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**Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
Seventeenth meeting**
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Item 17 (d) of the provisional agenda*
**Areas of potential further work in the context of the
Framework**

Compilation of information on the activities of multilateral agreements, organizations and processes on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In decision [16/12](#), the Conference of the Parties identified pollution and biodiversity as one of the areas that could be advanced to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while avoiding duplication with existing multilateral processes and respecting their mandates.
2. In paragraph 1 of [recommendation 27/6](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Executive Secretary to invite various multilateral agreements, organizations and processes indicated to provide information on their activities on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services, in line with Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. Pursuant to this request, the Executive Secretary invited the multilateral agreements, organizations and processes listed in the recommendation to submit relevant information on their activities on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services, in line with Target 7 of the Framework, using a template.
4. Submissions were received from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, International Maritime Organization, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, North Pacific Fisheries Commission, North Pacific Marine Science Organization, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, and United Nations Environment Programme. A compilation of the submissions received is presented in the table below.

* [CBD/COP/17/1/Rev.1](#).

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Annex

Submissions received on information on the activities of multilateral agreements, organizations and processes on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services, in line with Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Organization	Type of activity	Pollution type(s) addressed by the activity ¹	Brief description of the activity and how it addresses the interaction of the particular pollution type(s) with biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Any gaps, limitations, or needs identified in the organizations' work, to be addressed in order to meet Target 7
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Guidance	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals Wastes, including plastic waste	Developed through an inclusive consultation process in 2023 and considered with appreciation by FAO Members in 2024, A Provisional Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Plastics in Agriculture (VCoC) provides guiding principles and practical measures for governments, producers, and agrifood stakeholders to reduce pollution from plastics used across all agricultural subsectors. By promoting sustainable management practices, including improved product design, responsible use, and end-of-life handling, the VCoC directly supports efforts to reduce soil contamination, microplastic accumulation, and broader ecosystem impacts associated with agricultural plastics, thereby helping protect biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Identified needs include addressing remaining knowledge gaps on the distribution and impacts of plastics, enhancing monitoring capacities, and ensuring alignment with future global legally binding agreements on plastic pollution.
	Publication	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals	The publication, State of research on the impacts of plastic pollution on soil health and crops , provides a comprehensive synthesis of the scientific evidence on the impacts of plastic pollution on soil health and crop performance. It reviews how agricultural plastics and their degradation products (micro- and nanoplastics) accumulate in soils, alter soil physical and chemical properties, affect soil biodiversity, influence nutrient	Significant research gaps include limited long-term field studies, insufficient understanding of micro- and nanoplastic interactions with soil biota, inadequate risk assessments across different agroecosystems, and lack of harmonized methodologies for measuring soil plastic

¹ Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, waste, including plastic waste, or excess nutrients

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		Wastes, including plastic waste	and water dynamics, and potentially disrupt plant growth. The publication directly informs understanding of how plastic pollution threatens biodiversity, soil ecosystem services, and long-term agricultural productivity.	contamination. It highlights the need for improved monitoring, standardized protocols, and interdisciplinary research to better evaluate ecological risks and inform mitigation policies.
	Programme	Wastes, including plastic waste	The International Maritime Organization (IMO) <i>OceanLitter Programme</i> , jointly implemented with FAO, supports developing countries in preventing, reducing and managing marine plastic litter from fisheries and maritime transport. It explicitly supports implementation of relevant IMO instruments, including Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), London Convention/London Protocol as well as the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear . The FAO Guidelines can help preventing, reducing and managing abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), a significant contributor to biodiversity loss, ghost fishing, and marine ecosystem degradation.	The programme highlights the need for greater policy coherence, improved enforcement capacity, and expanded uptake of best practices. The programme also notes the challenge of ensuring durable behavioural change among fishers and maritime operators, and calls for expanded data collection and monitoring to support effective implementation.
	Partnership	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals Wastes, including plastic waste	<i>The Global Soil Partnership (GSP)</i> provides a coordinated global mechanism for improving soil governance and promoting sustainable soil management. Through activities such as soil pollution assessments, mapping, national capacity-building, sustainable soil management guidelines, and monitoring frameworks, the GSP addresses the impacts of soil contaminants, including naturally occurring trace elements, agrochemicals, industrial pollutants, toxic remnants of war and land-sourced waste, on soil biodiversity and ecosystem services. Its work helps countries identify pollution sources, implement sustainable management practices, and safeguard soil	Key gaps include insufficient understanding of pollution mixtures, lack of national soil monitoring systems, limited data on contaminated sites, and inadequate regulatory frameworks for controlling soil pollution.

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			biota, nutrient cycling, and downstream ecosystems. To strengthen global action on pollution, the GSP launched the International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP) in April 2022, aiming to stop soil pollution and contribute to the global zero-pollution ambition. INSOP works to advance knowledge on the full cycle of soil pollution, from assessment to remediation, its effects on environmental and human health, and its impacts on soil ecosystem functions and services. INSOP promotes the exchange of experiences, technologies, and tools for sustainable soil management and remediation, including nature-based solutions such as the use of soil biodiversity for bioremediation and as indicators of contamination.	
	Publication	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals Wastes, including plastic waste	Through INSOP, the GSP is developing a science-based ecological and human health risk-assessment framework to be integrated into the <i>Technical Manual on Soil Pollution Assessment, Mapping, Monitoring and Risk Communication</i> to be published in 2026. This framework will provide Parties and projects with practical guidance to conduct risk assessments and implement mitigation and remediation measures that safeguard soil biodiversity and ecosystem services.	N/A
	Publication	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals Wastes, including plastic waste	Food safety in a circular economy describes how circular practices (e.g., wastewater reuse, organic waste repurposing, integrated farming systems, food packaging recycling) may unintentionally introduce or concentrate pollutants in the food and feed chain, but also highlighting their potential harmful effect on soil biota, ecosystem functions, and biodiversity. It supports safer design of agricultural circularity that protects	There are significant data gaps, including fate and amplification of chemical contaminants in circular agrifood systems, insufficient characterization of emerging hazards, including health risks from micro- and nanoplastics, and limited understanding of cumulative and long-term ecological impacts. It

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			ecosystem services while reducing pollution burdens by identifying how pollutants move through circular loops.	stresses the need for adaptation of food safety risk assessment methodologies, standardized testing, improved governance, strengthened research on pollutant pathways.
	Programme	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals Wastes, including plastic waste Excess nutrients	<i>Food Safety Foresight Programme</i> helps anticipate and understand how new trends, changes or knowledge gaps may affect food trade, agrifood systems and food safety, addressing both the challenges and opportunities in the medium to long term. Through forward-looking techniques, it involves identification and monitoring of emerging contaminants and issues at the interface between the environment and human health highlighting the importance of One Health approaches in assessing emerging food safety risks and provides evidence-based insights to support proactive policy decisions and enhance preparedness.	Knowledge gaps in foresight can arise from limited data, difficulty detecting weak signals, and uncertainty around the drivers of change, all of which make it challenging to anticipate emerging issues. They may also result from barriers to integrating knowledge across disciplines and sectors, especially when linking environmental, human and agrifood system dynamics. As scenarios and contexts evolve, continually refining foresight approaches and methodologies can help reduce these gaps and enhance the quality and relevance of foresight outputs.
	Publication	Excess nutrients – nitrogen compounds (i.e., nitrate, ammonia, NOx)	The Report on <i>Sustainable Nitrogen Management in Agrifood Systems</i> , addresses nitrogen losses and pollution from crop and livestock systems and provides innovative solutions and best practices to reduce losses of nitrogen compounds and increase nitrogen recycling in agrifood systems. Nitrogen losses to the environment harm terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and decrease soil health and biodiversity.	There is a need to increase public and private investment for sustainable nitrogen management, support capacity building among agrifood system stakeholders, and commitment from countries to reduce nitrogen pollution by integrating sustainable nitrogen management in national action plans and policies.

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	International Network on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers (INSOILFER)	Excess nutrients; Chemicals (Fertilizers including chemical and organic fertilizers)	The International Network on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers (INSOILFER), coordinated by the FAO Global Soil Partnership (GSP), is collaborating with multiple partners, including research institutions, farmer associations, governments, and the private sector, to advance sustainable soil fertility and fertilizer management. Specific activities encompass global soil nutrient mapping, development of fertilizer recommendation platforms, and quality assessment of fertility analysis. These initiatives contribute to balanced fertilizer application, thereby mitigating its impacts on soil and aquatic biodiversity.	Laboratory capacity for fertilizer analysis in developing countries remains low. Private sector engagement, particularly by fertilizer companies, in promoting sustainable soil and fertilizer management remains low.
	Facilitation of development of headline indicator 7.2 (ATAT) through international expert group	Pesticides (all pesticides and growth regulators)	Since the CBD COP 16, FAO has convened international expert group meetings on a biweekly basis to develop a science-based functioning headline indicator .	N/A
	Testing ATAT indicator in selected countries to prepare guidance materials for reporting.	Pesticides (all pesticides and growth regulators)	Preparation for the work with relevant stakeholders in seven countries to compile data and monitor progress towards Target 7b using the Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT) is ongoing. Experience gained will be used to prepare guidance material in all UN languages.	Many countries have not maintained their pesticide data in a sufficiently disaggregated manner to allow the immediate application of the ATAT. Limited intra-governmental communication in some countries can hinder efficient reporting against ATAT. Therefore, support to countries in data management is required.
	Upscale application of ATAT using guidance documents at regional level	Pesticides (all pesticides, including selected)	Preparation for convening webinars and in-person meetings with relevant regional representatives to support data access and reporting against ATAT ongoing.	Many countries have not maintained their pesticide data in a sufficiently disaggregated manner to allow the immediate application of the ATAT.

