



*Activities of the
Black Sea Commission
Permanent Secretariat
as an EMBLAS partner*

Ms. Iryna Makarenko

LL.M., Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer

*Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the
Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention)*

Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) for years 20??-20??



- *The Program is being revised for already a couple of years, initially it was supposed to be adopted for 2012-2020;*
- *Draft version considered by AGs and relevant partners during the last few years;*
- *It was developed with assistance of EC-funded Project on the implementation of MSFD in the Black Sea region, which was already finalized;*
- *It shall be considered by BSC and adopted this year during the 30th BSC Regular Meeting.*

Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) for years 20??-20??



- The program slowly *outdates*, enormous amount of *versions and comments*, double-check compliance with *MSFD requirements*, recent developments, as well as add some *missing information* (such as Marine Litter and Marine Noise guidelines etc.);
- BSC PS: quick *revision of latest version*, add some missing information and *recirculate the draft BSIMAP to relevant partners for final check*, *contribution of EMBLAS will be highly appreciated*;
- Draft BSIMAP will be *circulated to BSC for consideration and adoption during the 30th BSC Regular Meeting*.
- *Joint meetings in Istanbul*, as you may know, we plan to have in October back-to-back meetings of PMA and CBD AGs and EMBLAS Harmonization workshop on *Water Quality/GES Classification Methodology* possibly also jointly with experts from ICPDR, in framework of our *BSC-ICPDR Joint Technical Working Group*.

Black Sea Commission's Work Programme 2013-2014



- *Priority No. - 13*
- *Activity - Revision and adoption of the BSIMAP*
- *Outputs - Updated BSIMAP adopted by the BSC and further developed*
- *Deadline - 2014*

Draft BSIMAP



- **PMA AG** – “recommended circulating the proposal for the new BSIMAP to the members of the Black Sea Commission, in order to organize national consultation for proposals, comments and financial considerations”.
- **LBS AG** – “draft BSIMAP was circulated for comments to all Advisory Groups. No further comments or proposals were sent to the BSC PS. UA proposed presenting the document to the BSC for adoption as a strategic document approach, regardless the annexes were not updated, or the targets were not established. It should only be mentioned that the annexes will be further updated and the targets subsequently developed. The participants agreed the proposal without further comments on the document”.

SAPIR and SoE Reports



- Ongoing *negotiations* with relevant organizations;
- BSC PS is still *seeking for assistance* (both financial and expert) to proceed with both reports;
- Reports should be compiled by BSC PS and relevant experts, main results and *recommendations to amend the BS SAP 2009*, incl. draft texts for Ministerial Meeting 2015 (?);
- As Bucharest Convention was elaborated more than 20 years ago, latest version of BS SAP is dated 2009, some *new challenges* as climate change, marine litter, marine noise, green economy, MSFD requirements etc. *were not reflected* – we prepare the necessary *steps for amendments*.



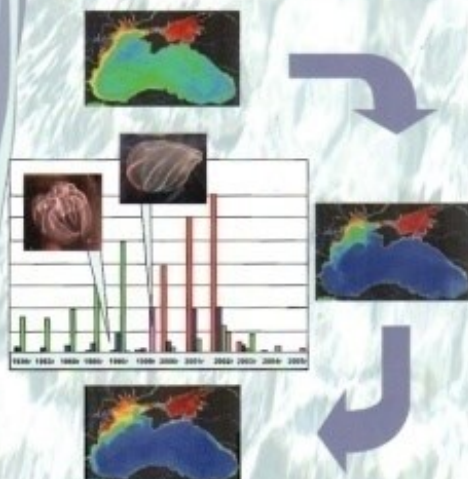
Commission on the Protection
of the Black Sea Against Pollution



Commission on the Protection of
the Black Sea Against Pollution

State of the Environment of the Black Sea

(2001-2006/7)



Istanbul, Turkey
2008



Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea

(2002-2007)

A report by the
Commission on the Protection of
the Black Sea Against Pollution



Istanbul, Turkey
2009

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



- In January, 2014 the request to *appoint the national consultants* was sent by the BC PS;
- In the lack of finances to draft the SAPIR and not having received the nominations, the *BSC PS undertook the initiative to draft the SAPIR* for 2009-2014 based on the information provided by the members of the BSC, BSC NFPs, BSC AGs and ACs per country for the period 2009-2014.

