The Role of Regional Seas Conventions in Maritime Spatial Planning: The Case of the Barcelona Convention

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Gaetano Leone
Coordinator,
UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat

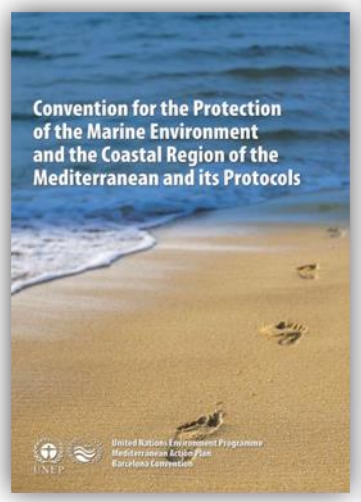
United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention

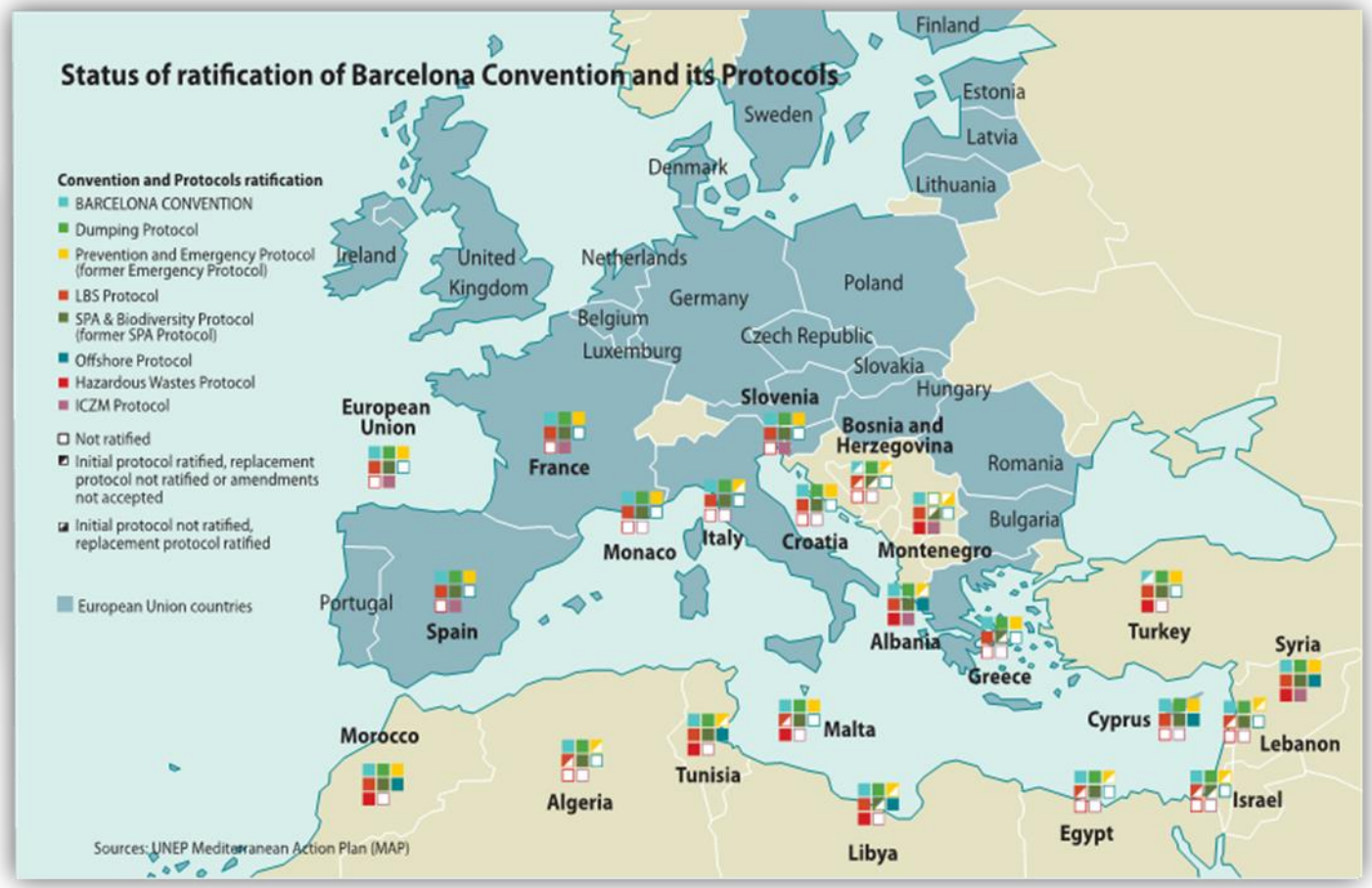
40 Years TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

Outline

1. **Brief introduction of UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention**
2. **The Mediterranean Experience: Ecosystem Approach - Integrated Coastal Zone Management – Specially Protected Areas**
3. **Conclusions**

Regional Environmental Governance Framework





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Years TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Experience

- Ecosystem Approach: Overarching Principle
  - Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Ecosystem
  - Adoption of 11 ecological objectives and corresponding 28 operational objectives, 61 indicators and GES descriptions - synergy with EU MSFD
  - Integrated Monitoring System based on the agreed common indicators and targets
  - Socio-economic assessment
  - Cyclic/periodical assessments of the marine and coastal environment to monitor the implementation of EcAp, assess GES and the effectiveness of programmes of measures
  - EcAp programme of measures gap analysis

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Approach and Protocol
  - Adaptation of coast-related sectoral policies and regulation of coastal activities
  - Governance processes: institutional coordination, public participation, access to justice
  - Spatial planning: urban, regional and marine spatial planning
  - Regional cooperation: exchange of experiences, transboundary issues

- Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
  - Conservation and sustainable management of areas (SPA, SPAMI)
  - Conservation of the animal and plant species endangered or threatened

The Mediterranean Experience *cont'd*

- MSP Pilot Project and findings
- CAMP experience and 2015 assessment results
- CAMP France (Departement du Var)
- Croatian Joint Coastal and Marine Strategy
- Adriatic project proposal: implementation of EcAp through MSP, emanating from CAMP Montenegro

Conclusions

1. **MSP is a tool for both achieving GES and supporting blue economy**

2. **The RSCs provide strong legal and scientific frameworks of basin-wide cooperation**

The RSCs role in MSP implementation could be:

- Coordination and cross-border cooperation for integrated maritime policies and partnerships
- Governance
- Monitoring data and assessments and hosting (different levels of development)
- Knowledge building and sharingIdentifying gaps and needs, mapping tools, testing their feasibility
- Strengthening the Management of MPAs

Challenges:

- Planning and management challenges
- Governance schemes challenges
- Horizontal issues

Contact

United Nations Environment Programme
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
Vassileos Konstantinou 48
Athens 11635
Greece

www.unepmap.org