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		biopesticides and growth regulators)		Limited intra-governmental communication in some countries can hinder efficient reporting against ATAT. Therefore, support to countries in data management is required.
	Analytical review and legal analysis on FPIC and pesticides management.	Chemicals – including pesticides and highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).	As previously reported to the CBD, the FAO/WHO Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (ICCPM) to assess gaps related to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples in pesticide management following a decision made by COAG29 in 2024 based on a recommendation from the UNPFII (para. 82). Within FAO, the Task Force involves experts from the Indigenous Peoples Unit (PSUI), the Legal Office (LEGN), the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and the Right to Food Team. This included a legal analysis of international, regional and national FPIC frameworks, and consultations with the UN mechanisms on Indigenous Peoples, as well as with Indigenous Peoples organizations. The Task Force identified gaps across the pesticide lifecycle (regulation, testing, manufacture, use, distribution, labelling, storage, disposal, and information exchange) where the absence of explicit FPIC considerations may limit effective protection of Indigenous Peoples. This work contributes to Target 7 by supporting reductions in overall pesticide risks, improving culturally appropriate information exchange, and	There is a need to advance on capacity development for a full and effective implementation of the Code of Conduct: • Limited understanding of FPIC and what it entails and therefore, need for awareness raising and capacity development on FPIC and its implications under a human rights-based approach across experts in pesticide and chemical management. • Art. 1.6 of the Code recognizes that relevant training at all appropriate levels is an essential requirement in implementing and observing its provisions. Therefore, entities addressed by the Code should give high priority to relevant training and capacity building activities related to each Article of the Code.

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			enhancing safeguards for ecosystems and biodiversity—particularly in Indigenous Peoples' territories, which are often high in biodiversity.	
	Participatory process with online consultations, side events and a global survey with Indigenous Peoples' organizations around the world on pesticides management and FPIC.	Chemicals – including pesticides and highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).	The FAO/WHO Task Force carried out proactive consultations with Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous youth representatives, the UNPFII, EMRIP, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, OHCHR, and Indigenous organizations (e.g., IITC). These inputs informed the identification of gaps and recommendations, ensuring that pollution risk reduction measures reflect Indigenous perspectives and rights. A global survey for Indigenous Peoples on FPIC and pesticides available in the six official UN languages. The questionnaire involved 62 questions and 275 answers have been provided from Indigenous Peoples with representation of the 7 sociocultural regions of the world: Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; The Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific. Additionally, a side event took place during the 18th session of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, co-organized by the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC). Two online consultations also took place with participation Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous youth representatives and the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, OHCHR, including also Indigenous Peoples organizations.	N/A

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			Finally, written consultations with member states are ongoing, led by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). The work of the FAO/WHO Task Force on integrating FPIC into the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (ICCPM) directly supports Target 7 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by strengthening governance measures aimed at reducing the overall risk from pesticides, preventing harmful impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem and addressing cumulative pollution effects—particularly in Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories. By promoting rights-based, participatory and culturally appropriate pesticide management, this work contributes to more effective and equitable pollution reduction outcomes.	
	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme; tools, guidelines, capacity building	Chemicals and pesticides used in agriculture	Information from the Islamic Republic of Iran: Under the TCP/IRA/4001 project, FAO is supporting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for date palm key insect pests and diseases, including Red Palm Weevil (RPW), borers, Dubas bug, and date palm fruit bunch wilting disorder. The project promotes a systematic reduction of reliance on chemical pesticides through prevention, early detection, surveillance, and integrated control measures aligned with FAO/IPPC standards. By strengthening phytosanitary regulations, standardizing GAP- and IPM-based practices, and deploying the FAO SusaHamra mobile application and GIS-based monitoring system, the project contributes to minimizing pesticide misuse, reducing environmental contamination, and protecting biodiversity and	Further scaling of IPM approaches beyond pilot provinces, sustained access to environmentally friendly pest control alternatives, and continued investment in digital monitoring systems are required to fully replace chemical-intensive practices and maximize biodiversity benefits at national level.

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			ecosystem services in fragile oasis and agro-ecosystems. Capacity development through Farmer Field Schools and technical training enhances farmers' ability to apply ecosystem-based approaches and targeted interventions, reducing negative impacts of chemicals on soil health, beneficial insects, and surrounding habitats.	
	Development of IPM technical guidelines for pistachio	Chemicals and pesticides used in horticulture	Information from the Islamic Republic of Iran: Under the TCP/IRA/3901 project FAO supported the development of seven national technical guidelines on the integrated management of key pistachio insect pests and diseases, including psylla, borers, seed wasps, gummosis, dieback disorder, Armillaria root rot, and root-knot nematodes. These guidelines promote ecosystem-based and preventive IPM approaches, emphasizing biological control, cultural practices, orchard hygiene, and targeted interventions to significantly reduce dependency on chemical pesticides. The guidelines contribute to safeguarding soil biodiversity, beneficial insects, and agro-ecosystem services in pistachio orchards while maintaining productivity and quality. Wider dissemination, farmer uptake at scale, and integration of the guidelines into national extension systems are required to maximize biodiversity and pollution-reduction outcomes.	Further scaling of IPM approaches beyond pilot provinces, sustained access to environmentally friendly pest control alternatives, and continued investment in digital monitoring systems are required to fully replace chemical-intensive practices and maximize biodiversity benefits at national level.
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean <i>(Geographical scope:</i>	GFCM 2030 Strategy (Resolution GFCM/44/2021/12) – Output 1.4 on threats to fisheries and environment including plastic pollution	Plastic pollution / marine litter	The Strategy explicitly calls for actions to minimize and mitigate pollution from fisheries and aquaculture sector, including plastics, ALDFG and waste. It anchors regional action under GBF Target 7 and guides subsidiary bodies and programmes (MedSea4Fish and BlackSea4Fish) to integrate marine litter monitoring and mitigation.-litter monitoring and mitigation.	long-term funding for sustained implementation

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<i>Mediterranean and Black Sea)</i>			In particular, Output 1.4 of the GFCM 2030 strategy aims to minimize and mitigate any form of pollution deriving from the activities of the fishing sector, in particular abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, inter alia by involving the sector in testing new technologies to remove litter, in particular plastics, from the marine environment. Output 2.2 of the GFCM 2030 Strategy aims to contribute to the prevention of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and the reduction of their harmful impacts on the marine environment, by establishing a regional framework in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear	
	Resolution GFCM/44/2021/14 on Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	Plastic waste / marine litter	Regional measures to prevent, retrieve and report ALDFG, addressing ghost gear impacts (entanglement, habitat damage) on biodiversity and vulnerable species; includes obligations on gear retrieval equipment and notifications.	GFCM is strengthening efforts for harmonized reporting and enforcement; retrieval capacity in some subregions needs reinforcement; additional trainings and funding are required.
	Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/11 on Regional Marking of Fishing Gear (gear marking)	Plastic waste	Gear marking increases traceability and discourages abandonment; supports prevention and retrieval of plastic-based gear debris and facilitates compliance with ALDFG reporting.	Further support to the gear marking in small-scale fisheries; technology options and enforcement; awareness and capacity development. The above include also support on the national legal framework
	Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 establishing a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of common dolphinfish in the	Plastic waste (FAD components)	The recommendation notes that FADs have increasingly used non-biodegradable materials with plastic-pollution impacts. It includes, in paragraph 44, a requirement that biodegradable materials be prioritized during the transitional period and that, from the beginning of the 2027 season, FADs be constructed exclusively with	Performance and durability testing of biodegradable materials; cost–benefit analysis; scaling to additional CPCs; end-of-life logistics.