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



- *BSC PS prepared and circulated in April, 2014:*
- *Questionnaire to BS countries on the status of implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (BS SAP 2009) – to be filled in by relevant authorities of each Contracting Party to the Bucharest Convention by 1st of August, 2014, the latest;*
- *Check-list of indicators of success in line with Annex 4. “Monitoring the SAP: Process, Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators” of the BS SAP (2009) – for easy reference and checks against compliance to reporting parameters and other supporting materials.*

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



- *The **Questionnaire** on the status of implementation of the BS SAP 2009 contains a **table** with the following elements:*
- *Reference to BS SAP (Annex 3) – in total 65 targets;*
- *Overall **target**;*
- ***General information** on status of implementation (2009-2014), if applicable on the national level;*
- ***Indicators of success**, if applicable.*

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



Check-list of indicators of success (Annex 4 to the BS SAP) contains:

- *Process Indicators in line with EcoQOs (4);*
- *Stress Reduction Indicators in line with EcoQOs (4);*
- *Environmental Status Indicators (9).*

BSC PS will :

- (1) process the data;*
- (2) draft the SAPIR;*
- (3) circulate to BSC for consideration and adoption (30th BSC Regular Meeting, November, 2014).*

Preparation of the State of the Environment Report for the Black Sea (2007-2012) –

SoE Report



- *Despite the list of experts, draft templates and time-tables for SoE, this **work is being postponed** due to the lack of financial resources;*
- *In the light of possible adoption of BSIMAP and elaboration of SAPIR and further amendments to the BS SAP 2009, the Secretariat plans to **make revision of documents/guidelines/manuals** for adoption by BSC in November, 2014;*
- *The **new BSIMAP** would require some concrete guidelines adopted **at the BSC level**, so we shall use BSC Regular Meeting for adoption of necessary documents, collect already agreed guidelines and circulate them to BSC well in advance for further adoption.*



Thanks for your kind attention!

WWW.BLACKSEA-COMMISSION.ORG

Iryna Makarenko

Email: irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org



European Commission



- The EC Grant Agreement *“Support to the BSC for the Implementation of the MSFD”* was finalized;
- Finalizing the deliverables of the joint project within HELCOM-BSC Cooperation *“Baltic2Black: Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea for nutrients”*;
- Currently implementing some more European projects, i.e. **PEGASO Project** *“People for Ecosystem based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Oceans and coasts”*;
- became members of **Advisory Boards in the FP7 Projects**, such as PERSEUS, COCONET, CREAM, DEVOTES, STAGES, MARLISCO, MISIS etc.
- Negotiate with the EC and UNEP on the *possibility to sign the MoU on the Marine Litter*.

Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009) :



- *provides a **brief overview of the current status** of the Sea (Black Sea Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (BS TDA 2007) and progress of the original BS SAP 1996;*
- ***reorganizes the priorities and actions** therein considering the progress in the region and the current state of the environment;*
- *describes the **policy actions** required to meet the major environmental challenges now facing the Sea, and includes a **series of management targets**;*
- *recognizes the **same environment threats as those identified by the MSFD** (loss/degradation of biodiversity/habitats, contamination by dangerous substances/nutrients and impacts of climate change), however, sets **no environment targets, but only operational** according to four Ecosystem Quality Objectives.*

Four Ecosystem Quality Objectives:



1. **Preserve commercial marine living resources** through:
 - Sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources
 - Restore/rehabilitate stocks of commercial marine living resources

2. **Conservation of Black Sea Biodiversity and Habitats** through:
 - Reduction of risk of extinction of threatened species
 - Conservation of coastal and marine habitats and landscapes
 - Reduction and management of human mediated species introductions

3. **Reduce eutrophication** through:
 - Reduction of nutrients originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions

