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**Draft Common Regional Framework**

**for Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean**

**Split, March 2019**

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**(Draft)**

**I Introduction (Artt. 1, 17 and 18)**

The ultimate objective of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol) is to contribute to the vision for the Mediterranean Sea and coast as: “A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse, contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations”. (UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021).

As for Article 1 of the ICZM Protocol, the Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Barcelona Convention “shall establish a common framework for the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone and take the necessary measures to strengthen regional cooperation for this purpose” to be implemented with the assistance of UNEP/MAP and its Components, and the overall coordination ensured by PAP/RAC.

Art. 17 of the ICZM Protocol on Mediterranean strategy for integrated coastal zone management, states that the CPs “undertake to cooperate for the promotion of sustainable development and integrated management of coastal zones, taking into account the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and complementing it where necessary. To this end, the Parties shall define, with the assistance of the Centre, a common regional framework for integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean to be implemented by means of appropriate regional action plans and other operational instruments, as well as their national strategies”.

Art. 18, provides that “each Party shall further strengthen or formulate a national strategy for integrated coastal zone management and coastal implementation plans and programmes consistent with the common regional framework”.

This Common Regional Framework (CRF) is to be considered as the strategic instrument meant to facilitate the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. It shall operate without prejudice to the ICZM Protocol, the provisions of which shall always prevail.

**II Scope of the CRF (Artt. 3 and 8)**

The combined Art. 4 of the Barcelona Convention and Artt. 3 and 28 of the ICZM Protocol identify the geographical scope and scale of the CRF inviting CPs, individually or jointly, to take for the Mediterranean Sea area – as defined in Art. 1 of the Barcelona Convention within the geographical coverage as defined by ICZM Protocol – all appropriate measures to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment and the natural resources in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development and, in particular, to promote the integrated management of coastal zones, taking into account the protection of areas of ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of natural resources, coordinating, where appropriate, bilaterally or multilaterally their national coastal strategies, plans and programmes related to contiguous coastal zones.

ICZM needs to be approached at different geographic scales and administrative levels: at the Mediterranean scale addressing the entire sea basin through cooperation among all riparian states; at the sub-regional scale – where relevant and possible – addressing transboundary issues in sub-regions as defined for the purpose of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) roadmap implementation, and seeking synergies with other existing sub-regional strategies and plans; at the national and sub-national (local) scale in line with the regionally agreed principles.

The CRF provides strategic orientations on how the ICZM Protocol is jointly implemented within the geographical coverage between the external limit of the territorial sea of the CPs and the limit of the competent coastal units as defined by the CPS, using coordinated and harmonized approaches.

ICZM is also an essential tool to fulfil the purposes of the Barcelona Convention within the Mediterranean Sea Area as it provides a commonly shared context with specific recommendations focusing on: (a) coherence of policies/strategic documents and orientation of actions; and (b) ways to strengthen integration and regional/sub-regional cooperation, taking also into consideration the land-sea interactions and the transboundary aspects.

The CRF is aimed to provide recommendations and measures to strengthen regional cooperation for:

Processes: to accelerate achievement of results agreed and outcomes/outputs set out;

Indicators: essential tools for tracking progress, supporting policy evaluation and informing the public and decision makers;

Methods and practices: to achieve objectives and the general principles of the ICZM Protocol.

In addition, the 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 20, Tirana, Albania, 2017) adopted the decision IG.23/7 that envisages the introduction of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) into the system of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, implying the development, through this CRF, of appropriate means to include MSP in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. In that respect, the CRF has two main objectives:

* to introduce MSP in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and in particular link it to ICZM, considering MSP as the main tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone and specifically for planning and managing maritime human activities according to EcAp goals (as specifically addressed by section 3 of the CF);
* to provide a common context to CPs for the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean Region.

#### **III Objectives and General Principles of the CRF (Artt. 5-7, 18, 19, 22, 28 and 29)**

In order to promote ICZM through the CRF and achieve sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development, the following objectives with related general principles are to be envisaged:

1. Use **the ecosystem-based management** to ensure **sustainable development and integrity of the coastal zone, its ecosystems and related services and landscapes,** by**:**

* taking into account in an integrated manner all coastal zone elements to respect carrying capacity, address cumulative impacts and prevent and/or reduce negative effects of natural disasters or risks and of development;
* taking into account land-sea interactionsas a complex phenomenon involving the interactions of both, natural processes and human activities, as a criterion for defining areas to be managed and as a parameter in planning processes and procedures;
* formulating appropriate land/sea use strategies, plans and programmes for activities in the coastal zone, also through appropriate tools, in particular Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
* promoting cooperation between and among CPs in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures related to activities under their jurisdiction or control, which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the marine and coastal environment of other CPs or areas beyond the geographical scope of the ICZM Protocol, on the basis of notification, exchange of information and consultation.

1. Address **natural hazards** and **the effects of natural disasters**, in particular **coastal erosion** and **climate change** by:

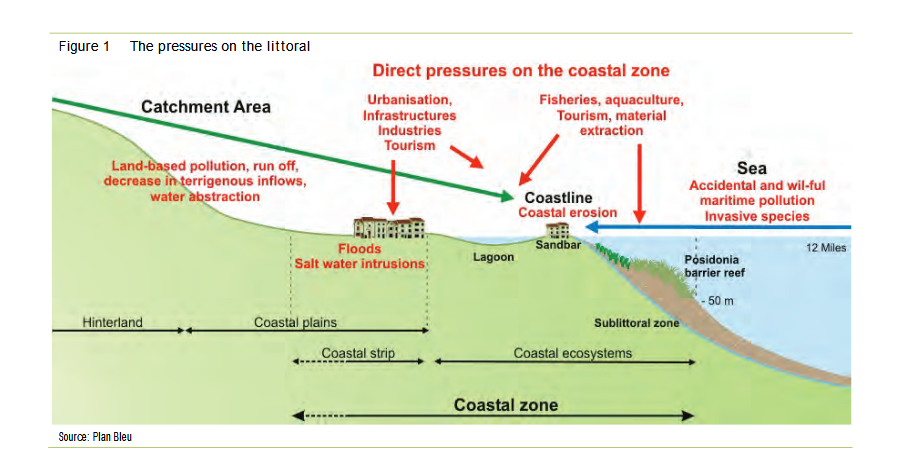
* taking into account the commitments to the Paris agreement on climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to build climate change resilience and the Strategic Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
* preparing timely management plans to prevent, reduce and minimize negative impacts to coastal zones;
* promoting ecosystem approach and /nature-based solutions to maintain or restore the natural capacity of the coast to adapt to changes;
* assisting in mainstreaming coastal adaptation into appropriate institutional and policy frameworks;
* participating in awareness raising, stakeholder engagement and capacity building for addressing coastal risks;
* promoting the use of best practices and best available data, information and tools.

1. Achieve **good governance** among actors involved in and/or related to coastal zones by:

* ensuring appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination and proper participation of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process;
* ensuring coherence and complementarity of all strategies, policies, plans, initiatives, planning processes and funding at all levels affecting coastal zones: to this end, further strengthening cooperation among components of the Barcelona Convention system and coordinated efforts, ensuring synergies with other related strategic documents and promoting integration and harmony among coastal environment, relevant socio-economic activities and human communities living in the coastal zones;
* promoting appropriate coordination between the various authorities competent for both the marine and the land parts of coastal zones in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels;
* organising the acquisition, exchange and use of the best available relevant information and data based in particular on Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles;
* promoting consistency and coherence of ICZM at regional and sub-regional level ensuring trans-boundary cooperation where appropriate;
* ensuring cooperation with all relevant/competent international and regional organizations.

