

WES activities on marine litter & synergies with Plastic Busters MPAs

SESSION II: Creating synergies & fostering exchanges among the Plastic Busters MPAs APs

By **Anis ISMAIL**, WES Key Environment Expert

PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs CAPITALIZATION EVENT
Consolidating the collective fight against marine litter
in Mediterranean MPAs
Online 17 June 2021



WES at a glance



Water and Environment Support
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

WES strives to address the country needs for creating the enabling environment and enhancing the capacities of stakeholders in the Partner Countries to tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency.

Partner Countries:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine* and Tunisia

Project value:

9.508.054 Euros

Duration:

May 2019 – November 2023 (54 months)



The policy framework for WES marine litter and plastics related actions



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EU Green Deal

New Agenda for the Mediterranean

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy

Single-Use Plastics Directive



Forthcoming 2nd UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Action

The UfM's 2030 GreenerMed Agenda

WES linked to Axis 1 and 2: Green and Circular Economy/ Pollution Prevention, Management, Removal



COP21 (Dec 2019, Naples)

Programme of Work (PoW) 2020-2021 Ecosystem Approach & IMAP

Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

Direct contribution of WES to the Regional Guidelines on measures to phase out Single-Use Plastic items



WES capitalises on previous successful EU funded regional projects :
 (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP; SWIM SM; SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM)



SWIM-H2020 SM related activities

National activities in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt

Training and technical assistance for the characterisation of marine and coastal litter on beaches.

Activities' results have been used to develop National Marine Litter Management Plans and to align with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management.



Synergy with the UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Initiative & the Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs

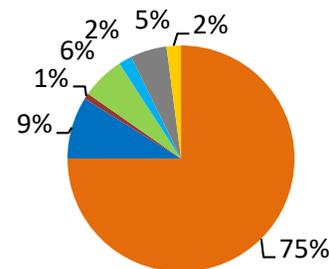
- SWIM-H2020 SM has been very closely linked with the UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Initiative and Plastic Busters MPAs;
- Needs and gaps identified under SWIM-H2020 SM were taken into consideration in the design of the Plastic Busters Initiative;
- The results and experiences of the Plastic Busters MPAs have also been presented and promoted in SWIM-H2020 SM related activities;
- SWIM-H2020 SM Experts have joined and contributed in a number of technical meetings and workshops organised by Plastic Busters MPAs.

Regional activities

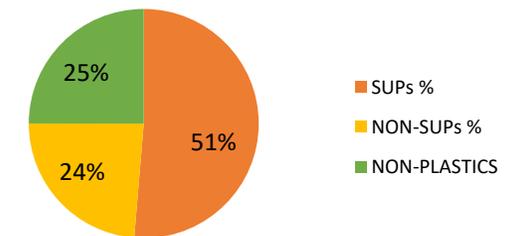
The project was centred on regional coherence, synergy and cooperation with all Mediterranean initiatives and projects in order to tackle the problem of marine litter (through P2P exchange and webinars)

A MARINE LITTER SUCCESS STORY | MONITORING PLASTIC POLLUTION ON THE ALGERIAN COASTLINE

A total of 111 beach transects were surveyed located in 9 coastal Wilayas, which extended over a distance of 11,900m and covered a surface area of 574,992 m².



- ARTIFICIAL POLYMER MATERIALS
- RUBBER
- CLOTH/TEXTILE
- PAPER/CARDBOARD
- PROCESSED/WORKED WOOD
- METAL
- GLASS/CERAMICS
- UNIDENTIFIED AND/OR CHEMICALS





Marine Litter Monitoring

Macrolitter surveys on the sea surface & the seafloor

Assessment of the amounts, types, composition and sources of marine litter

Identification of management options to feed into a marine litter action plan

Capacity building for a targeted professionals and for **informed decision-makers on how to properly monitor marine macrolitter and on operationalizing best practice marine litter measures**

Regional activity (under conceptualization)
Understanding better microplastics and identifying how to address the issue.



Synergy with Plastic Busters MPAs

- Relevant resources and case studies of Plastic Busters MPAs are integrated within the design (from TOR development) and delivery of the capacity building and technical assistance activities.
- The results and experiences of Plastic Busters MPAs are presented in WES activities on Marine Litter
- WES experiences and case studies have also been presented in the Plastic Busters MPAs events and meetings.



OVERVIEW OF THE WES ACTIVITIES IN **LEBANON, JORDAN, MOROCCO** AND **EGYPT**

Single Use Plastics (SUPs)

Definition of the baseline situation (production and consumption) for selected SUPs

Identification of priorities and recommendations for policy measures for the reduction of SUPs

Support the Ministries of Environment in the development of specific policies to take action to reduce SUP

Also activities on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) applied to selected SUPs items (Morocco and Egypt)

Regional activities to strengthen the capacities on how to implement effective measures to phase out SUPs in the **Mediterranean** (P2P and webinars)



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Synergy with Plastic Busters MPAs

- Both projects participate in each other's meetings and exchange information on major ML related regional processes, events, projects and resources.
- The results and experiences of Plastic Busters MPAs was presented in WES activities on plastic pollution an SUPs (Webinars and P2P)
- WES trainees and Peers were to participate in trainings in the field of PB MPAs (e.g. Croatia, 2020) for ML monitoring and assessment but due to COVID-19 this did not happen. However, we hope for this to materialize soon.



Regional Gap Analysis on pollution by plastics



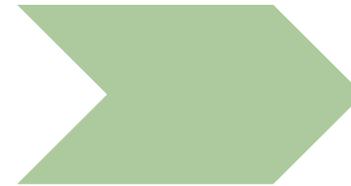
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A desk review and a survey :

Survey on gaps at regional and national levels across eight WES Partner Countries (PCs) in the management of pollution by plastics and in awareness raising.

Preliminary findings:

The work **has confirmed a series of gaps** across all countries and across all aspects of managing plastic waste and in particular SUPs, including on **legal and institutional aspects, infrastructure, skills and competences of involved sectors, information, education and awareness, etc.**



Next steps:

- **Finalise the Gap Analysis.**
- **Prepare an inception report for a set of activities to be implemented by late 2023 in the WES Partner Countries.**



WES' EXPECTED IMPACT TOWARDS ADDRESSING MARINE LITTER AND SUPs



Comprehensive diagnosis of the marine litter and SUPs problem (data from more compartments, further consolidation of existing data, etc.)

Proposed targeted **marine litter prevention and mitigation measures**
Contribution to the **upgrading of the national legislation addressing marine litter**

Trained and mobilized core set of professionals on aspects related to the entire management cycle of marine litter

Enhanced capacity of Ministries of Environment to respond to the challenges posed by **plastic pollution /waste, with emphasis on SUPs**

Proposed **nationwide strategy for the gradual ban of SUPs** (Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt)



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Thank you! and for further information

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 info@wes-med.eu

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