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	Mediterranean Sea, repealing Recommendations GFCM/30/2006/2, GFCM/43/2019/1 and GFCM/44/2021/11,		biodegradable materials. Under the dolphinfish research programme, a MedSea4Fish-supported pilot in Algeria (CNRDPA) produced and deployed 60 biodegradable FADs using locally available materials to reduce plastic inputs from fishing operations.	
	Marine litter data collection via DCRF & observer protocols; SoMFi 2025 box on marine litter	Plastic waste / fishing-related debris	Since 2018, marine litter is collected within GFCM supported by MedSea4Fish & BlackSea4Fish programmes. The data on marine litter is collected during all the monitoring activities at sea (on commercial species sampling, discards, bycatch, and scientific surveys). All GFCM protocols/guidelines have the same Marine litter sheet for the minimum data collection in a standardized and harmonized way. Data include composition (plastics, gear fragments) and frequency by gear/area; An initial data analysis is synthesized in SoMFi 2025 (See Box on marine litter).	
	Pilot actions: at-sea pilots trials for removal of marine litter from the seafloor using experimental trawl cod-ends; (within the Programmes: MedSea4Fish & BlackSea4Fish including GEF funded FishEBM-Med project)	Plastic waste	Pilot trials of modified gear to collect litter from the seabed without catching marine resources or harming habitats; expansion of the trials and results analysis on track.	
	Resolution GFCM/46/2023/8 on reduction of plastic use and best management of	Plastic waste	This resolution invites CPCs to minimize single-use plastics, adopt alternatives and improve waste management in aquaculture, reducing leakage to the environment and impacts on habitats and	

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	waste in aquaculture		species.	
	Working Groups / Terms of Reference where marine litter/ALDFG appear (SAC/WGBS workplans; guidance to gear marking and pilots)	Marine Litter	Technical GFCM bodies (e.g., SAC/ACBS) and intersessional workplans include tasks on gear marking, ALDFG prevention/retrieval and litter monitoring/mitigation, feeding advice into Commission decisions. Marine litter is also addressed within the agendas of some GFCM Working groups such as WGFiT and WGVUL.	
	Compliance aspects linked to ALDFG and gear-marking obligations	Plastic waste	Compliance Committee processes review implementation of decisions, including reporting/obligations relevant to gear marking and ALDFG notifications, fostering consistent application by CPCs; Pilot activities to support gear marking for traceability and management including national databases.	Consistent national reporting; digital tools for gear registries; inspection capacity.
	GFCM Material on ALDFG/Marine litter/fishing Gear	ALDFG, Plastic waste	- <i>Navigating compliance – Working together to reduce abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear</i> (2024): This factsheet aims at promoting clarity by providing definitions, noting key regulatory aspects and providing context on the phenomenon. - <i>Guardians of the sea – Working together to tackle ghost gear</i> (2025): This graphic novel highlights the efforts of fishers and other stakeholders in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region to tackle the ALDFG issue. By sharing their stories, the publication aims to inspire fellow fishers, coastal communities and relevant actors to join and support these initiatives. It also contributes to shifting the narrative around ghost gear, placing emphasis on the	

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			proactive and solution-oriented role of fishers. Catalogue of fishing gear in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region (2023): A comprehensive overview of fishing gear and methods used in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Among other key information, the catalogue provides details on the materials used in certain fishing gear components, including plastic.	
	Regional Cooperation	Marine litter- Plastic waste	GFCM ensures coordination with FAO on marine litter and cooperates with UNEP/MAP. The CBD SOI Dialogue offers opportunities to explore further synergies within the respective mandates. Within the GEF FishEBM-Med Project (implemented by FAO and UNEP with GFCM and SPA/RAC as executing agencies), several activities targeted marine litter and plastic pollution. SPA/RAC published two reports in 2025: - State of Waste Management Practices on Fishing Vessels in the Mediterranean Sea: Review of Common Sources, Regulatory Frameworks, and Port Waste Reception Facilities, (2025) - Reducing Solid Waste from Fishing Vessels in the Mediterranean: Guidelines to Support SAPBIO Post-2020 Action 7 – Prevent Leakage and Remove Marine Litter to Mitigate Its Impact on the Ecosystem, (2025)	

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	N/A	Chemicals / hazardous chemicals, Excess nutrients	N/A – outside GFCM mandate.	N/A
	SAC: Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (GFCM) ACBS: Scientific Advisory Committee for the Black Sea (formerly WGBS) WGVUL: Working Group on Vulnerable Species WGFiT: Working Group on Fishing Technology SoMFi: The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries DCRF: Data Collection Reference Framework CPCs: Contracting Parties and cooperating non-Contracting Parties			
International Maritime Organization	IMO directly contributes to reducing pollution in the marine environment through various legally binding treaties such as the MARPOL Convention (all six Annexes), the London Convention/Protocol, the Hong Kong Convention, the AFS Convention, and the OPRC Convention. The <i>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships</i> (MARPOL Convention) contains six Annexes (I-VI) addressing the prevention of pollution from ships by, respectively, oil; noxious liquid substances carried in bulk; harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form; sewage; garbage; and air pollution. MARPOL Annexes are acceded to separately and they have been in force since 1983 (I&II), 1992 (III), 2003 (IV), 1988 (V) and 2005 (VI), respectively, with varying current numbers of Parties ranging from 108 to 161 representing from 97.09% to 98.47% of world shipping. The <i>Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter</i> (London Convention and Protocol) addresses pollution from dumping of wastes and other matter at sea. The London Protocol is the more modern, stand-alone and precautionary/restrictive treaty that is eventually intended to replace the Convention. Until such time, the two treaties operate together. The Convention and Protocol are in force since 1975 and 2006, respectively, with 101 Parties currently in total. The <i>Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships</i> (the Hong Kong Convention) is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment. The Hong Kong Convention entered into force in June 2025; it currently has 26 Parties representing 57.91% of world shipping and, as it is the most recent IMO treaty to enter into force, it is expected that its ratification figures may increase substantially over the next few years. The <i>International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation</i> (OPRC Convention) and its <i>Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances</i> (OPRC-HNS Protocol) facilitate international co-			

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			operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to pollution incidents involving oil and hazardous and noxious substances. They have been in force since 1995 and 2007, respectively, with 118 and 43 respective Parties. The <i>International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships</i> (AFS Convention) prohibits the use of harmful substances in anti-fouling paints used on ships' underwater hulls. The AFS Convention is in force since 2008 (currently 99 Parties representing 95.77% of world shipping). In addition to the above legally binding treaties, the <i>Guidelines for the Reduction of Underwater Noise from Commercial Shipping to Address Adverse Impacts on Marine Life</i> (non-mandatory) address the adverse effects of underwater radiated noise (URN) on critical life functions for a wide range of marine life. IMO is one of the four permanent members (together with UNEP, FAO and GESAMP) of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML) and is co-chairing the Committee with Canada since 2020. https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Pollution-Prevention.aspx (information on pollution prevention) https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/marinelitter-default.aspx (information on regulation of marine litter including plastics) https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx (information on the MARPOL Convention) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=663 (authentic text of MARPOL Annexes I-V) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=667 (authentic text of MARPOL Annex VI) https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/London-Convention-Protocol.aspx (information on the London Convention and Protocol) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=661 (authentic text of the London Convention) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=662 (authentic text of the London Protocol) https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/environment/pages/ship-recycling.aspx (information on ship recycling) https://www.imo.org/en/about/conventions/pages/the-hong-kong-international-convention-for-the-safe-and-environmentally-sound-recycling-of-ships.aspx (information on the Hong Kong Convention) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=658 (authentic text of the Hong Kong Convention) https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Pollution-Response.aspx (information on pollution response) https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-on-Oil-Pollution-Preparedness,-Response-and-Co-operation-(OPRC).aspx (information on the OPRC Convention) https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/Protocol-on-Preparedness,-Response-and-Co-operation-to-pollution-Incidents-by-Hazardous-and-Noxious-Substances-(OPRC-HNS-Pr.aspx (information on the OPRC-HNS Protocol) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=668 (authentic text of the OPRC Convention) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=669 (authentic text of the OPRC-HNS Protocol)	

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	https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Anti-fouling.aspx (information on anti-fouling systems control) https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-on-the-Control-of-Harmful-Anti-fouling-Systems-on-Ships-(AFS).aspx (information on the AFS Convention) https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=656 (authentic text of the AFS Convention) https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Noise.aspx (information on noise reduction)			
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Minamata Convention activities carried out with the <u>main</u> purpose of interaction of mercury with biodiversity and ecosystem services			
	<u>Decision MC-6/18</u> “Road map for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (Nov. 2025)	Mercury	Parties and other stakeholders are invited to implement the Road map for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention and the KMGBF, which will also support coherence and synergies in the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity more generally. The three pillars of the road map are: (i) contribution to the monitoring framework of the GBF, (ii) inclusion of mercury reduction actions and targets in NBSAPs and national biodiversity targets; and (iii) creation of an enabling environment for enhance co-benefits, including resource mobilization, capacity-building and cooperation.	As of May 2025, of the countries with significant artisanal and small-scale gold mining with mercury use that have submitted updated NBSAPs in alignment with KMGBF, a limited number include explicit strategies and actions to reduce mercury pollution. <u>Furthermore, there is need for:</u> - Synergies between the GEF chemicals and waste and biodiversity focal areas through projects funded through the eighth and ninth replenishments of the GEF trust fund, as well as integration of mercury action into projects developed through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (in line with decision MC-5/11, paragraphs 3 and 4 (a), and MC-5/17, paragraph 4, as well as paragraph 8 of decision 16/33 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity); - Environmental and socioeconomic research and