**IV Ecosystem-based Management for Good Environmental Status and Sustainable Development (Artt. 8-15 and 22-24)**

The essence of the ecosystem-based management approach is to address the coastal zone as a continuum made of land and sea space, preserving the integrity of its ecosystems and dealing with the processes that occur in them and influence on them in an integrated manner (Fig. 1). This approach aims at ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and quality of life of coastal populations. Ecosystem-based management is inherently based on an integrated approach where the focus is on the ability to understand and address cumulative risks and effects on the natural world arising from human activities.



**Figure 1: Pressures on the coastal zone (Source: Plan Bleu, 1995)**

ICZM has evolved as the most appropriate approach to manage potential conflicts among various sectoral policies (conflicts for space, resources, infrastructures…), as well as between maritime and terrestrial policies by ensuring the integration dimension and the coherent governance of planning and management of the coastal zones and their activities on either land or sea parts. It provides for better coherence, maximizes synergies and increases coordinated implementation of sectoral policies with a view to ensuring the integrity of ecosystems, as well as adequately addressing land-sea interactions (LSI) and ensuring the compatibility of land and sea uses by implementing MSP and clarifying its links with ICZM.

Applying ICZM principles also allows for the integration of environmental protection into spatial planning and economic development i.e. the integration of policies and establishment of frameworks for cooperation among all concerned stakeholders. Their active participation, raised awareness and sufficient capacity are the best guarantees of the needed change of behaviour towards environment: by acting on the source of pollution through the application of the prevention and precautionary principles it is possible to cope with the pollution before it happens, this being the crucial dimension for attaining sustainability. These challenges should be handled by applying the integrated approach to the management of coastal zones that helps control urbanization; preserve the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems; and guide towards a sustainable use of natural and cultural resources.

**IV.1 Reaching Good Environmental Status through ICZM (Artt. 5 and 6)**

The objective of reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast has been adopted by UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention as the ultimate objective to be reached by CPs, which have committed to apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) as an overarching principle.

EcAp can be defined as a holistic approach to land, water and living resources targeting sustainable delivery of ecosystem services in an equitable way. It goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead, it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: rich mixes of elements that interact with each other continuously. This is particularly important for coasts and seas, where the nature of water keeps systems and functions highly connected.

Therefore, achieving Ecological Objectives (EOs) and GES requires an integrated approach in order to address combined pressures and cumulative impacts in coastal and marine areas. This approach is actually embedded in the ICZM Protocol, which provides for reaching GES with regard to the targets of all three clusters of EOs: Pollution and eutrophication; Biodiversity and fisheries; and Coast and hydrography. These are all crucial for achieving GES, and tools used by ICZM contribute to a more comprehensive approach looking at the integrity of coastal ecosystems.

### Based on the Matrix of interactions between the ICZM Protocol provisions of parts II and IV, EOs and main regional strategic and policy documents contained in Annex I.2 of the Decision IG.23/7 adopted by COP 20, a methodological guidance for reaching GES through ICZM has been proposed in Annex.

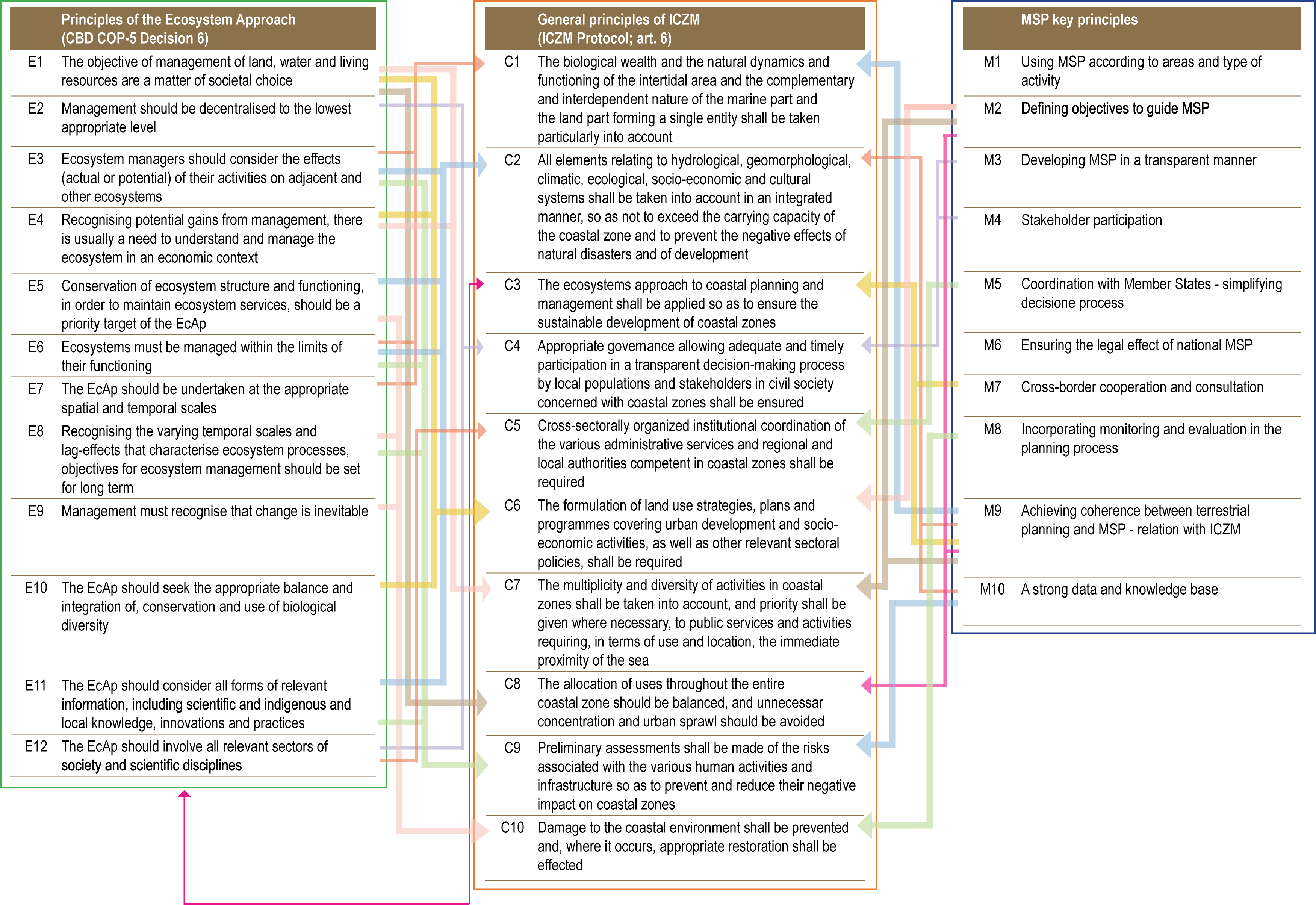
**IV.2 Addressing Land-Sea Interactions (Artt. 3, 5, 6, 9 and 22)**

Understanding and addressing land-sea interactions (LSI) is crucial to ensure sustainable management and development of coastal areas and coherent planning of land and sea-based activities. Although there is not a single and recognized definition of LSI, they can be defined as “interactions in which land-based natural phenomena or human activities have an influence or an impact on the marine environment, resources and activities and *vice versa* interactions in which marine natural phenomena or human activities have an influence or an impact on the terrestrial environment, resources and activities”. As a consequence of the above definition, three main levels of LSI should be taken on board:

Interactions related to land-sea natural processes. Implication of such processes on coastal management and planning of alternatives for land and marine activities have to be identified and assessed, considering their dynamic nature. At the same time, human activities can interfere with natural processes, impacting on the coastal and marine environment. The analysis of expected impacts of land and marine activities – within the SEA framework – should include the evaluation of their effects on LSI natural processes and the potential consequent impacts on natural resources and ecosystem services.