4. **Ensure Good Water Quality for Human Health, Recreational Use and Aquatic Biota** through:
 - Reduction of pollutants originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions
 - Reduction of pollutants originating from shipping activities and offshore installations

BS SAP 2009 major gaps:



- *no definition of GES and no targets to identify it;*
- *no requirements to specify environment targets and to develop classification schemes, although the need to elaborate regionally agreed criteria for assessment of environment. The **Regional Water/Sediment Quality Classification Methodology** has been drafted, however, it was **not finalized and agreed at the regional level**. The Methodology covers chemical parameters only;*
- *no specific target in relation to the **complex environmental monitoring**. At the regional level, the **"METHODODOLOGY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HOT SPOTS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION"** was prepared, but **not finalized and agreed for use in the BS region**;*
- ***separate targets** aimed at improving the monitoring of pressures mainly (target no. 51);*
- *some of the targets mention the living resources and habitats monitoring development, however, **water/sediment/biota monitoring is not explicitly elucidated**;*
- *the same stands for **cetaceans monitoring** (population condition).*

BS SAP 2009/water quality:



At the same time, *efforts of the BSC* were put in order to:

- *harmonize the different domains of complex monitoring, as well as to provide for regional inter-comparisons, such as Quasimeme or IAEA exercises, and for data quality control;*
- *harmonization of chemical methods was advanced for nutrients and trace metals, initial discussions took place for petroleum hydrocarbons and some persistent organic pollutants;*
- *there was a proposal to create a regional center for inter-comparisons of chemical analysis on the basis of the PMA Activity Center of the BSC (Odessa);*
- *a number of guidelines have been developed (under the BSC or projects, such as UpGrade BSS, BSERP, ECBSea and others), some of them were finalized;*
- *Check Lists of species (general, non-natives, red-data, and those included in the Annexes II and IV of the Biodiversity Protocol) were also developed, some of them were finalized.*

BSC list of Guidelines:



Available - finalized:

- *Manual for Phytoplankton Sampling and Analysis in the Black Sea (2010)*
- *Manual for Quantitative Sampling and Sample Treatment of Marine Soft-Bottom Macrozoobenthos (2005) - to be updated*
- *Guidelines for the Establishment of Marine Protected Areas in the Black Sea (2008) - to be updated*

Monitoring Data Quality Control Guidelines:

- *Guidance on Data Quality Control for marine biodiversity in the Black Sea*
- *Data Quality Control Guidelines for physical and chemical parameters*
- *Data Quality Control Guidelines for Black Sea biological data - phytoplankton (2010)*

Under finalization:

- *Zooplankton manual (Mezozooplankton and microzooplankton)*
- *Sampling and Sample Processing of the Invasive Ctenophores Mnemiopsis leidyi and Beroe ovata in the Black Sea*
- *Quality Assurance and Quality Control of Chemical Oceanographic Data Collections*
- *Manual on meiobenthos*
- *Manual on macroalgae*

HELCOM-BSC cooperation on nutrients:



- *Among all transboundary environmental problems, eutrophication has been paid due attention. The **HELCOM tool HEAT**, employed for the Baltic Sea to assess eutrophication status, was proposed for use in the Black Sea as well, being adjusted to the availability of Black Sea data. This is a step toward harmonization of assessments, however, the **BSC currently assesses the feasibility and relevance of usage of HEAT tool in the region.***
- *An **important deliverable** of the HELCOM-BSC Baltic2Black Project is the research on the **“APPLICABILITY OF USAGE OF SATELLITE CHLOROPHYLL DATA FOR EUTROPHICATION INDICATORS IN THE BLACK SEA”** carried out by experts within the Project. We currently finalize these deliverables and soon they may be available to public.*

MISIS Project:



The *priority needs* in harmonization are as follows:

- *Setting of reference/threshold values*
- *Complex monitoring and consequent assessments, including loads and marine litter*
- *Joint implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy principles at a regional level (not only in BG and RO)*
- *Harmonization of surveys-at sea (fishery-related), data collection, stock assessments (target species)*
- *GES identification and relevant indicators development, in line with the MSFD Descriptors*
- *MPAs identification, designation and related monitoring*