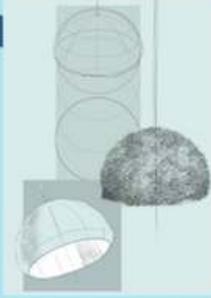
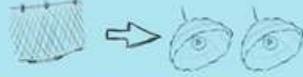
Type of Plastic used: Monofilament nylon

Estimated annual volumen: 220 lamps - 110 discarded fishing nets

The lamp uses monofilament nylon - approx. 1 kg per lamp



1 monofilament nylon net = 2 lamps (0 plastic diverted)



Target market:

- Population
- Hospitality industry
- Interior designers
- Design companies

Points of sale:

- Shops
- Artisan sale
- Menorca Craft Centre



COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCT

CBA = Benefits/Costs
if CBA > 1, the product is feasible

ANNUAL ESTIMATED COSTS
220 LAMPS: 40.401 €

ANNUAL ESTIMATED BENEFITS
220 LAMPS: 51.700 €

- Fishermen's guild containers to artisan
- Transport from fishermen's guild to storage
- Cost of storage
- Cost of the additional materials needed to make the product
- Cost of the hours of the artisan to make the product
- Coordination cost

- 50 % wholesale: 175 € unit
- 50 % retail sale: 295 € unit

NET PROFIT:
220 LAMPS: 11.299 €

CBA = 1,28

CBA is > 1, the product is economically feasible

Analysis of 3 different scenarios based on the achievement of determined objectives

MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

- Parameter 1: Reduce to zero the nets in landfill.
- Parameter 2: Maximizing the financial profitability of managing the fishing nets.
- Parameter 3: Contribute to sustainability and environmental preservation goals.
- Parameter 4: Add value to society through employment opportunities.
- Parameter 5: Reduce GHG emissions.

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	MCA
A1	0,05	0,12	0,05	0,07	0,70	0,09
A2	0,22	0,13	0,22	0,18	0,07	0,19
A3	0,73	0,75	0,73	0,75	0,23	0,72

ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative 1: Continue with the status quo (Current situation).
- Alternative 2: Manage the discarded nets through an authorised manager (Legal situation).
- Alternative 3: Recycle the fishing nets, creating new commercial products and manage the rest of the nets through an authorised manager (Circular economy situation).

Best option



Concept description

EXTRUSION BASED FURNITURE

Sturdy plastic chair made from locally sourced plastic waste

- Inspired by traditional Cypriot dining chairs
- Plastic lumber, beams, planks, parts (semi-finished product)
- Indoor / outdoor furniture (end-product)
- Example Prototype :
Dinner chair recycled PE/PP
 - Dimensions: L 499 x W 450 x H 809 mm
 - Weight: 10 kg
 - Intended use: Dinner table, terrace, patio



User scenarios

Furniture

- Comfortable
- Durable
- Climate/weather-proof
- Modular, repairable
- Locally manufactured



Concept description

EXTRUSION BASED FURNITURE

Other related products:

- Coffee table
- Loounge chair
- Barbed



Alternative weaving patterns/structures



ELIMINATING SINGLE USE PLASTICS



**A GUIDE TO
HONEST ALTERNATIVES
TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS
FOR THE HOSPITALITY
INDUSTRY**

The guide presented as an example aims to put an end to false alternatives to reduce the impact of the hospitality industry. Developed to support the Plastic Free Balearics certification. Funded by BeMed association and the Consell Insular de Mallorca and promoted by the foundations Save the Med, Ibiza Preservation, and the Plastic Free Ibiza and Formentera Movement. The objective is to raise awareness and to facilitate purchasing decisions based on environmental protection criteria.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS & NEW REGULATIONS

This category focuses on the analysis and development of policy, legal recommendations and policy briefs to support the implementation of regulations concerning plastic.

ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEGAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Governing plastic waste management in Menorca
Assessment of legal, policy and institutional frameworks



Foundation
D'Idonea i Marítim
Prímat



Governing plastic waste management in the Republic of Cyprus
Assessment of legal, policy and institutional frameworks



Foundation
D'Idonea i Marítim
Prímat

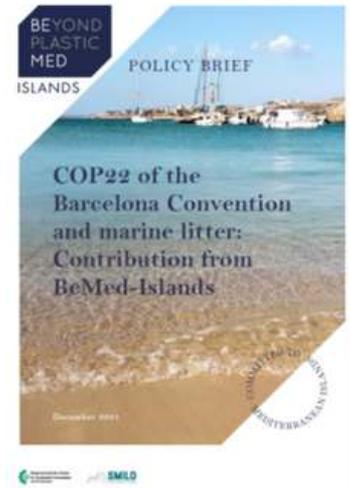
Under the project PWFI, the legal, policy and institutional frameworks were assessed in the two pilot islands of the project. The aim was to develop a gap analysis to provide options for priorities and recommendations to help achieve the targets. Two phases to reach the results. First to review the frameworks (two first documents included in the example) to end with the recommendation documents next to this paragraph.