Interactions among land and sea uses and activities. Almost all maritime uses need support installations on land, while several uses existing mostly on the land part expand their activities to the sea as well. These interactions have to be identified and mapped, assessing their cumulative impacts, benefits and potential conflicts and synergies. Interactions between land and sea activities can extend further beyond the coastal zones, for example in terms of long-distance connections related to transport and energy distribution or fish migration up-stream and stemming need for blue corridors. Although the primary focus is on costs, identification and mapping of those wider connections and assessment of their environmental, social, economic and spatial implications are also important. It is important to note that the Art.9 of the ICZM Protocol requires that CPs “shall accord specific attention to economic activities that require immediate proximity to the sea”. This is also one of the general principles of ICZM (Art.6 para g).

Interactions of planning processes and plans for land and sea areas. It is important to ensure that legal, administrative, consultation and technical processes are coordinated (and hopefully linked) to avoid unnecessary duplications, incoherence, conflicts, waste of resources and/or excessive demand of stakeholders’ efforts. The challenge is to plan and manage inshore and offshore activities in harmonized manner considering the functional integrity of the land-sea continuum. This also implies allocation of land space (and related infrastructure and services) to some maritime activities (and/or the allocation of maritime space to some land-based activities). Finally, the achievement of this coherence also requires alignment/integration of the different approaches, methodologies and tools applied respectively on land and at sea (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2: Links between EcAp, MSP and ICZM principles**

LSI need to be addressed at a variety of spatial scales: (i) local scale to deal with specific issues and implement related actions, (ii) sub-national and national scales where strategies and plans can orientate specific LSI-related efforts, (iii) sub-regional where transnational cooperation may produce a common strategy for guiding national LSI efforts and address transboundary issues.

Natural risks and hazards, in particular climate change and coastal erosion, will influence on all three levels of LSI previously defined. The coastal zone is actually on the frontline for these climate challenges. Land-sea natural processes cannot be taken into consideration separately from the changes induced by humans in the nature. Sea level rise, extreme weather events and storm surges are expected to generate additional pressures resulting in alternation of the shoreline and increase of coastal erosion. Sea level rise will also impact the underground as it will amplify the salinization of coastal aquifers due to water extraction and other human activities. The increase of temperature will impact on both, terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Climate change impacts will also affect land and sea activities, for example aggravation of water conditions for tourism. Therefore, planning processes and plans for LSI should necessarily take into account expected climate change by adapting to the increase of uncertainty and to the higher likelihood of natural hazards and risks.

**V Tools and Instruments to Implement the CRF (Artt. 16-22)**

ICZM is a long-term strategic process that implies the availability and proper use of a variety of operational tools and instruments to ensure sustainable use and management of coastal zones, ensuring that needs for human settlement and economic activities minimise the impacts on the natural resources and protect the fragile natural habitats, ecosystems, landscapes and cultural heritage from pollution and other types of degradation including those caused by natural risks and hazards. This refers primarily to the tools and instruments quoted in the ICZM Protocol itself, many

of which already have certain “history and tradition” of use by the CPs, while others still need to be developed, explained, tested and verified.

Some of these tools and instruments are of major importance for implementing the ICZM Protocol but also for implementing other important policies and strategies in the Mediterranean coastal zones, in particular those adopted at the sub-regional level. Among these instruments, the following ones are of particular importance and relevance for the implementation of the CRF:

**V.1 Monitoring of environment and activities (Artt. 8-21 and 25-29)**

There is a need to monitor in a consistent way the environment of the coastal zone (both terrestrial and marine) *and* the human activities (coastal or not) that are likely to have an impact on it (individually or cumulatively):

monitoring of marine *environment* should be based on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)[[1]](#footnote-1);

monitoring of terrestrial environment should be based on the best available experiences in implementing national monitoring programmes of the status of coastal environment (terrestrial biodiversity, coastal waters, air, soil), that is aligned with relevant UN MEAs, and where appropriate, EEA's requirement, including Directives of European Commission (e.g. Habitat and Bird Directives, Water Framework Directive, etc.)

monitoring of marine and terrestrial environment should take into account the assessment of anthropogenic pressures (both at source and at sea) of human activities (land and maritime coastal activities) and their impacts that prevent the achievement of good environmental status (GES) of marine environment and environmental protection of terrestrial environment. Management of human activities aimed at reduction of the pressures, including their impacts on landscapes, cultural values, social patterns, has to be based on information collected through monitoring of marine and terrestrial environment, and their assessment as appropriate, including binding implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);

* monitoring information should be accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

*To this aim and according to Artt. 8-21 and Artt.25-29 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Use, strengthen and create appropriate mechanisms for regular monitoring and observation of the state and evolution of their coastal zones and the resources and activities they encompass;*
* *Establish or enhance their governance systems, institutions, legislation and planning that may influence coastal zones, taking all necessary means to ensure public access to information;*
* *Cooperate on definition and use of coastal management, resource use and economic activities indicators, taking into account existing ones, to ensure sustainable use of coastal zones and to reduce pressures that exceed their carrying capacity;*
* *Implement appropriate assessments on the use and management of coastal zones and ensure the results are utilized for formulation of adequate policy responses;*
* *Exchange scientific and technical information and experience, data and good practices, enhance provision of scientific and technical assistance through, inter alia, training of scientific, technical and administrative personnel, coordination of research programmes and carrying out of activities of common interest (such as ICZM demonstration projects), within the Mediterranean coastal zone network;*
* *Exchange available results and experiences in implementation of the integrated monitoring and assessment programmes of marine environment with other Regional Seas Conventions and the EEA and ensure exchanges with the European Commission/EU Member States on implementation of the MSFD, MSP and other relevant EU Directives.*

**V.2 Environmental Assessments (Artt. 19 and 29)**

Environmental assessment i.e. SEA at strategic level for policies, plans and programmes, and EIA at operational level for individual projects and activities, are the frontline tools for the achievement of GES and sustainable development.

The contribution that EIA makes to the development of decision-making is widely acknowledged, and practically all of the Mediterranean countries apply this tool to large-scale development proposals. Scope for further progress exists, particularly in relation to the impact of climate change. Compared to EIA, SEA is still less developed and used although its importance in seeking to achieve better environmental quality through higher decision-making level for policies, strategies, plans and programmes is recognised by all the riparian countries. However, since SEA takes multiple forms and employs diverse methods and procedures, sometimes without an adequate legal framework and institutional set-up, difficulties still arise, particularly for comparability in a transboundary context.

The application of EIA and SEA supports the implementation of ICZM principles (Art. 6 of the ICZM Protocol) including the need to take into account all elements of natural and cultural systems in an integrated manner; the application of the ecosystems approach to spatial planning, preparation of policies and strategies; the timely participation in decision making and ensuring that economic activities minimise the use of natural resources and take into account the needs of future generations. SEA can be introduced through ICZM as an important integral part of the spatial planning process, providing a mechanism for the strategic consideration of environmental effects, assessment of different planning options, and identification and evaluation of mitigation measures, thus ensuring the environmental sustainability.

Through the SEA process plans and policies addressing the coastal zone, whether geographically (e.g. coastal strategies) or thematically (e.g. plans for aquaculture development, tourism), can assist in creating a policy framework that steers development to more appropriate locations. Similarly to EIA, SEA is also an instrument that supports transparency and accountability as it provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the process and be aware of the decisions taken concerning the approved plans and policies.