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				assessments concerning the impact of mercury on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and on the livelihoods, culture and health of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities; - Building capacity to monitor mercury levels in the environment and in vulnerable populations; - Improving the quality of existing public health and environmental monitoring programmes in relation to mercury and the extent to which mercury concerns are incorporated in such programmes, and promoting appropriate prevention and care services for Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by exposure to mercury from artisanal and small-scale gold mining; - Enhancing information-sharing and promoting understanding of the linkages between mercury and waste and human health impacts, thereby contributing to the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health; - Incorporating mercury into the relevant biodiversity-related outreach, communication and awareness-raising activities, and

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				biodiversity into mercury-related outreach, communication and awareness-raising activities.
	Decision MC-5/17 "Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (Nov. 2023)	Mercury	The COP encouraged Parties, and invited other Governments and local and subnational governments, as well as relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, to: (a) Promote research on the impacts of mercury on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services; (b) Reflect national mercury reduction and control targets in their revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans to align with the KMGBF; (c) Share the experience gained to promote coordination and integration of biodiversity and mercury-related priorities through policy development and implementation, including lessons learned and challenges faced; (d) Disseminate information on actions that can generate co-benefits for the Minamata Convention and the KM-GBF.	The COP noted the absence in the monitoring framework for the KMGBF of indicators regarding the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals, and it invited the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider additional indicators, under target 7, to cover highly hazardous chemicals and mercury.
	Decision MC-5/11 "Review of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention"	Mercury	The decision provides guidance to the GEF to promote synergies with the biodiversity focal area, as it advances work under the KMGBF.	
	Guidance "Integrating action to reduce mercury pollution from artisanal and small-scale gold mining into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Technical support	Mercury	The purpose of this document is to provide support to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the development of their NBSAPs, in places where artisanal and small-scale gold mining is taking place. It has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and made available to COP-6 of the Minamata Convention. Table 1. of the document includes GBF Targets of relevance to mercury pollution, with sample actions,	In general, the information related to biodiversity in national action plans on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASGM) submitted by Parties under Article 7 of the Minamata Convention is somewhat weak, with a greater focus on human health impacts, except for two countries. Regarding monitoring and testing

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	document" (Minamata Convention, 2025)		and a crosswalk to elements of ASGM National Action Plans. COP-6 encouraged parties, and invited other Governments to make use of it (decision MC-5/17)	mercury levels, not all national action plans explicitly mention testing mercury concentrations in fish or other high-trophic level species, and/or developing standards for consumption thresholds for mercury concentrations in fish. As of May 2025, of the countries with significant mercury emissions from ASGM that have submitted updated NBSAPs in alignment with KMGBF, a limited number include explicit strategies and actions to reduce mercury pollution. The environmental behaviour of mercury in tropical ecosystems, where most of the ASGM occurs, remains insufficiently understood. Improving the understanding of the dynamics and environmental fate of mercury from ASGM is of significant concern to human and environmental health. In the current KMGBF monitoring framework, indicators (across headline, binary, component and complementary) regarding the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals are absent.

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	Study Mercury and Biodiversity – Opportunities for generating co-benefits through coherent implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and full analysis in UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/27 (Minamata Convention, 2024)	Mercury	This publication maps the linkages between mercury pollution and biodiversity loss and provides examples of opportunities to generate co-benefits from the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	
	Study The socio-economic impacts of mercury pollution on fisheries and livelihoods (Minamata Convention, 2023)	Mercury	This study consists of an exploratory analysis of the linkages between mercury pollution and fisheries, as well as the resulting socioeconomic and environmental impacts, and how a natural capital approach could be used to assess the economic impact of mercury pollution on fisheries and coastal livelihoods.	The study emphasizes the importance of understanding the effects of mercury on fish populations, as well as the often overlooked social, environmental and economic costs associated with mercury pollution
	Study Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity: Key Insights . Full study in UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/13 (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and Minamata Convention, 2022)	Mercury	This exploratory study was inspired by the discussions of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It illustrates the interlinkages between the work of the four global chemicals and wastes conventions (BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention) and the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions.	The study concluded that “as the international community finalizes and implements the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, collaboration between the four chemicals and waste conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions can provide ongoing refinements to the targets and indicators on pollution as they relate to mercury, POPs, pesticides and hazardous and other wastes. This is particularly important as the

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				2020 GBO-5 concluded that CBD Aichi pollution Target 8 was not achieved."
Examples of other Minamata Convention activities that also relate to interaction of mercury with biodiversity and ecosystem services				
	Decision MC-5/14 "First effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention" on Mercury (Nov. 2023) link	Mercury	The COP adopted indicators to support the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention, including <u>indicator 1</u> , levels and trends of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment and in humans due to anthropogenic emissions and releases, and <u>indicator 29</u> , mercury levels in vulnerable human populations	
	Expert group Open-ended Scientific Working Group	Mercury	The Open-ended Scientific Group established in decision MC-4/11 is responsible for analysing effectiveness evaluation indicators 1 and 29 (mentioned above) and developing a scientific report synthesizing the available data on mercury monitoring, emissions and releases, to address scientific questions regarding the levels of mercury in the environment and humans, its temporal trends and spatial patterns, its adverse impact and cause-effect relationships. The COP is to consider the scientific report when it evaluates the effectiveness of the Convention for the first time at its seventh meeting in 2027, and also when it evaluates the effectiveness of the Convention periodically thereafter, considering available monitoring data.	Regarding the levels of mercury in the environment and humans, the Open-Ended Scientific Group focuses on atmosphere, biota and humans. Most of the monitoring data are from developed countries, and there is a significant data gap in developing countries. A GEF project started to fill the gap in atmospheric monitoring, but biota and human monitoring remain challenging.
	Guidance on monitoring mercury and mercury compounds	Mercury	The guidance describes the scientific and technical processes and guiding principles for compiling and/or generating comparable data to establish mercury concentrations in humans, biota and abiotic media (Minamata Convention, 2021)	Analysing the data from different monitoring programmes remains a challenge.
	Guidance Monitoring of mercury in and around sites of	Mercury	Guidance on monitoring of mercury in and around sites of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) through in-situ and remote sensing	The document provides a case study of mercury monitoring in Peruvian

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	artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) – technical background document		methods. The technical documents aim to support monitoring efforts by Parties and other stakeholders (Minamata Convention, 2023.)	Amazon, but the monitoring data in other ASGM areas are still scarce.
	Decision MC-6/15 “Strengthening effective engagement with Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities” (2025) Decision MC-5/1 “The effects of mercury pollution on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities” (2023)	Mercury	The Minamata Convention on Mercury recognizes the particular vulnerabilities of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and children because of their exposure to mercury, biomagnification of mercury and contamination of traditional foods. COP of the Minamata Convention has taken several decisions and steps to broaden participation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Minamata Convention.	The identified need to broaden participation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Minamata Convention.
	Survey on the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge, with a view to future work on identifying possible solutions UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/24 (2025)	Mercury	Report on the results of the survey was prepared the Secretariat pursuant to COP Decision MC-5/1.	The survey listed a total of 35 Indigenous and community needs in relation to mercury pollution in the following 10 categories: (a) Food and water security; (b) Environmental protection and restoration; (c) Awareness-raising among community members, especially women of child-bearing age; (d) Medical and social services; (e) Income generation and livelihoods; (f) Law enforcement; (g) Human rights; (h) Knowledge and spiritual and cultural identity; (i) Effective participation and engagement in work under the Minamata Convention on Mercury; (j) Others.
	Report on needs and priorities of Indigenous	Mercury	The report explores the intricate and complex relationships between Indigenous Peoples, local	The report identifies (section 5.3) interventions to minimize and avoid

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	Peoples and local communities with regard to the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/8) (2023)		communities, ASGM and mercury pollution and identify the priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across geographical regions and socio-economic contexts. The report was prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to COP Decision 4/4, paragraph 3.	the impacts of mercury use in ASGM on Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean <i>(Geographical scope: The zone extends from Cape Spartel (Morocco) in the north to the mouth of the Orange River (Namibia) in the south.)</i>	ATLAFCO (COMHAFAT), as an intergovernmental organization dedicated to fisheries cooperation in Africa, addresses the issue of chemical and plastic waste from the perspective of marine environmental protection and resource sustainability.	"N/A"	Support for ecosystem survey campaigns (e.g. in Benin and Liberia) and collaboration with the Network of Fisheries and Marine Science Research Institutes (RAFISMER) for the study of marine biodiversity in the face of anthropogenic pressures, including Plastic pollution.	Strengthening regional and national regulations: -Strengthen regulations to reduce the production, distribution and use of plastic. -Regulations must also provide for plastic traceability measures as well as appropriate sanctions for companies that do not comply with environmental standards.
	Actively participated in the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) for the development of a global treaty on plastic pollution		Awareness-raising: Organizing workshops on resilience to climate change and the preservation of the marine environment, recognizing that healthy oceans are essential for vital ecosystem services.	Strengthening scientific research: Fund more research into the assessments and impacts of plastic pollution on the marine ecosystem and into technological solutions to combat this scourge.
	Key 2025 activities include: - 11th Ordinary Session of ATLAFCO Minsters Conference in Abidjan (April) with action plan that has a special focusing on strengthening regional ocean governance, tackling marine pollution, and protecting			Implementation of massive awareness campaigns: Launch large-scale awareness campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of plastic pollution and ways to reduce it.