POLICY BRIEFS

As an example the one developed by MedWaves and SMILO under the BeMed capitalization project funded by BeMed association. The policy brief “COP22 of the Barcelona Convention and marine litter: Contribution from BeMed-Islands”.

This policy brief was presented on the occasion of the adoption of the upgraded Marine Litter Regional Plan by the Barcelona Convention.



5. IMPROVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

As waste management is one of the most important sectors that should be target to reduce plastic pollution, this category unifies all initiatives and activities that **plan actions** and share **best practices** to improve the systems and activities focusing on collecting and processing plastic waste.

ACTION PLANS

Developed with targeted stakeholders, and starting from the results of the hotspotting analysis, the action plans shared are part of the results of the PWFI. In each of them there are actions targeting the plastic pollution in three sectors: tourism, fisheries and waste management.



BEST PRACTICES

Several of the results shared in the above action plans were selected as best practices.

6. SPREAD THE WORD

Within this category we group the actions and projects that focus in **informing about plastics** in general and **raising awareness** to the public, enterprises and public and private institutions concerning the sources and consequences of plastic pollution.

INFORMING ABOUT PRACTICES



As an example one of the several factsheets developed by BeMed for its BeMed business club. In the case of the one share in this document, its aim is to have a more detailed information about the truth of recycling.