Both environmental assessment processes seek to identify alternative options and the consideration of cumulative impacts, encouraging policy makers and decision takers to look at different policy and technological options and reflect on future scenarios that may result from approved plans and projects. The management of coastal zones is dependent on the application of similar long-term approaches in order to safeguard healthy ecosystems particularly within a changing climate.

Within a transboundary context, the application of SEA and EIA helps to foster co-operation between neighbouring States as both processes allow for consultations to be carried out when potential significant issues of a transboundary nature are identified through the evaluation process. As a result, whilst respecting national jurisdiction, the SEA and EIA can assist in fostering co-operation so that national plans and policies and projects undertaken have a higher potential to contribute towards regional efforts at safeguarding the Mediterranean.

For these tools to support ICZM it would be ideal to maintain a database of assessments undertaken and reports prepared with a view to monitor the type and degree of development related pressures on the coast; inform new environmental assessments to prevent duplication of efforts particularly where data is already available; and support other initiatives particularly EcAp implementation through the data collected and decisions taken. Such databases may be available at national and regional level, to enhance knowledge at the regional and facilitate transboundary co-operation. No new data bases should be created; instead, the existing ones are to be enhanced owing to close cooperation and contribution of all MAP Components.

In the context of the CRF, the following needs to be stressed:

SEA forms an important part of the EcAp implementation;

A transboundary SEA process, including transboundary consultation, should be activated when a policy, strategy, plan or programme is expected to have significant transboundary environmental effects;[[2]](#footnote-2)

SEA and EIA should assess impact on both land and sea, consider also mutual impacts of maritime activities on land and terrestrial activities on sea, based on most relevant LSI identified;

SEA should take into account new and emerging issues in particular climate change and its impacts.

*To this aim and according to Artt. 19 and 29 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Implement environmental assessments, taking into considerations cumulative impacts on the coastal zones and their carrying capacity. These may be based on the use of EcAp EOs and related indicators, as described in the methodology recently developed and tested by PAP/RAC[[3]](#footnote-3): by using EcAp indicators, the methodology enables assessing the value of marine and coastal natural environment as well as the level of the existing pressures on it. In addition, the methodology allows to identify spatial impacts of those pressures. It also enables the identification of the level of vulnerability of marine and coastal environment to the future (planned) activities by looking at the existing pressures, the extent of expected change and the capacity of the environment to adapt to the change. Such an approach enables identifying most fragile and valuable areas that need to be preserved from future degradation and, therefore, the locations where activities need to be planned carefully. This methodology is presented here as an example and its possible application cannot replace or impact the existing national SEA and EIA processes.*
* *Take on board LSI in environmental assessments (including the transboundary ones), in particular interactions and impacts that can alter the equilibrium of marine and terrestrial areas due to natural processes (such as coastal erosion, flooding, seismic events, saline intrusion…) as well as mutual impacts of maritime activities on land and terrestrial activities on sea that can alter the environmental stability and decrease the resilience of natural systems. Such interactions between land and sea might therefore involve complex interactions among environmental, social, economic and governance elements. Assessing such interactions should be done in the appropriate geographical scope, taking into considerations temporal dynamic of interactions as well.*
* *Acknowledging the complexity of the environmental assessment processes, in particular in transboundary context, adopt as means of cooperation guidelines on the procedures for notification, exchange of information and consultation at all stages, as appropriate, to be developed with the assistance of the Coordinating Unit (CU) and its Components. These guidelines should address the abovementioned issues (GES and related targets, LSI aspects including coastal erosion, cumulative impact and vulnerability assessment, carrying capacity) as well as issues such as climate change effects, life cycle analysis, etc.*

**V.3 Coordination of planning processes and governance mechanisms (Artt. 6, 7, 14, 20, 28 and 29)**

The establishment and smooth functioning of a multi-level governance mechanism is fundamental for achieving complex and ambitious goals of ICZM as it sets the scene for efficient management and cooperation. Success will depend on mutual feeding between international- and national-level cooperation frames as well as forging partnerships and linking local-scale initiatives to higher-level policies. Achieving a balance between strategic and local concerns is perhaps one of the most difficult issues in coastal zone management. Finally, a new challenge for all planning initiatives is to adapt to the new, considerably higher level of uncertainties brought by natural hazards, in particular climate change impacts on coastal zones.

To achieve the objectives of ICZM and facilitate integration through effective planning, there is a need for cross-sectorally organised institutional coordination of the various administrative authorities competent in coastal zones, covering both the marine and the land parts. There is also a need to put in place appropriate governance schemes allowing adequate and timely participation in transparent decision-making of local populations and stakeholders concerned.

*To this aim and according to Artt. 6d-e, 7, 14, 20, 28 & 29**of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Establish administrative schemes and processes facilitating horizontal (sectoral) and vertical (among different geographic scales and administrative levels) coordination of the ICZM implementation (such as intersectoral coordination bodies, joint working and training groups, etc.), adopt legal forms of promotion/setting out of such processes such as regulations and decrees at the national level or memoranda of agreement at the regional or sub-regional levels, participate in networking for ICZM in order to create the critical mass of people, experience and knowledge for its efficient implementation;*
* *Ensure the introduction and use of appropriate land policy tools in the process of coastal zone planning;*
* *Coordinate as appropriate, national coastal strategies, plans and programmes related to contiguous coastal zones;*
* *Ensure notification, exchange of information and consultation in cases of environmental assessments with transboundary implications, including transboundary environmental assessment, as appropriate;*
* *Ensure stakeholder engagement early in the planning process.*

**V.4 Marine Spatial Planning (Artt. 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11)**

Spatial planning of the coastal zone is considered an essential instrument of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. One of the main objective of ICZM is to “facilitate, through the rationalplanning of activities, the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development” (Art. 5). Planning is recalled also in other articles of the ICZM Protocol, as in the case articles dealing with the protection of wetlands, estuaries and marine habitats (Art. 10) or the protection of coastal landscape (Art. 11).

Although MSP is not expressly mentioned in the ICZM Protocol, the geographical scope of the Protocol and the definition of the coastal zone given in its Art. 3 include both the land and the sea. It follows that planning should be equally applied to both components and that planning of marine space is already taken on board.

MSP is a cross-sectoral coordination and decision-making tool enabling public authorities and stakeholders to apply an integrated, policy-based, transboundary approach to the ecosystem-based regulation, management and protection of marine environment, considering the competition in seas for maritime transportation, oil and gas development, offshore renewable energy, offshore aquaculture, oil and gas mining, fisheries, sand and gravel mining, tourism and recreation, waste disposal and the other issues like marine conservation and military defense issues; and

to analyze and allocate the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas for achieving ecological, economic and social objectives that have been specified through both technical and political process.

Environmental aspects of MSP focus on the effective resolution of conflicts between maritime uses and preservation of the marine environment. The implementation of MSP by countries provides an opportunity to develop maritime sectors and use ecosystem functions and resources in a sustainable way. Therefore, environmental objectives of MSP can be generally summarized as:

* achieving sustainable use of ecosystem services and ensuring maintenance of ecosystem integrity;
* ensuring timely identification and reduction of cumulative effects of human activities on marine ecosystems;
* allowing conservation and sustainable management of marine environment including the identification and conservation of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
* integrating biodiversity objectives into planning process and allocating space for biodiversity and nature conservation;
* developing adequate planning approaches for marine protected areas.

Economic aspects of MSP cover goals and objectives that contribute to the economic return obtained from the use of the marine resources and can be formulated as:

* ensuring sustainable growth of different maritime activities with affecting income and employment;
* ensuring secure environment for long-term investments;
* promoting efficient use of natural resources and reduction of conflicts among incompatible uses and between nature and uses, such as fisheries’ relation with nature and, therefore, secure the long-term future of the industries that depend on them;
* ensuring maximum benefits derived from the use of the sea by encouraging compatible uses to be located within the same area and bring the most value;
* enhanced coherence with other planning systems;
* leading to reduced transaction costs for maritime activities.