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	biodiversity to ensure sustainable fisheries - Participation in the 10th Our Ocean Conference - Projects concentrating on marine diversity under climate change, such as PROJECT SENTINE			
North Pacific Fisheries Commission (Geographical scope: See convention area)	Conservation and management measure on the prevention, reduction, and elimination of marine pollution	Fishing gear, plastics, garbage, sewage, oil, fuel products, oily residues Prevention of losing fishing gear and waste release	Goal is “preventing, reducing, and eliminating marine pollution, including the potential for reporting requirements”	
North Pacific Marine Science Organization (Geographical scope: North Pacific Ocean)	Expert Group – Section on Marine Plastic Pollution PICES_SMPP	Plastic waste	Work collaboratively to characterize and understand the flow and impacts of plastic pollutants within the PICES region, Continue to develop abiotic and biotic indicators of plastic debris and pollutants in the PICES region and develop monitoring plans to assess temporal trends in plastic pollutants as new legislation takes effect. Engage with other intergovernmental science organizations, International Projects, and entities (e.g., SCOR , GESAMP)	
	PICES S-MPP member - Research	Marine debris, microplastics	1. Marine debris and biodiversity surveys – we (DFO, Canada) conduct surveys across the West coast of Canada focusing on areas of conservation priority and/or protection. This data is contributing to spatial data sets to identify areas where plastic pollution may	In order to ensure that pollution levels are reduced to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity we must first know what the levels are. This gap needs to be addressed to meet

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			pose the greatest risk to biodiversity and conservation goals. 2. Opportunistic microplastic sampling – we survey microplastics across the West coast of Canada to assess the abundance and distribution of microplastics. The goal of this work is to assess areas where microplastics are most abundant and the risk they pose to ecosystems. 3. Mapping marine debris and microplastics – we are developing and compiling spatial datasets in British Columbia to determine the spatial distribution of marine debris, microplastics and ghost gear and their relation to potential sources, oceanography, ecological conservation priorities and conservations areas. Although we do not currently engage with the Convention on Biological Diversity we would appreciate the opportunity to do so.	this target and the work being done here will help meet that need.
	PICES S-MPP member - Research and tool	Plastic pollution	Ocean Conservancy recently published a framework for quantifying the relationship between plastic ingestion and likelihood of mortality for marine species, and identified risk thresholds for marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds. This framework and these thresholds can be used to inform risk assessment frameworks across geographies and species in an effort to determine science-based targets for protecting marine biodiversity.	In order to implement risk assessments of this nature and inform science-based targets, higher quality data on plastic pollution by material type, plastic ingestion and entanglement, and mortality across species is necessary.
	PICES S-MPP member - International Coastal cleanup	Plastic pollution	In the last 40 years, Ocean Conservancy has hosted the International Coastal Cleanup supporting partners in removing millions of tons of marine debris from coastlines around the world. In last years report on 2024 cleanup data, they noted nearly half a million volunteers worked together to remove 17.8 million items of marine debris along 15 thousand miles of coastline.	This work emphasizes the importance of ongoing coastal cleanups in managing plastic pollution in order to meet Target 7.

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	PICES S-MPP member - Research	Microplastics	In our Watershed to Whales project, we are studying how microplastics move from land to sea, enter the marine food web, and pose risks to the local biodiversity. Most relevant to this, we will be taking microplastic concentrations, as well as size, shape, polymer type and other factors from our field data to establish risk thresholds to aquatic wildlife. When a similar method was applied to the SF Bay in a 2022 study, it led to a 305(b) listing under the Clean Water Act. Our current assessment will be more comprehensive in the multidimensionality of plastic risk to aquatic life than this earlier work.	To mitigate the effects of microplastics on biodiversity, we need to better understand where these particles come from, specifically what products or sectors are most closely linked to the particles in the environment. Also, there are few, if any, studies showing negative effects of microplastics beyond the individual level. If we are to understand if, and under what conditions/concentrations, microplastics may affect biodiversity methods such as those described here – linking environmental concentrations to food web incorporation, to individual and ultimately population-level effects will be vital.
	S-MPP member - Global Plastic Ingestion Bioindicators Project, part of SmartNet (PICES/ICES UN Ocean Decade Program) Expert group, research	Plastic waste (all sizes)	We are a global (60+ members from 26 countries and six continents) community that has formed to achieve the following from 2023-2028: 1. Global review and evaluation of plastic pollution monitoring programs – We have conducted an exhaustive review of global monitoring plans that utilize bioindicators to track plastic ingestion. This work, completed last year, establishes the baseline for how different nations and organizations currently assess the risk and impacts of plastic waste on marine biodiversity. 2. Inventory plastic ingestion across all fauna – Building upon existing datasets like, we are	To meet the objectives of Target 7, it is imperative to bridge the gap between fragmented research and sustained, long-term monitoring infrastructure. The primary constraint is a systemic lack of dedicated funding for the high-volume incorporation and synthesis of data from disparate global field and laboratory studies. While the GPIB project has established essential baseline assessments, transitioning to an evaluative framework for multi-decadal trends requires consistent financial support for the

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			currently inventorying plastic ingestion records for all known marine fauna. 3. Assessment of plastic pollution effects on biodiversity – We are actively assessing known pathways of harm and identifying critical knowledge gaps regarding how plastic ingestion impacts biodiversity. We have a paper in press on this topic now. Development of the “Global Top 10” bioindicator rubric – We are developing and applying a standardized rubric to identify the most effective sentinel species or genera for tracking plastic debris. By promoting standardized methodologies and harmonized reporting guidelines for these top indicators, we facilitate global knowledge exchange and more robust monitoring of plastic impacts on marine wildlife.	administrative and technical labor required to maintain a global data portal. Without prioritizing these fundamental operational requirements, the international community lacks the high-resolution data necessary to accurately quantify and mitigate the long-term impacts of plastic pollution on biodiversity.
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme <i>(Geographical scope: Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) – Regional)</i>	Regional Strategy Development & Implementation (Cleaner Pacific 2025 & 2036 Strategies)	Chemicals, hazardous waste, plastic waste, excess nutrients (via wastewater and organic waste).	The Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (and its successor 2036) provides the overarching framework for integrated pollution prevention and control. It sets measurable targets (e.g., recycling rate to 75% by 2025, reduction of asbestos and used oil stockpiles) to reduce land-based sources of pollution that degrade terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves, lagoons). The strategy explicitly links pollution management to protecting ecosystem services vital for PICTs (fisheries, tourism, coastal protection). SPREP engages with CBD processes (COPs, SBSTTA) to align regional action with KMGBF goals.	Implementation requires significant, sustained funding and technical resources . Greater integration is needed between pollution, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation planning and budgets at national levels.
	Project Implementation (e.g., J-PRISM, PacWaste, ISLANDS Programme, Pollution Control)	Plastic waste, hazardous chemicals	These projects directly mitigate pollution sources harming biodiversity: • J-PRISM (JICA): Promotes 3R+Return and organic waste composting across 11 PICTs,	Sustainable long-term funding is critical. Current project-based funding is not guaranteed post-project