RAISING AWARENESS

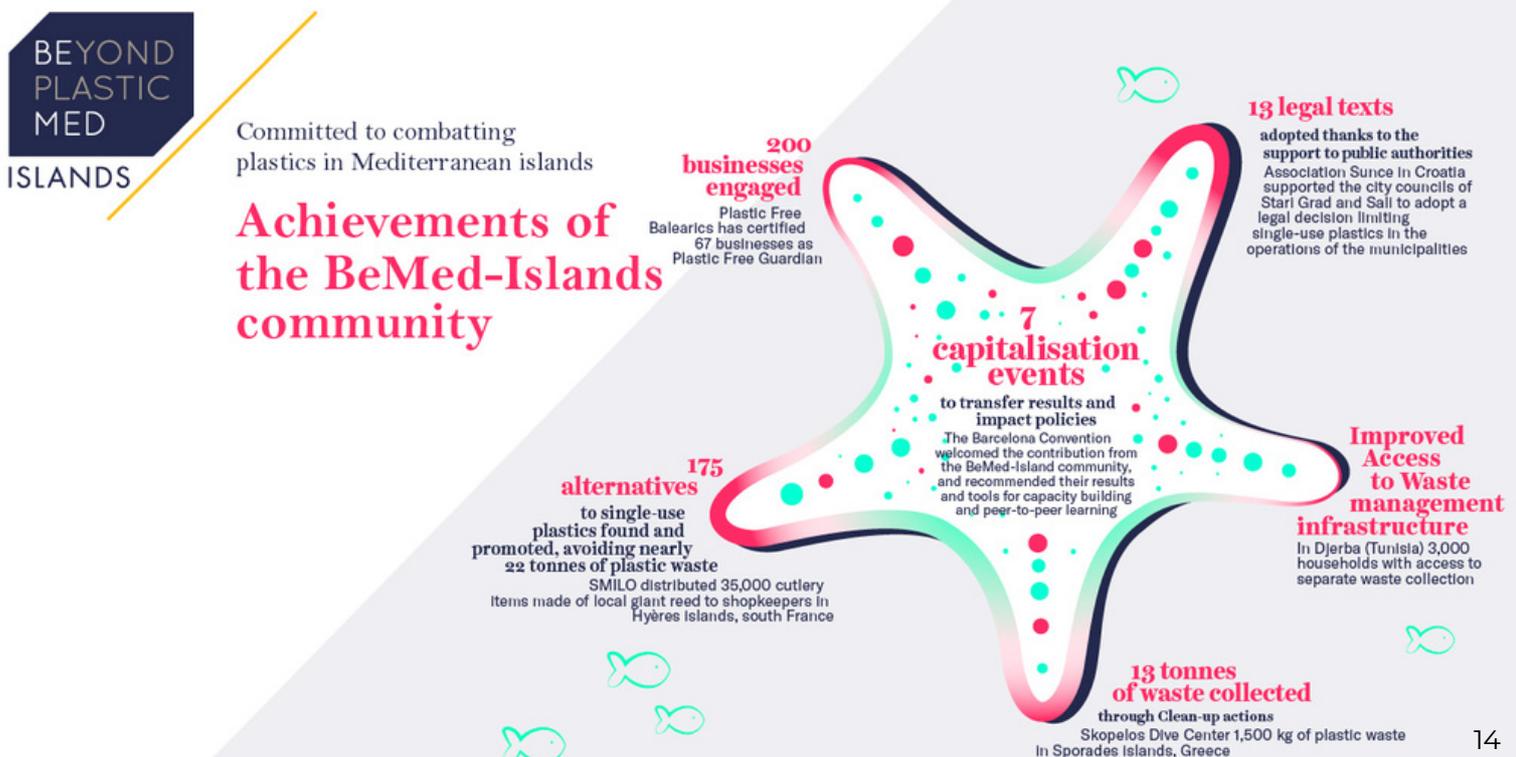
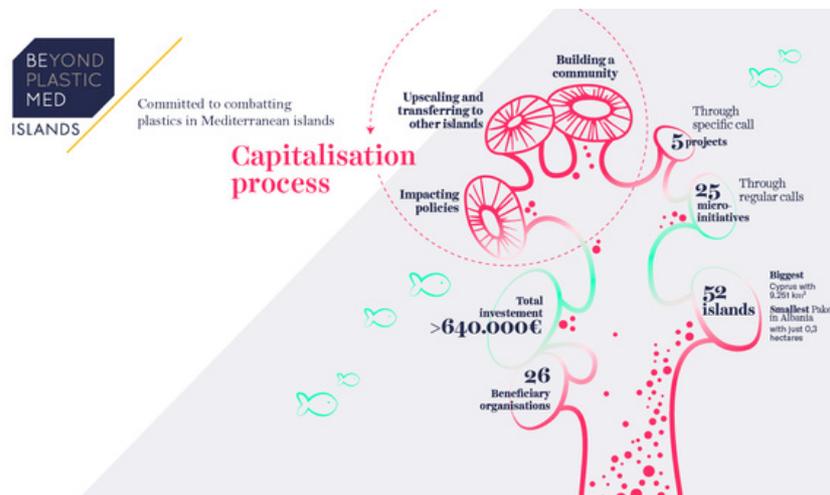
The document shared as an example, “towards a plastic-free Mediterranean” developed by the BeMed Association, aims to share information about plastic pollution and how the businesses part of its business club are committing to tackle the problem.



7. CAPITALISATION ACTIVITIES

In this last category there are group of actions that aim to improve the knowledge of the stakeholders working on plastic pollution. It is dedicated to technical sessions, transfer workshops, etc.

As an example the capitalisation project developed by MedWaves and SMILO funded by BeMed association. The project aims to have a long-term impact on marine waste reduction by capitalising on the results of the plastics prevention projects supported under the BeMed Mediterranean Islands call for projects. Several transfer workshop and technical sessions were developed in order to improve the work between the different stakeholders.



SECTION 4: SCALING UP SOLUTIONS TOWARDS ZERO PLASTIC POLLUTION IN MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

"Scale up results to achieve a zero pollution in islands"

Despite the clear links between the problems the islands face, it is still very difficult for them to share experiences and best practices, and commonly work together to fight against plastic pollution.

As suggested many times, it is important to develop an environment of exchanges between islands but not only. As the plastic pollution in islands is not just coming from their territory but from the coast of the continental part of the Mediterranean basin, linkages with other initiatives and different stakeholders should be pursued.

For this reason it is important to work together and commit to several initiatives to share and increase the results and the impact.

In Section 3 we have shared some of the actions, lessons learned and best practices of some of the organisations working in the Mediterranean basin.

But many more are being put in place every day worth sharing, spreading, and scaling up.

As important as it is to know the different activities and actions being developed, it is also to have a clear roadmap for the relevant stakeholders to curve together the plastic pollution in the Mediterranean basin.

In this sense, the organisations that have shared their expertise and knowledge in this document are suggesting to combine efforts and create a roadmap with many organisations and initiatives around the Mediterranean.