Socio-spatial aspects of MSP process are also important. The social and cultural dimension of MSP cover goals and objectives that contribute to the well-being of the human population and ensure balanced socio-economic development in marine environment, such as objectives related to:

* supporting the environmental economy through promoting activities that depend on environmental quality such as recreation, fishing and tourism opportunities (diving, wildlife tourism, etc.);
* improving stakeholder involvement to and citizen participation in the planning process with establishing a transparent and structured mechanism in which the interests of different sectors can be represented and reconciled and potential conflicts and spatial impacts managed in a coordinated way;
* enhanced legal certainty for all stakeholders in the maritime arena;
* enhanced coordination and simplified decision processes;
* enhanced cross border cooperation;
* preservation of cultural and historical heritage;
* identification and preservation of social and intangible values specific to the region in terms of marine area usage;
* allocation of space for different uses through a comprehensive analysis, thus increasing security for business operations in the marine environment.

Also, MSP is considered as one of the tools to implement the EcAp as a strategic approach towards sustainable development in the region that integrates all of its three components (environmental, social and economic) and guarantee that they are in balance. The relationship between EcAp and MSP is a two-way relation, as the second can contribute to the overall objective of achieving the GES, also through the identification of the appropriate location and intensity of maritime activities and strengthen the related regulatory framework.

The marine component of the coastal zone has traditionally not been affected by the same quantity and variety of pressures as the terrestrial part, with the result that for many years the management tools adopted have been sectoral ones mainly addressing transport, fisheries, infrastructure and environment protection. As a result, in coastal areas where spatial planning has been limited to the landward side, synergies in governance with a view to reduce environmental impacts and user conflicts at sea and along the lands and sea interface continue to be a challenge. Within this framework, MSP based on ecosystem-approach focuses on the sea part where the boundaries are defined according to ecologically significant areas, and it provides integration with the terrestrial part covering coastal area and its hinterland. Where spatial planning is extended to include the sea, regulatory procedures have improved co-ordination amongst the different regulators and also supported the application of tools such as environmental assessments. Measures taken through MSP for data collection and management, environmental monitoring, plan making, policy formulation, decision taking and enforcement, enhance the potential for considering land and sea interactions within an integrated approach, within a given territory.

The context of the specific coastal zone, in terms of existing regulatory frameworks, existing and predicted levels of pressures from human activities and the environmental characteristics usually guide how MSP is introduced. Different options exist where MSP can either be developed as a stand-alone discipline or as an extension to an existing regulatory mechanism ranging from land-use planning, environmental protection, fisheries management or transport management. The ultimate decision should ideally be guided by the aspiration to achieve the strongest co-ordination framework at a national level as possible, to achieve the objectives of the ICZM Protocol.

In this perspective MSP can be considered the main tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone and specifically for its sustainable planning and management. Art. 3 of the ICZM Protocol also defines the geographic scope of the operational application of MSP that shall focus on the marine area within the territorial sea of a country. Requirement to take land-sea interactions into account is specified in Art. 6.

*To this aim and according to Artt. 3 and 6 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Better address planning and management issues in the marine part of coastal zone;*
* *Support implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone by applying MSP with a strong focus on LSI and in line with general framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in particular with regard to:*
* *reducing marine-based source of pressure affecting the marine environment through spatial efficiency and control of temporal distribution of human activities;*
* *reducing conflicts between maritime uses and protection of areas with high naturalistic and ecological relevance;*
* *identifying areas to be protected in order to preserve processes and functions that are essential in achieving the GES;*
* *identifying environmental hotspot areas at sea where specific measures are necessary;*
* *identifying elements ensuring connectivity among relevant habitats.*

**V.5 Land policy (Art. 20)**

Within the scope of ICZM and taking into account land-sea interactions, it is essential to coordinate both land and marine planning in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Land policy is one of the tools to implement land-use planning. It defines rights of ownership, rules and principles on land and the natural resources it contains; legal frameworks on access and usage; validation and transfer of these rights of ownership. Applied to ICZM, land policy contributes to planning land activities, maintain unoccupied natural areas, and facilitate public access to the coast and the sea. It is a relevant tool to limit coastal environment degradation due to urbanization and occupation of coastal areas by human activities development. Furthermore, preserving natural coastal areas by implementing land-use instruments is an efficient and economical solution to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

Land policy is also an efficient tool not only in term of land-use planning but also to protect coastal landscapes, islands and cultural heritage.

As pressures and pollutions on marine environment mainly come from the land, land policy contributes to limit these pressures at the root and to conserve both terrestrial and marine coastal environment. When applying land policy instruments, it is important to take into account land-sea interactions. There are different kinds of land policy instruments and measures. Indicative analyses and good practices on the most specific instruments are detailed below.

*Land acquisition* is one of the instruments to preserve coastal natural areas. Within the scope of ICZM, it is advisable to facilitate amicable acquisition procedures for the benefit of public or private organizations in charge of the sustainable conservation of coastal areas, by pre-emption, land donation, and expropriation if necessary. The advantage of land acquisition is that it provides a strong and durable protection of a territory. It has to be used in the scope of a local planning strategy accommodating development, population and environment protection.

The main challenges for the implementation of acquisition mechanisms is its funding resources and establishment of efficient administrative and legal procedures. The pre-emptive right can facilitate public land acquisition procedures. It allows public authorities aiming at acquiring sensitive coastal zones with the objective of sustainably managing them to take priority over the acquisition.

*Concession* is a land policy instrument that allows a land owner to grant the management of a specific site to a beneficiary (the concessionary) in return for usage fees. The beneficiary is in charge of implementing long-term management activities. Concession also enables a State or municipalities to authorize provisionally on their public domain a private occupation, in return for fees. This practice[[4]](#footnote-4) is also a way to raise funds (via the concession fees) that can be reinvested in ICZM activities. This kind of contractual relation also enables to consider a non-permanent occupation on areas potentially vulnerable to immersion or coastal erosion risks, in the perspective of their temporary touristic or economic valorization.

*Separation between ownership and right of use* is a potential instrument for ICZM land policy: a land owner consents to a loss of a part of the rights he exercises on his land. For example, to renounce to build or to destroy natural or patrimonial elements of the site in exchange of compensations. These deliberate abstentions can also be combined to obligations of actions to ensure the management of the coastal site. There are different kinds of practices for separation of ownership, including easement, which is an obligation imposed to a land owner for the benefit of another land owner that can be applied to ICZM. For example, in order to facilitate the access of public to the coast, an easement can be designed to establish a right of way along the coastline on private properties bordering maritime public domain.

*Land Stewardship* is a land policy tool that involves landowners and users in the conservation of nature and landscape, with the support of civil society. Through voluntary agreements between land owners/users and land stewardship organizations (also known as land trusts), land stewardship enables to conserve, manage and restore the environment. The stewardship approach is an especially helpful concept in the many instances where sustainable management — rather than absolute protection or preservation — of coastal areas is the objective. In the Mediterranean region this instrument is used for example by the region of Catalonia (Spain) who developed a network for the land stewardship[[5]](#footnote-5). There are three level of land stewardship agreements between land owner and land stewardship organization: management support agreements; management transfer agreements; and property transfer agreement.