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	Outcomes Fund – PCOF)	(asbestos, mercury, POPs, used oil, healthcare waste), general waste, excess nutrients.	reducing landfill leachate and nutrient runoff into coastal waters, protecting coral reefs and seagrass beds. • PacWaste (EU): Manages asbestos, healthcare waste, and e-waste in 14 PICTs, preventing soil and groundwater contamination that affects ecosystem function and human health. • ISLANDS/PCOF: Supports national actions to reduce plastic pollution and mercury use, directly decreasing ingestion and entanglement risks for marine species (turtles, seabirds, marine mammals). POLP (AU): supports Pacific island countries through an integrated approach addressing legislation, policy and planning, increasing consumer awareness and changing behaviour, working closely with industry groups and small businesses and by identifying and providing information about sustainable alternative products and practices.	cycles (~60% drop anticipated post-2026), threatening continuity of pollution reduction activities vital for biodiversity outcomes. Scaling successful pilots remains a challenge.
	Policy & Legislative Support for PICTs	Plastic waste, hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste.	SPREP assists PICTs to develop and implement bans on single-use plastics, hazardous waste management plans, and mercury action plans . This prevents pollutants from entering ecosystems, safeguarding biodiversity hotspots. For example, supporting the Waigani Convention (regional Basel Convention) controls transboundary movements of hazardous waste to prevent ecological damage in the Pacific.	Capacity and resource constraints in PICTs slow the adoption, enforcement, and monitoring of robust policies. Need for simplified legislative templates, continuous technical backstopping, and support for compliance with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).
	Waste Minimization & Resource Recovery (3R+Return, Circular Economy)	Plastic waste, organic waste, hazardous waste	Activities promote recycling, composting, and material recovery to divert waste from landfills and the environment. The Moana Taka Partnership (MTP) facilitates shipping of waste from Pacific to other	Limited markets and high logistics costs for recyclables in the Pacific hinder circular economy growth. Need for strong public-private

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		(batteries, used oil).	countries with proper waste disposal facilities. Container Deposit Legislation (e.g., in Kiribati, Palau) reduces beverage container litter. 27 organic waste composting programmes (per Cleaner Pacific 2025) cut methane emissions and leachate, improving soil health and reducing nutrient pollution to waterways. This reduces pressure on waste reception ecosystems.	partnerships , investment in local recycling infrastructure, and regional economies of scale for waste-to-resource initiatives.
	Capacity Building & Development of Technical Guidelines	Hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste, plastic waste.	SPREP develops Regional Codes of Practice (e.g. for hazardous waste storage, mercury-added products) and delivers national and sub-regional training . This empowers PICTs to manage pollutants safely, preventing ecosystem contamination. Training on marine litter monitoring (e.g., using NOAA/MARPOL guidelines) helps build evidence on impacts to biodiversity. Activities are informed by biodiversity considerations, such as protecting receiving environments during waste facility siting and operation.	Need to expand the reach and frequency of training to address high staff turnover. Guidelines require regular updating for emerging waste streams (e.g., lithium-ion batteries, solar panel waste) and need tailoring to specific atoll and SIDS contexts .
	Monitoring, Reporting & Data Integration	All pollution types (chemicals, waste, plastics, nutrients).	SPREP is implementing a Regional Waste Monitoring System and mandates annual national reporting against Cleaner Pacific 2025's 15 performance indicators (e.g., waste recycling rates, stockpile quantities, number of water quality monitoring programmes). This evidence-based approach is crucial for measuring progress toward Target 7. The proposed Clean Pacific Roundtable will enhance data sharing between pollution, climate, and biodiversity sectors. SPREP is exploring linkages between the Pacific Environmental Data Portal and biodiversity monitoring systems.	Significant data gaps persist in baseline pollution levels, especially for chemicals and marine plastics. Need to strengthen integration between waste/pollution data streams and biodiversity/ecosystem health indicators (e.g., coral reef condition, fish biomass) to assess the effectiveness of pollution controls.

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	Governance & International Convention Support	Hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste.	SPREP supports PICTs in implementing the Basel, Stockholm, Minamata, and Waigani Conventions , including work to amend the Waigani Convention for better alignment with the Basel Convention. This enhances control on transboundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals that could impact regional ecosystems. SPREP also facilitates regional positions and participation in CBD SBSTTA and COP discussions related to pollution and biodiversity.	Reporting compliance by Parties to MEAs is often low due to capacity constraints. Need for streamlined, integrated national reporting systems across chemical/waste and biodiversity conventions, and dedicated secretariat resources to support parties effectively.
South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation <i>(Geographical scope: South East Atlantic)</i>	System of observation, inspection, compliance and enforcement	Abandoned Gear	Article 8 – Retrieval of lost or abandoned fishing gear	
United Nations Environment Programme	UNEP-wide Plastics Initiative			
	Capacity building and national technical assistance: UNEP Plastics Initiative	Plastic pollution and circular economy	The UNEP Plastics Initiative consolidates all UNEP's plastic-related projects, activities, actions, and results into a unified programme that leads and implements a system-wide transformation towards a safe circular economy of plastics. Activities include technical assistance for policy and regulatory development, business engagement and innovation, data and planning support, finance and investment mobilization, communication and behaviour change efforts, and capacity-building across the plastic value chain—from upstream reduction and circular design to midstream reuse and downstream recycling and disposal.	

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			Major initiatives under this programme include the GEF-8 Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution Integrated Program (Plastic Reboot), GEF-8 Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa, and the GEF-7 circular economy project in Latin America and the Caribbean. The UNEP Finance Initiative contributes by strengthening readiness in the finance sector through awareness-raising, capacity-building, and guidance on actions to reduce pollution across the plastics value chain.	
	Data, knowledge platforms, collaboration support: Global Plastics Hub	Plastic pollution	The Global Plastics Hub, provides a one-stop platform for data, knowledge, and collaboration to end plastic pollution. The Global Plastics Hub brings together key resources and data to support countries in development of evidence-based national action plans to address plastic pollution effectively. Its 'Plastics in the Environment' data hub integrates several databases- including microplastic density, beach litter and interaction with biodiversity, helping visualizing potential threat of plastic pollution in different marine ecosystems. These data can guide countries in identifying priority intervention (e.g. improved waste management system) to protect important marine ecosystems. The hub's Action Planning Tool serves as a capacity development tool, offering a step-by-step guide enriched with case studies, success stories and relevant data to inspire and inform national action planning process.	Providing data on required interventions is important but not sufficient to reduce plastic pollution and protect biodiversity. Turning recommendations into action requires strong institutions and reliable financing. For example, establishing a sustainable waste-management system depends on consistent, locally sourced operational funding, something often lacking in developing-countries contexts. Similarly, enforcing Single-Use Plastic (SUP) bans remains challenging due to limited financial and institutional capacities. These gaps highlight the need for long-term financing mechanisms, capacity-building, and strengthened governance structures to ensure that policy measures result in real environmental outcomes.

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	Financing: Plastics Transition Investment Facility	Plastic pollution	As the first global investment platform dedicated to mobilising public and private capital to reduce plastic pollution and accelerate the transition to a circular economy, it aims to unlock investment at scale in emerging markets and deliver impact across the plastics value chain – from upstream innovation and design, through midstream reuse systems, to downstream waste infrastructure and inclusive circular solutions.	
Wastewater and Excess Nutrients				
	Capacity Building, Guidelines and Data: Wastewater and Nutrients Management	Wastewater and excess nutrients	Four capacity building regional workshops held for Southern, Eastern, Northern and Western and central Africa under Wastewater Surveillance for Africa Initiative, as part of “Preventing and addressing the degradation of freshwater and marine ecosystems from source-to-sea” project. The objective of the workshops was to strengthen capacity for wastewater and environmental surveillance (WES) across Africa by bringing together public health and environmental experts from across the region. The events included presentations, site visits, and networking opportunities aimed at fostering collaboration between the health and environment sectors. The importance of wastewater surveillance for early detection, tracking, and response to health threats, particularly in resource limited settings, was also emphasized. - Action plans on Sustainable Nitrogen Management were developed in implementation of UNEA resolution 5/2 and previous related resolutions on sustainable nitrogen management. - Three publications under development with technical support provided by UNEP via the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen:	Strengthening collaboration between health and environment authorities remains essential to fully operationalize WES and ensure that surveillance data leads to timely public-health action. Limited technical capacity, insufficient laboratory infrastructure, and weak data-management systems are major barriers to effective WES implementation. There is a need for clearer regional guidance, standardized methodologies, and long-term financing to sustain surveillance efforts.

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			- Harmonization of WES in Africa: Opportunities for synergies and proposal of universal guidance. - A roadmap for establishment and scaling up of a wastewater surveillance programme for Africa. - Compendium on best practices and lessons learned on WES at airports and ports. Draft national action plans on Sustainable Nitrogen Management developed in Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago	
	Synergies among MEAs Across the Chemicals and Waste and Biodiversity Clusters			
	Capacity building: Alignment with Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste MEAs	Mitigation of pollution impacts on ecosystems and species	The four workshops raised awareness of concrete nexus areas and entry points for cooperation in implementing the GBF and the Global Framework on Chemicals. Countries were guided in promoting coordinated implementation of MEAs related to chemicals, waste, biodiversity, and ecosystems at the national level. This helped deepen understanding of how pollution—particularly chemicals and waste pollution—affects biodiversity and ecosystem services, and how strengthened governance, harmonized national frameworks, and improved cooperation across MEAs can enable countries to identify pollution–biodiversity linkages, reduce regulatory fragmentation, and design more integrated responses to pollution pressures on ecosystems. The workshops were organized in alignment with various UNEA Resolutions (UNEA 6/4; 6/6; Global Framework on Chemicals Resolution 6); COPs Decisions- CBD, CMS, BRS, Minamata Convention:	A key gap identified in the work is the lack of coherent and synergistic implementation of MEAs at the national level, largely due to the absence of a whole-of-government approach and weak coordination mechanisms. There is also a need for more systematic integration of chemicals and waste considerations into biodiversity planning. Countries still need clearer guidance, stronger institutional coordination, and practical tools to translate these interlinkages into national implementation.