For this and as the first step, we are highlighting and will commit to engage partners to understand the importance of working commonly and having a clear roadmap to reach Zero plastic pollution in 2030 to bring together diverse stakeholders to collaborate and take action.



ROADMAP TO ZERO PLASTIC POLLUTION (2022-2030) FOR NGOS

1. Be part of a community of practice to tackle plastic pollution. Organisations from the Mediterranean basin work together to share best practices, results and common problems to scale up solutions.
2. Develop science-based activities (following the best practices of the described projects and other initiatives) to implement action plans that support the commitments agreed on the Marine Litter Regional Plan.
3. Work with key stakeholders (mainly in tourism, fisheries, agriculture and water and waste management sectors) to reduce plastic leakage and waste production.
4. Join pledges/charts of commitments for sustainable material source management and circular economy, such as the UNEP Beat plastic pollution.

ROADMAP TO ZERO PLASTIC POLLUTION (2022-2030) FOR PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

1. Adopt relevant policies and funding according to approved policies such as the Marine Litter Regional Plan or the Single-Use Plastics Directives.
2. Endorse and liaise with international, multi-stakeholders commitments such as the Action Plan for an Exemplary Sea (PAMEX- The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030).
3. Liaise with NGOs and contribute to the action plans that they develop, as well as provide funding for implementation.
4. Develop capitalisation activities to transfer knowledge and replicate and scale up best practices to avoid plastic pollution.

ROADMAP TO ZERO PLASTIC POLLUTION (2022-2030) FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

1. Review the business model to design out unnecessary plastic and to avoid the single-use of plastics
2. Work with scientists and organisations to reduce pollution impact with the right solutions and make sure to avoid negative environmental trade-offs.
3. Work collectively across plastic value chain to find large scale solutions considering the life cycle, including through existing platforms such as the BeMed Business Club.
4. Use available alternative products, environmentally and economically viable.

FINAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

"Collaboration, actions and sharing"

There is no single or unique solution to plastic pollution. In this document we included several actions and proposals grouped in categories that, added together, can scale up the results achieved at pilot level to other areas of the Mediterranean region.

This document intends to be a living document in which to keep adding more best-practices and reinforcing and improving the roadmaps with other relevant stakeholders.

As for final summary of recommendations:

- 1.- Ensure the collaboration among different stakeholders with a participatory approach
- 2.- Find the gaps and challenges to put in place the actions
- 3.- Provide action plans based on results and stakeholder knowledge
- 4.- Improve waste collection based on scientific data
- 5.- Share and communicate the results



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ANNEX 1. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTHOR ORGANISATIONS

IUCN AND ITS PLASTIC WASTE FREE ISLANDS CONCEPT IN THE MED



IUCN has developed in two islands acting as pilot sites at the Mediterranean Sea (Cyprus and Menorca), the Plastic Waste Free Islands concept. This concept tackles the plastic pollution from the source with the aim to understand the problem in a science-based manner to provide solutions.

The project followed the steps:

1. Data. Using the National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action- that has identified the main critical hotspots and opportunities to consider for the design, implementation and scaling up of Plastic Circular Economy approaches. The Guidance is a common methodological framework to enable countries to prioritize interventions to abate plastic pollution. The model is based on the definition of hotspots-interventions-instruments in the various stages of the value chain, classifying the interventions and instruments according to the categories of the Guidance.

2.Engagement of stakeholders. To review the results and use their knowledge to better target the problem.

3.Policy. Improving knowledge and providing policy recommendations to reduce plastic waste generation, foster plastic waste prevention and enhance adoption of plastic leakage reduction measures by tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors.

4.Economy. Development of economic assessments based on data, to provide solutions.

5.Action plans. For the policy makers and relevant stakeholders on how to reduce and reuse plastic materials in the first place and, if unavoidable, how to optimize and boost local recycling and enhanced plastic waste management, in order to identify a collective framework and a timeline for implementation.

6.Best practices and recommendations. List of the best practices based on the action plans, and the stakeholder knowledge.

7.Alternative Products. Repurposing plastic waste into commercially viable products, thus contributing to generate job opportunities and income for local communities.