*To this aim and according to Art. 20 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Conduct a diagnosis of sensitive coastal zones threatened by urbanization and climate change on the whole coastal zones in order to identify priority areas to acquire or protect, and design a coastal areas acquisition and protection strategy in addition to land-use planning activities;*
* *Elaborate a land register, or an equivalent land tool, that provides accurate and mapped land property information, and couple it with relevant knowledge on occupation and usage of coast line areas;*
* *Apply land policy instruments and mechanisms in coordination with spatial planning, including marine spatial planning, as land policy is an essential tool to limit at the root pressures coming from the land;*
* *Support continuous scientific observation of coastal zones’ evolutions, in particular observations and climate change impacts scenarios, in order to support decision-making in coastal planning and development;*
* *Exchange experience and good practices on land policy instruments and mechanisms, in particular through a network of coastal zone management agencies and/or administration.*

**V.6 Economic, financial and fiscal instruments (Art. 21)**

Sustainable funding of actions reducing pressures affecting the Mediterranean coastal zones is essential to effectively implement sustainable management and achieve a good environmental status in the region. Funds for ICZM are mainly available through national governmental budgets, donors’ programmes, voluntary contributions, partnerships with private sectors, and other financial mechanisms (including e.g. specialized environmental funds). Fiscal instruments (including taxes and subsidies) and market mechanisms (payment for ecosystem services, for example) are commonly introduced to address externalities and help achieve environmental protection goals.

*Environmental fiscal instruments for coastal zone* have two different purposes. Some instruments only have a financial objective; they are created to generate funds for public budgets. In this case, it is recommended that these funds be redistributed to fund ICZM activities. Some other fiscal instruments have a strategic objective to affect stakeholders’ practices. They are created to influence economic stakeholders and people’s behavior through incentives or dissuasive instruments.

In addition to the establishment of fiscal instruments to generate funds or support stakeholders’ change of practice, it is also important to reduce or avoid fiscal instruments and subsidies that have a negative impact on the environment (environmentally harmful instruments). It mainly concerns fiscal and economic incentives aiming at promoting sectoral economic activities on the coastal zones that go against ICZM objectives. For example, fiscal instruments supporting natural areas destruction (subsidies for wetlands drainage). In the process of reforming the environmentally harmful instruments, distributional impacts and trade-offs should be carefully considered.

Regarding taxes generating incomes, there are a few Mediterranean examples of good practices of redistribution towards ICZM actions: the establishment of a tax on building construction work that is redistributed to local public authorities to implement land policies contributing to coastal areas conservation[[6]](#footnote-6), or the allocation of fishing license fees or tourist tax to local authorities’ environmental budgets [[7]](#footnote-7). The decision to allocate incomes generated by a tax to a specific budget is of course a political decision, however ICZM stakeholders can orientate these decisions by identifying relevant actions to fund and fiscal incomes that could be redistributed. Some taxes can also be specifically created to fund coastal and marine conservation. For example, a tax on passengers on board maritime transports going to protected natural areas. The tax is collected by transports companies for the benefit of the public entity managing the protected natural area and is assigned to the preservation of the area[[8]](#footnote-8).

Fiscal incentive can also be established, for example the system of land donations through tax compensation payment schemes (payment in kind), which can help to place land under public ownership, that can be transferred to organizations in charge of their sustainable management[[9]](#footnote-9).

Some fiscal instruments aim at supporting stakeholders in a change of practice in favor of the of coastal areas conservation. For example, relating to changing behaviors, plastic bags tax has been introduced in some Mediterranean countries such as Croatia, Greece, Malta, Slovenia and Spain[[10]](#footnote-10).

*Consideration of ecosystem services:* Ecosystem services are the benefits people get from ecosystems without having to pay directly to obtain them. Coastal zones, both the terrestrial and marine part, provide many ecosystem services, that are however threatened by increasing pressures on the environment. The loss of these services would require to develop costly alternatives. It is therefore necessary to raise awareness of the economic value of ecosystem services. Investing now in the natural capital would enable to save money on the long term.

Payments for ecosystem services (PES) consists of paying for the provision of a service: stakeholders are paid provided that an identified ecosystem service is maintained or restored. In the scope of ICZM, PES can be payments made to farmers or landowners who agreed to implement actions to manager their land providing an ecosystem service. Given that payment provides an incentive to land owners and managers, PES are considered as a market mechanism, similar to taxes or subsidies. The aim is to support natural resources conservation with a specific objective (buffer zone for immersion or flooding, blue carbon sink, wetlands for natural water sanitation etc.).

*Use of economic analysis for the assessment of various ICZM policy options, measures and projects:*

Economic analysis and evaluation tools can support efficient decision-making relating to ICZM policies and projects. The cost-benefit analysis consists in a set of methodologies for economic valuation of the environment. It is used to value the change in ecosystem services caused by a project or a policy. The cost-efficiency analysis compares the cost and efficiency of two alternative strategies to achieve the same objective. In the scope of ICZM, this approach enables to define coastal conservation objectives and to analyze the means to achieve it in the most efficient way. Finally, multi criteria decision analysis is a methodology for supporting complex ICZM decision-making situations with multiple and often conflicting objectives that stakeholders [value](http://www.openness-project.eu/glossary/letter_v#Value) differently. All these economic analysis and evaluations tools also contribute to raise awareness of ecosystem services values.

*To this aim and according to Art. 21 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Strengthen Mediterranean stakeholders’ capacities to identify available resources and programmes, develop financial proposals and monitor allocated funds in an efficient way;*
* *Develop sustainable funding strategies for ICZM implementation at the national and regional scale;*
* *Share information on good practices and results achieved with implementation of economic, financial and fiscal instruments in the region. Instruments that have proved their effectiveness could be considered to be applied in other countries;*
* *Work towards a better redistribution of public revenues for ICZM funding in order to ensure sustainable funding and reduce dependence on external funds. For example, public revenues from public maritime domain usage fees or public properties fees could be allocated in priority to ICZM activities;*
* *Promote the application of relevant economic/ market-based instruments for the ICZM implementation;*
* *Gradually reduce environmentally harmful subsidies while putting in place compensatory measures to address socio-economic losses that might occur;*
* *Strengthen the use of economic analysis for the assessment of various ICZM policy options, to ensure sustainability and efficient decision-making in formulating ICZM plans and strategies;*
* *Strengthen the use of valuation of ecosystem services to raise awareness of the economic value of coastal ecosystem services.*

**V.7 Training, communication and information (Artt. 14, 15, 25 and 26)**

In order to contribute to the effective implementation of ICZM and to achieve a good environmental status in the Mediterranean region, it is important to establish training communication, awareness and research tools within CPs but also at a regional scale. These tools should be aimed at policymakers, economic stakeholders involved in land and marine activities, associations, universities and researchers, civil society.

Trainings should in particular focus on economic benefits of coastal environment conservation, environmental assessment and conflict management. Within these trainings and ICZM tools, it is essential to include components to facilitate the understanding and appropriation of the ICZM Protocol itself by Mediterranean stakeholders. As a legally binding tool, the Protocol is a strong advocacy tool in favor of ICZM that can be used by local stakeholders as an argument when facing criticism on the legitimacy of ICZM local policies.

Regarding research tools and mechanisms, they should support multidisciplinary scientific research on ICZM. The objective is to increase knowledge on ICZM in order to facilitate public and private decision making and to contribute to public information. Public should be involved in ICZM decision-making via public consultation tools.