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			• CMS Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP14) Synergies and Partnerships. • UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.18.1 Synergies and Partnerships. • BC-17/23 International cooperation and coordination with other organizations. • UNEP/MC/COP.6/19: International cooperation and coordination	
	Tools and knowledge platforms: Practical one-stop tool and virtual knowledge hub on integrating chemical pollution into NBSAPs (under development)	Cross-cutting: chemicals listed under MEAs and the Global Framework on Chemicals	UNEP, in consultation with MEAs, including the CBD, is curating a comprehensive visual and practical quick start guide to support the integration of pollution considerations into NBSAP implementation. The guide will serve as a one-stop resource for methodologies and guidance produced by multiple MEAs and will offer sector-specific lenses to strengthen work on synergies. The approach was piloted at the national level in Uganda in December 2025, and the materials will be made publicly available in Q2 2026	There is a need for further dissemination and piloting of the approach at the country level, including strengthening national coordination and adopting a more integrated, cross-sectoral approach to address biodiversity and pollution jointly. This could be achieved through additional workshops at the country or region level and a virtual community of practice to advance learning and knowledge sharing.
Regional Seas and Action Plans				
Baltic Sea Action Plan				
	Policy framework: The Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)	All types of pollution affecting the Baltic Sea, including pesticides and hazardous substances,	Adopted by the HELCOM Contracting Parties in 2007 and updated in 2021, the BSAP is HELCOM's strategic programme of measures and actions for achieving good environmental status of the Baltic Sea, and ensuring a healthy and resilient marine environment. The BSAP is organised into four segments each with specific goals calling for reducing pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem services:	

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		nutrients and marine litter.	• Biodiversity: A Baltic Sea ecosystem that is healthy and resilient • Eutrophication: A Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication • Hazardous substances and litter: “Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter”, and • Sea-based activities: of “Environmentally sustainable sea-based activities”.	
	Policy framework/guidance: HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission, HELCOM)	Marine litter, including plastic litter.	The revised 2021 RAP ML outlines targeted measures to address both land-based and sea-based sources of marine litter, including plastics. It includes thirteen actions for land-based sources and fifteen for sea-based sources, covering interventions such as improved waste management, smarter and more sustainable production, and education and outreach. By promoting reducing the input of litter into coastal and marine environments, these actions directly address the impacts of plastic pollution on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The RAP ML supports countries in identifying and mitigating these pressures through coordinated, evidence-based measures	
	Policy framework/guidance: The HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise (RAP Noise)	Underwater noise pollution.	The 2021 RAP Noise contains both regional and national actions that focus on the reduction of pressures and impacts from underwater noise sources of different types affecting the Baltic Sea.	
	Assessment: HELCOM Thematic assessment of hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater	Hazardous substances, underwater noise and marine litter,	The published in 2022, thematic assessment provides an integrated overview of the state of Baltic Sea ecosystem, key environmental pressures, and implications for human well-being in the Baltic Sea. The assessment	Tthe lack of progress on the component indicator under GBF Target 7 related to marine litter—specifically, “floating plastic debris

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	noise and non-indigenous species 2016-2021.	including plastic litter	serves as an important tool for tracking progress towards goals of the BSAP and evaluating the effectiveness of related instruments, including the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise.	<i>density (micro- and microplastics)."</i> Although this indicator is directly connected to HELCOM's mandate and ongoing work on marine litter, no substantive advances have been made within the HELCOM forum to operationalize or report against it. This gap limits the region's ability to monitor pollution pressures on biodiversity and to demonstrate progress toward Target 7.
	Policy frameworks/guidance: HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme	Nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the sea directly, from the catchment and atmospheric deposition	The HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme is a regional mechanism for sharing the responsibility of nutrient reductions needed to achieve the goal of a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication. It builds around two core elements: • Maximum allowable inputs (MAI) The maximum level of inputs of waterborne and airborne nitrogen and phosphorus that each Baltic Sea sub-basins can receive while still achieving good environmental status of the Baltic Sea. • Nutrient Input Ceilings (NIC): Country-specific maximum inputs via water and air required to meet eutrophication targets in each for sub-region Regional work under the scheme is guided by Recommendations 37-38/1-Rev.1 Waterborne pollution input assessment (PLC-WATER) and Recommendation 37-38/2-Rev.1 Monitoring of airborne pollution input	According to the Assessment of achieving NICs in 2030 and the effectiveness of measures - based on the reporting for BSAP Action E1 (2025), the nutrient input reductions will continue but the targets will not be met by 2030 and further work is needed to curb eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. The main findings were summarized in a brochure published in late 2025.
	Policy frameworks/guidance:	Substances and groups of	The substances were prioritized using the assessment scheme outlined in the regional strategic approach .	A significant gap identified is the limited progress in managing both

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	Regional strategic approach – HELCOM's management framework for hazardous substances and HELCOM priority substances	substances that pose the highest anticipated risk to the Baltic Sea,	Summary information on the prioritization process and the specific concerns associated with each substance is provided in Annex I of HELCOM Recommendation 42-43/6 .	HELCOM priority substances and substances of concern. Although the HELCOM list of substances of concern is defined similarly to the list of priority substances, the actual risk posed by many of these chemicals remains uncertain. This uncertainty, combined with persistent management and information gaps across both categories, hampers effective regional action. These shortcomings underscore the need for a more coherent and comprehensive approach, which the forthcoming Regional Action Plan on Hazardous Substances—expected to be adopted in 2026—is intended to address.
<u>Cartagena Convention</u>				
	Policy Frameworks/guidance: Regional Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Action Plan	Nutrients and Wastewater	The Regional Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Action Plan provides a collaborative framework for the progressive reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on priority coastal and marine ecosystems in the WCR.	Additional resources are required to assist countries develop National Reduction Strategies and Action Plans.
	Expert Working Group: Open Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and Subgroups/LBS Scientific Technical Advisory Committee	Nutrients and Wastewater	The Working Group supported the development of Guidelines for the Classification of coastal Waters according to the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol , under the LBS Protocol. Annex III of the Protocol establishes Class I and Class II waters based on the use of the water body and the need to protect of sensitive ecosystems such as corals reefs,	A notable gap is the limited understanding of how effectively regulatory measures are being implemented in coastal waters. Although some countries have already classified their coastal waters, there is insufficient information on

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			mangroves, and seagrass beds. This classification approach is directly linked to marine biodiversity and ecosystem services as coastal waters containing these ecosystems are recommended for designation as Class 1 waters.	whether these regulations are being applied consistently or achieving their intended outcomes. This lack of implementation data constrains the region's ability to assess progress and address pollution impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
	Expert working group: Open Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and Subgroups/LBS Scientific Technical Advisory Committee	Nutrients and Wastewater	The Working Group supported the development of a document proposing discharge limits for nitrogen and phosphorous compounds from domestic wastewater. The proposal was subsequently discussed at the 7 LBS STAC where Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol agreed to continue deliberations on nutrient parameters and discharge limits of.	Untreated wastewater remains a significant pressure in the Wider Caribbean Region, contributing to eutrophication and negatively affecting economically important habitats such as coral reefs and seagrass beds. A key gap is the absence of comprehensive national coastal monitoring programmes in many countries, particularly for tracking total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP). The limited availability of consistent monitoring data undermines the ability to assess nutrient loads, evaluate regulatory effectiveness, and understand the impacts of nutrient pollution on sensitive coastal ecosystems.
	Expert Working Group: Sargassum Working Group	Nutrients	The programme supports the implementation of the Cartagena Convention Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation , while also examining the potential link between nutrient pollution and Sargassum influx events. The work includes assessing how nutrient enrichment may influence bloom dynamics and	Lack of dedicated resources to support Contracting Parties in implementing the Cartagena Convention Action Plan on Sargassum. Without additional financial and technical support,

