

The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) multi-focal initiative in the Mediterranean region, executed by UNEP/MAP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) under the Barcelona Convention. Implemented from 2020 to 2026, the Programme is supported by a GEF grant of USD 42.3 million, complemented by USD 708 million in co-financing, and delivered through eight Child Projects to reduce pollution affecting people, ecosystems, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Amongst other issues, addresses pollution from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury originating from land-based sources. Across Mediterranean coastal zones, legacy electrical equipment, industrial sites, and unmanaged waste areas continue to contain these hazardous substances, which persist in the environment, spread through air and water, and pose long-term risks to human health, marine life, and coastal ecosystems. In many countries, limited monitoring capacity and fragmented data further constrain the ability to assess pollution trends and identify priority areas for action.

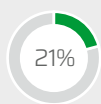


Child Project 1.1

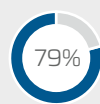
Addresses pollution from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury from land-based sources, prevents new POPs and strengthens regional monitoring of pollution impacts.



Duration
2020-2027



GEF Grant
USD 14.25 million



Planned Co-financing
USD 53.15 million

Key Targets

Removal of dangerous waste

Safely collect and dispose of toxic POPs and mercury from the most polluted coastal hotspots.

Prevention of new pollution

Prevent new POPs through safer alternatives, inventories, regulation and targeted national measures.

Measuring real change

Strengthen regional monitoring to track pollution trends and support assessment of progress to impacts.

Results to Date

REMOVAL OF TOXIC CHEMICALS



Safely dispose of 2,000 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment in priority coastal hotspots by 2026

CURRENT STATUS

414 tonnes of PCBs disposed and 592 tonnes safeguarded; further removal and disposal operations are ongoing across participating countries.

REDUCTION OF MERCURY RISKS



Ensure environmentally sound management of 50 tonnes of dangerous mercury waste

CURRENT STATUS

Mercury inventories and prevention activities completed; 100 tonnes of mercury waste safeguarded in Tunisia for environmentally sound management.

MONITORING AND PROGRESS TO IMPACT



Strengthen regional monitoring to track pollution trends and support assessment of progress to impacts.

CURRENT STATUS

More than 20 potential offshore monitoring sites identified, with five pilot stations integrated into national IMAP monitoring and implementation under way in six countries.



Activities and Countries Affected



- POPs & Mercury Regulatory Reform**
 National frameworks, inventories, policy recommendations, and prevention measures.
- Updated Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and SDG-Aligned Progress-to-Impacts Framework**
 Regional TDA integrating national assessments, the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and gender analysis, with final publication under completion.
- Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Offshore Monitoring Pilot Stations (5 stations)**
 Implemented through national IMAP monitoring programmes in selected coastal and offshore areas.
- Potential Offshore Monitoring Sites Identified (20+ sites)**
 Sites identified to support future regional monitoring expansion through national and regional monitoring programmes.
- Regional Data-Sharing Policy and Knowledge Management Platform**
 Regional governance and technical model aligned with MAP Data Policy

Implementation and Partnerships

Child Project 1.1 is executed by UNEP/MAP, with activities led by MED POL and the MedProgramme Coordinating Unit, together with Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC and national partners in the ten participating countries.



CP 1.1 contributes to SDG targets 6.3, 12.4, and 14.1 by reducing hazardous chemical pollution, strengthening environmentally sound management of wastes, and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems.