*To this aim and according to Artt. 14, 15, 25 and 26 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:*

* *Develop tools and trainings on ICZM good practices for Mediterranean local stakeholders;*
* *Develop tools and trainings on the ICZM Protocol itself to facilitate its appropriation and usage by Mediterranean stakeholders;*
* *Include components on sustainable management of coastal and marine areas in universities relevant programmes to train future ICZM professionals;*
* *Develop mechanisms to support multidisciplinary scientific research on ICZM and on the interactions between human activities, their impacts on coastal areas and innovative solutions to make economic practices more sustainable;*
* *Develop dissemination tools to make scientific research results available to all.*
* *Involve public participation in ICZM plans and programmes and ICZM related decision-making.*

#### **V.8 International Cooperation for the Implementation of the CRF (Artt. 16, 25-28)**

The success of ICZM largely rely on the cooperation among CPs supported by international organisations, institutions and fora. Many instruments and tools are already provided or foreseen within the Barcelona Convention system, for which guidance should be provided in particular to enhance synergies among them for the purpose of implementing the ICZM Protocol and the CRF:

1. In the field of monitoring and observation (Art. 16)

* IMAP with GES set as the ultimate environmental goal to be reached by managing anthropogenic pressures on coastal and marine environment in an attempt to ensure sustainability;
* Standardised and harmonised national coastal inventories, as well as reporting on state and evolution of coastal zones;
* Reporting processes on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
* Mediterranean coastal zone network including an ICZM Platform as a hub for ICZM-labelled initiatives, CAMP and other projects, information, documentation, as well as a networking device for decision- and policy-makers, practitioners and other ICZM-prone actors at all levels.

1. In the field of ICZM/coastal strategies preparation and implementation (Art. 28)

* Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which rely on the Barcelona Convention system for its Objective 1 on Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas and its Strategic Direction 1.1. Strengthen implementation of and compliance with the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and other regional policy instruments and initiatives supplemented by national approaches;
* Regional strategies, plans and programmes for contiguous coastal zones, which will use SEA and EIA in transboundary context as one of the main tools (Art. 28).

1. In the field of training and research, technical and scientific cooperation (Artt. 25-27)

* MedOpen virtual training course as an excellent way of teaching on ICZM principles, objectives and ways of implementation;
* Info/MAP platform for stocking and exchange of interoperable data and information;
* Cooperation within research projects tailored for the need of multi-sectoral coastal zone management, focused on science-policy interface.

The timely and proactive involvement of international donors is also instrumental to the effective implementation of the above-mentioned activities. The donors should be involved in an early stage to ensure that the activities identified under the CRF will be framed in project proposals which would meet the specific requirements of each funding organization. In the recent past, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been active in supporting the ICZM process in the region. This support has been renewed in 2016 through the approval of the “GEF Adriatic” project and of the “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security” currently under development. The European Commission expressed interest in supporting the ICZM process in coordination with MSP and IMAP. Efforts should be made to inform these and other donor organisations active in the Mediterranean to maximize their support to the CRF.

**VI Implementation of the CRF**

A considerable number of sectoral policies and related tools have been developed within the Barcelona Convention system addressing pollution, biodiversity, climate change, socio-economic aspects, marine litter, key economic sectors, etc. the implementation of which contributes to the protection of the coastal zone. The commitment made by the CPs with regard to these policies is supposed to be implemented in a coordinated manner. However, the sectoral approach still prevails in the mind of actors and stakeholders, and integration is seen as an additional burden instead of an added value that increases efficiency and allows the rationalisation of effort, time and money.

Aware of the need to provide a strategic framework for better coherence and efficiency of the Barcelona Convention system, at their 19th Ordinary Meeting (COP19) held in Athens in February 2016 the CPs adopted the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1) as a guiding document aimed at ensuring synergy, harmonisation of efforts and optimisation of the use of resources.

This objective has been fully reflected in the UNEP/MAP biennial Programmes of Work (PoW), in particular through its Cross-cutting Theme 1 on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as “a transversal policy, with strategic options, plans and management measures, which can integrate and reflect on the same coastal geographic unit (with its terrestrial and marine parts) all thematic policies and horizontal dimensions, encompassing development measures, environmental protection, SCP, adaptation to climate change, etc.”.

Given the definition of the coastal zone in the ICZM Protocol, almost all other Protocols of the BC are related in one or the other way to it. Thus, ICZM can and should provide support to the implementation of several of these Protocols, and therefore the relevant objectives and provisions of these Protocols should be taken into account in all ICZM related activities. In view of maximizing synergies with other policies, ICZM activities should also take into consideration, on an exceptional basis, some technical guidelines adopted by the Contracting Parties, which do not have the same legally binding character as the Protocols and Regional Plans, but provide guidance and obligations, as it is the case of four guidelines approved in the framework of the Dumping Protocol. At the same time, policy decisions and action plans stemming from the other Protocols should be coherent with the ICZM objectives and complementary to the ICZM ones.

**VI.1 Support to CPs by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and its Components**

To the aim of enhancing the coastal zone management practice, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and its Components commit themselves to provide the following specific assistance to the CPs for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and CRF:

*At the regional / sub-regional level*

* Enhancing the coherence of the legal and strategic framework for the protection and management of the coastal-marine environment by acceding to, implementing, coordinating and enforcing the instruments that are already in force, as well as adapting them as necessary;
* Providing guidance for consistent and complementary implementation of ICZM and MSP, particularly addressing LSI;
* Tailoring the existing and developing new methods and tools to operationalise the EcAp concepts within ICZM and MSP, such as: guidelines for the implementation of EcAp, cumulative impact assessment, ecosystem service mapping and quantification, identification of blue corridors, etc.;
* Developing additional coastal indicators to complement the existing, predominantly marine-oriented EcAp indicators so as to better reflect the interaction between terrestrial and marine ecosystems, habitats and species, and to reduce pressures of economic activities that exceed the carrying capacity, taking into consideration existing sets of indicators, such as the IMAP, NAPs, MSSD, SCP, and SDG indicators, in view of maximising synergies and facilitating monitoring and reporting. An indicative list of existing indicators that could be used as potential ICZM indicators is provided below:
  1. Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures
  2. Land use change
  3. Integrity and diversity of coastal ecosystems, landscapes and their geomorphology are preserved
  4. Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
  5. Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
  6. Percentage of protected coastal and marine areas [under national jurisdiction];
* Providing guidance for the establishment of standardised and harmonised national coastal inventories, as well as for the reporting on the state and evolution of coastal zones;
* Providing guidance for a timely and proper response to the emerging issues, such as in the case of climate change;
* Harmonising the SEA procedures across the Mediterranean Region and strengthening of national capacities to carry out SEA, including the transboundary context;
* Promoting codes of good practice among public authorities, economic actors and non-governmental organisations;
* Updating and delivery of educational programmes, training and awareness raising on ICZM;
* Boosting the network of ICZM and MSP initiatives, in particular CAMPs and CAMP-like projects.

*At the national level*

* Supporting the preparation of National ICZM Strategies based on the Guidelines for National ICZM Strategy[[11]](#footnote-11), to consider and enhance their consistency with the ICZM Protocol, taking also into account national action plans developed in the framework of other BC Protocols and Regional Plans, including those related to land-based sources of pollution, SCP, biodiversity, etc.;
* Supporting the development or updating of National Action Plans (NAPs) in line with the provisions of the relevant Protocols, strategic action plans and regional action plans;
* Supporting the implementation of CAMPs and other ICZM and MSP projects for selected coastal zones.

**VI.2 Action Plan for Implementation**

The Action Plan (AP) contained in the Table 1 below has been designed to provide concrete support and guidance for joint implementation of the ICZM Protocol through the CRF. The AP has set the year 2027 as target, corresponding to the biennium 2020-21 in which the next 6-year Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) of UNEP/MAP will be prepared and the period covered by the MTS. The AP defines the main outputs to be delivered, associated with estimated costs, key actors and corresponding progress indicators. The resources are indicative, estimated only for the support to be provided by the Barcelona Convention system to the CPs through MTF and other sources mobilised by the system. They do not include the resources that the CPs themselves may mobilise for the purpose of the AP implementation or other external partners that may join forces with the CPs and the BC system.