BEMED (BEYOND PLASTIC MED) AND ITS TARGET OF RALLYING, SUPPORTING AND CONNECTING COMMITTED STAKEHOLDERS



Supporting 26 initiatives in Mediterranean islands, BeMed has created the BeMed-Islands Community. BeMed has the ability to create alliances between science, private sector and civil society. In the past 7 years BeMed has funded many projects in the Mediterranean region



BeMed Network

In January 2020, BeMed created its Business Club which brings together companies who wish to commit to a plastic-free Mediterranean. The objectives of the Club are to:

- Bring together companies from different sectors and different parts of the plastic value chain.
- Provide companies with the key information they need to develop and implement an effective and sustainable plastic strategy.
- Deploy field actions adapted to local contexts in the Mediterranean.

All of the work carried out in the Club benefits from scientific expertise to prevent transfer of environmental impacts.

In 2022, the BeMed Business Club counted 12 companies amongst its members. The activities of the Club are divided into two axes:

- Develop pilot projects: A first pilot project of the BeMed Business Club is currently ongoing in the InterContinental Marseille - Hotel Dieu. It aims to accompany the hotel to reduce single-use plastics by focusing on a few products in a short time.
- Facilitate the dialogue between Scientifics and companies: This dialogue allows the companies to fill certain gaps in scientific knowledge but also to share their expertise and best practices with the other members of the Club and the scientific world.

SMILO – Small Islands Organisation assists small islands of less than 150 km² that wish to work towards managing their territory more sustainably. It aims to curb impacts linked to human activities and development, whilst fostering innovations on islands that benefit the local population and their environment.

SMILO focuses on sustainable solutions in the fields of water & sanitation, waste, energy, biodiversity, landscape and heritage.

MEDWAVES



MedWaves has been particularly active in the prevention of marine litter in MPAs, often located close to islands. Two Interreg Med projects allowed for this. Firstly, 10 marine litter action plans in MPAs were elaborated through the [ACT4LITTER](#) project and identified a list of one hundred concrete solutions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of marine litter and in particular plastics. Secondly, [Plastic Busters MPAs](#) tested

different measures included in those action plans. The final short-listing of measures was made with a participatory process among all project partners, thus ensuring full consideration of the MPAs characteristics and of the role and skills of MPA managers. The major types of priority measures towards preventing and mitigating marine litter effectively in MPAs selected to be tested were:

- Setting up a scheme to phase out the use of single use plastics
- Developing awareness raising campaigns
- Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme
- Implementing an extended producer responsibility scheme

In addition, MedWaves supports Mediterranean countries in fulfilling their commitments within the Barcelona Convention. In relation to plastics, the emphasis is in the prevention of single-use plastic products through different means, including guidelines, training and technical assistance on the implementation of measures such as bans, extended producers responsibility or communication campaigns.

Finally, MedWaves promotes green entrepreneurship in the region through the Switchers Support Programme, where entrepreneurs in the region benefit from training, access to funding and networking, among others.

ANNEX 2. BEMED ISLANDS COMMUNITY PRODUCTS

BEMED Thematic / Interest for type of stakeholder	Assemble Allies & Mobilise	Experimentation & data collection	Reuse & alternatives to plastics	Recommendations & new regulations	Engagement with businesses	Spread the word	Improve waste management
Public institutions		<p>Stop the plastic flow Cyprus</p> <p>Friends of the Earth Cyprus</p>		<p>Plastic Free Croatian islands Sunce</p> <p>Together for zero plastic in 10 Albanian islands Royal Albania Foundation</p>			<p>Plastistop Tunisia JLIL</p>
Private sector	<p>Project Xibka Malta Zibel</p>	<p>Cruise Ships against plastic pollution in Cyprus Isotech Ltd</p>	<p>Zero plastic on Hyères islands and replication in the Med SMILO</p>	<p>Prevent Plastic in the Med Sea Cyprus Cyprus sustainable tourism initiative</p>	<p>Plastic Free Balearic certification Save The Med / Ibiza Preservation</p> <p>The responsible beach bars initiative AKTI</p> <p>The Cyprus responsible coastal businesses network against SUPs AKTI</p>		<p>Plastic Free Entertainment Cruises and Water Sport Activities Cyprus sustainable tourism initiative</p>
NGOs	<p>Beat Plastic Cyprus Together Cyprus</p>	<p>CorSeaCare Mare Vivu</p> <p>Clean Seas by Eco-Schools Malta Natae Trust</p>		<p>For a Sea without Plastic GOB Mallorca</p>		<p>Active Skiathos Against Plastic bags (ASAP) MedSOS Greece</p> <p>Combating plastic pollution and raising public awareness in Northern Cyprus SPOT</p>	

For detail information: [Hope for the future: successful solutions for plastic pollution in the Mediterranean islands by the BeMed-Islands Community](#)



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