**Table 1: Action Plan for Implementation**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Outputs | Activities | Key actors | Resources (in 000 €) | Timeline | Progress indicators |
| Governance framework for ICZM implementation set-up and functional at all levels | Ratification of the ICZM Protocol | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC and CU | 50 | 2020-2025 | Number of ratifications;  Number of CPs having adopted a National ICZM Strategy;  Number of sub-regional strategies prepared;  Number of intersectoral bodies established and functional;  Number of CPs having established a coastal observatory |
| Preparation of National Strategies for ICZM (including MSP and climate action) | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC | 750 (650) | 2020-2027 |
| Establishment and functioning of national intersectoral bodies for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC | 150 (100) | 2020-2027 |
| Preparation of sub-regional strategies for ICZM (including MSP and climate action) | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC and other sub-regional bodies | 1,200 | 2023-2027 |
| Establishment and functioning of sub-regional bodies for the implementation of sub-regional strategies for ICZM (including MSP and climate action) | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC and other sub-regional bodies | 250 | 2023-2027 |
| Establishment of a Mediterranean coastal observatory | Plan Bleu and INFO/RAC in collaboration with CPs and other MAP Components | 200 | 2022-2024 |
| Establishment of national coastal observatories | CPs with the support of Plan Bleu and INFO/RAC | 200 | 2022-2027 |
| Necessary methodological guidance and tools provided to CPs for a consistent and complementary implementation of ICZM and MSP | Providing guidance for consistent and complementary implementation of ICZM and MSP, particularly addressing Land Sea Interactions and adaptation to climate change | PAP/RAC with the support of MEDPOL, REMPEC and SPA/RAC | 120 | 2020-2021 | Number of guidelines prepared and adopted by CPs;  Number of CPs using the IT platform;  Number of indicators agreed |
| Preparation of guidelines for respecting carrying capacity of coastal and marine zones | PAP/RAC in collaboration with other MAP Components | 200 | 2022-2024 |
| Development of additional coastal indicators to complete EO8, highlighting the interaction between terrestrial and marine ecosystems | PAP/RAC | 200 | 2024-2027 |
| Preparation of guidelines for mainstreaming climate change adaptation in National ICZM and MSP Strategies and coastal plans | PAP/RAC in collaboration with other MAP Components | 100 | 2022-2023 |
| Preparation of guidelines for the application of ICZM principles and objectives by main coastal and maritime sectors | PAP/RAC in collaboration with other MAP Components | 600 | 2024-2027 |
| Design of an interactive IT platform as an operational tool to support the implementation of the CRF | INFO/RAC with the support of PAP/RAC | 100 | 2020-2021 |
| Setting-up of a dedicated interactive IT platform to support the implementation of the CRF | INFO/RAC with the support of PAP/RAC | 200 | 2022-2023 |
| Updating of the methodological guidance for reaching GES through ICZM | PAP/RAC with the support of MEDPOL and SPA/RAC | 100 | 2023-2025 |
| Definition of a set of indicators to be used by coastal observatories | Plan Bleu with the support of PAP/RAC and other MAP Components | 200 | 2020-2021 |
| ICZM Protocol  implemented in practice | Implementation of national and transboundary CAMP and other demonstration projects focusing on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol provisions | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC and other MAP Components, as appropriate | 1,000 | 2020-2027 | Number of CAMP projects implemented;  Number of pilot projects having tested the CRF methodological guidance;  Number of MSP-related projects implemented;  Number of sub-regions having produced a specific ICZM vs. EOs matrix |
| Testing in practice of the methodological guidance for reaching GES through CRF in pilot sites at sub-national, national and transboundary contexts; | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC in collaboration with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC | 600 | 2020-2023 |
| Implementation of MSP as a part of the ICZM Protocol implementation, addressing LSI and adaptation to climate change | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC in collaboration with MEDPOL, REMPEC and SPA/RAC | 1,000 | 2020-2027 |
| Elaboration of a specific matrix of interactions between ICZM Protocol provisions and EOs for all sub-regions of the Mediterranean | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC in collaboration with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC | 600 | 2023-2025 |
| Capacities of CPs for the implementation of ICZM and MSP strengthened | Delivering MedOpen Advanced training courses; | PAP/RAC | 400 | 2020-2027 | Number of training courses organised;  Number of trainees |
| Inclusion of the MedOpen Advanced training course into the academic curricula | PAP/RAC and CPs’ academic institutions | 100 | 2020-2027 |
| Organisation of face-to-face training sessions on ICZM and MSP processes and tools (e.g. LSI, SEA, CC adaptation, etc.); | PAP/RAC | 400 | 2020-2027 |
| Information, communication and awareness of the CPs and other actors enhanced with regard to environmental protection and sustainable development of coastal zones | Organisation of regional celebrations of the Mediterranean Coast Day; | PAP/RAC and CPs | 400 | 2020-2027 | Number of awareness raising events organised;  Number of participants to the events;  Number of uploads to the ICZM Platform;  Number of participants in the network |
| Organisation of national/local Coast Day celebrations | CPs with the support of PAP/RAC | 80 | 2020-2027 |
| Continuous upgrading of the ICZM Platform and ICZM projects network | PAP/RAC with the support of INFO/RAC | 200 | 2020-2027 |
| Preparation of reports on the state and development of coastal zones (within QSR, SoED, etc.) | PAP/RAC under the guidance of the CU | 300 | 2020-2027 |

**VII Evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the CRF**

The indicators contained in the AP will serve to assess the progress made and will complement the regular reporting by the CPs on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols within the existing reporting format for the ICZM Protocol.

1. Monitoring and assessment of the sea and coast, based on scientific knowledge, are the indispensable basis for the management of human activities, in view of promoting the sustainable use of the seas and coasts and conserving marine ecosystems and their sustainable development. COP 19 in 2016 agreed on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) in its Decision IG. 22/7 which lays down the principles for an integrated monitoring, which will, for the first time, monitor biodiversity and non-indigenous species, pollution and marine litter, coast and hydrography in an integrated manner. The IMAP implementation is in line with Art. 12 of the Barcelona Convention and several monitoring related provisions under different protocols with the main objective to assess GES. Its backbone are the 27 common indicators as presented in decision IG 22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. As an example of good practice in transboundary cooperation between neighboring countries, carrying out a SEA of the Framework Plan and Program (FPP) for Exploration and Exploitation of Hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea is worth mentioning. The said FPP was developed in order to keep precise track of hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation activities, permit issuing, contract awarding, investor liabilities, imposition of charges and penalties as well as to keep track of the hydrocarbon reserve in the subsoil of the Adriatic Sea. It was produced by Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency together with the accompanying environmental report and, in accordance with the UN/ECE Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention, competent authorities of the Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia were notified of the SEA process, the FPP and accompanying environmental report. In the process of transboundary SEA, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia forwarded their opinions on both documents, which were amended accordingly. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The methodology was tested in Bokakotorska Bay, Montenegro (http://msp-platform.eu/practices/ecap-base-marine-vulnerability-assessment-basis-msp-montenegro). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This public domain concession is regularly practiced by the SPNL in Lebanon. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Xarxa de Custodià del Territori (XCT) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. French example of the Regional Tax on sensitive natural areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. This example is established in Morocco. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. French example of the Tax on maritime passengers going to protected natural areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. French example of dation in payment. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Surfrider Foundation. *Time for Europe to act against plastic bag pollution*. 2018. 24p [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. UNEP/MAP/PAP: Guidelines for the preparation of National ICZM Strategies required by the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol for the Mediterranean. Split, Priority Actions Programme. 2015. [http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Guidelines.pdf](http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Guidelines.pdf%20) and [http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Guidelines%20FR.pdf](http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Guidelines%20FR.pdf%20) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)