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			recognizing that large-scale inundations can trigger eutrophication in sheltered bays, with negative impacts on key habitats and fisheries.	countries will face challenges in operationalizing the plan's measures and responding effectively to the ecological and socio-economic impacts of Sargassum influxes.
	<u>COBSEA</u>			
	Policy Framework/guidance: Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)	Waste, including plastic waste	Implementation of the (RAP MALI, provides a regional framework to prevent and reduce marine litter and plastic pollution. Activities focused on reducing leakage into marine and coastal environments, improving the management of land-based and sea-based sources, and strengthening regional coordination to address associated pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems.	A significant gap is the need for additional resources to strengthen the implementation of existing measures and improve the tracking of pollution-pressure trends. Without sustained financial and technical support, countries face challenges in monitoring progress, identifying emerging pressures, and effectively reducing impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems.
	Meeting: The 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML-7) held on 19 June 2025.	Waste, including plastic waste	The meeting discussed progress on the biennial workplan of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, including COBSEA's first Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for Marine Litter, the Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas (RC3S), and ongoing initiatives to strengthen and harmonize marine litter monitoring across the region	
	Guidance: Regional guidance on harmonized marine litter monitoring	Waste, including plastic waste	Adopted regional guidance on harmonized marine litter monitoring, accompanied by training activities, to	There is a need for sustained capacity-building to ensure countries

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			improve consistency and comparability of data and strengthen understanding of pollution pressures in marine and coastal environments.	can effectively implement pollution-reduction measures and meet regional commitments. Without ongoing support, technical skills and institutional capabilities remain uneven, limiting long-term progress in addressing pollution pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems.
	Guidance: waste management	Plastic pollution	Development of sectoral guidance on plastic-waste free schools, aiming to support various stakeholders including governmental agencies, NGOs, educators and youth to reduce plastic waste from schools.	A notable gap is the limited engagement of youth in efforts to reduce plastic pollution. Despite growing interest and potential for meaningful contribution, structured opportunities, targeted outreach, and youth-focused programmes remain insufficient, constraining the region's ability to mobilize this key demographic in support of pollution-reduction goals.
	Knowledge platform and multi-stakeholder networking	Waste, including plastic waste	East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML) is operated as a regional knowledge management and networking platform. It supports countries by facilitating access to technical resources, good practices, and scientific information relevant to addressing pollution and impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems. The platform has been developed in a phases t through the MA-RE-DESIGN project funded by the Government of Germany, enhancing regional capacity to respond to pollution pressures through improved information sharing and collaboration	A key gap is the insufficient technical and financial support needed to maintain and further expand the functionality of the East Asian Seas GPML Regional Node. Without sustained resources, the platform's ability to serve as an effective regional hub for knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and coordination on plastic pollution remains constrained.

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	Publication: Demonstration and replication of good practices waste management	Waste, including plastic waste	Dissemination and replication of good practices to reduce plastic leakage into marine and coastal environments, including in remote and island communities . New good practice case studies are currently in development on behaviour change and plastic circularity.	A persistent gap is the limited ability to scale up existing efforts due to insufficient financing and weak integration of pollution-related measures into national and regional policy frameworks. These constraints hinder the expansion of effective interventions and slow progress toward reducing pollution impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
	Guidance and tools: Waste management	Waste, including plastic waste (ALDFG)	Development of regional tools and guidance (e.g., Ghost Gear Toolbox) addressing abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) , a significant source of marine pollution pressure, focusing on prevention, responsible recovery, and improved gear management.	A significant gap remains in addressing abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). The region lacks harmonized monitoring systems, lifecycle-based management approaches, and sufficient recycling capacity for end-of-life gear. These shortcomings limit the ability to prevent ALDFG, track its occurrence, and manage its impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.
	Capacity-building: regional support to global processes	Waste, including plastic waste	Support to countries through regional coordination and knowledge sharing on global plastic pollution processes, including the development and delivery of COBSEA regional statements to INC-2 , INC-3 , INC-4 , INC-5.1 and INC-5.2 .	Continued support is needed to assist countries in translating global commitments into coordinated regional and national actions.
	Meeting: 6th SEA of Solutions Forum, 16 – 17 December, 2025	Waste, including plastic waste	The annual forum brought together more than 150 participants from more than 15 government agencies, and 45 organisations . It provided a discussion platform	

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			on creating partnerships and solutions for plastic pollution in the East Asian Region.	
	Capacity building: COBSEA and CSIRO Webinar on Marine Litter Monitoring Tools, 7 August 2025	Waste, including plastic waste	In partnership with CSIRO, COBSEA hosted a regional webinar to introduce two new tools developed by CSIRO , including a new tool, a beta Site Selection Tool, which supports the design of effective plastic waste surveys, and the Data Visualization Tool, which enables countries to securely interpret baseline survey data.	
	Data and monitoring: collection for indicator 14.1.1. (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density	Plastic pollution and excess nutrients	Under the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals implementation, UNEP is collecting data on exercise for SDG Indicator 14.1.1(a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density from countries through Regional Seas for countries that are member and directly from countries that are not member of any Regional Seas. The collected data will be reported under the SDG indicator 14.1.1 and under Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 7, Headline indicator 7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential. The data will also feed into the Target Tracker.	The limited availability of data across many countries often due to insufficient resources and technical expertise to support sustained monitoring efforts. This challenge is compounded by uneven levels of activity and capacity among Regional Seas programmes, resulting in inconsistent data generation and reduced comparability across the region.
	Guidance: measuring flows of plastics	Plastic pollution, chemicals and waste	The Statistical Guideline represents a first step in addressing the absence of a detailed, globally agreed methodology for measuring plastic flows at the national, regional, and global levels. The guideline provides guidance to practitioners on producing high-quality national-level statistics on plastics that are comparable across countries. With the continued increase in the production and consumption of plastics in recent decades, combined with a predominantly linear plastic economy and insufficient waste management, plastic	Data gap for measuring flows of plastic throughout the life cycle. Some aspects of the guideline may require further discussion and refinement in future versions

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			pollution has become a global concern. Monitoring this issue is therefore essential.	
	Extractive sector			
	Technical support: On the ground technical work in over 20 countries, transforming the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector to minimize impacts on the biodiversity and ecosystems, through the flagship programme: planetGOLD and Mapping of the ASGM overlap with key biodiversity areas and protected areas :	Highly hazardous chemicals (Mercury and other heavy metals)	UNEP is leading efforts to transform artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) into more responsible practices by leveraging local and community knowledge and priorities. This includes initiatives such as the GEF-funded planetGOLD programme, as well as evidence-based data collection and trend analysis on impacts and possible solutions. These efforts aim to ease the burden of the sector, particularly in addressing chemical pollution and land degradation, and to reduce risks to surrounding ecosystems and biodiversity.	An opportunity for leveraging funding and expertise across biodiversity and pollution for innovative, sustainable solutions, including financing models that empower local communities, restore land, and transform ASGM into safe revenue streams, to jointly deliver on-the-ground land restoration and ecosystem protection.
	Environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance			
	Resolution implementation: Addressing the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance	Antimicrobials; cross-cutting	UNEP, as the leading organization on the environment, has been working in to ensure that environmental considerations are systematically integrated into all multisectoral interventions, documents and processes to tackle AMR coordinated and produced by the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA). The environment is now recognized as a core pillar of the AMR agenda as recognized in the recently adopted UNEA Resolution 7/11 .	There is a need for further, sustained financing to tackle the multidimensional problem of AMR, and especially the environmental dimensions of AMR. While UNEP has received a strong mandate to address the environmental dimensions of AMR, increased research, awareness raising and coordination is needed across the board.

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	Resolution implementation: UNEP/EA.7/Res.11 - Resolution on environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance	Antimicrobial resistance	The activity supports Member States in addressing the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It focuses on strengthening science- and risk-based environmental surveillance, preventing and reducing antimicrobial discharges into the environment, facilitating research and knowledge-sharing, mobilizing resources, and enhancing the environmental components of national AMR action plans.	N/A
	Chemicals and waste, including pesticides			
	Policy Frameworks: Implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals	Chemicals and waste	The Global Framework on Chemicals for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste was adopted on 30 September 2023. Core elements of the Framework are five strategic objectives and 28 targets to be reached by 2030 or 2035. These guide stakeholders at all levels to take measurable actions to address the sound management of chemicals and waste. These include Target A7 By 2035, “stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives”, and Target E6 “By 2030, stakeholders identify and strengthen, as appropriate, synergies and linkages between chemicals and waste management and other key environmental, health and labour policies, such as those related to climate change solutions, biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, universal health coverage or primary health care”.	Implementation of the Framework is underway. The First International Conference will be held in November 2025.

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			Several aspects of the Framework, and specific Resolutions such as Resolution V/6 on International Cooperation and Coordination recognize the importance of the linkages with Biodiversity. A document presented at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 24–27 June 2025) highlights the <u>Contributions of the chemicals and waste international agreements and frameworks to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>. It provides an overview of the contributions from the Framework and the chemicals and waste international agreements.	
	Guidelines and best practice: Support to Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)	Chemicals, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals	Bringing to bear experience from the biodiversity processes, the project drafted, conducted a global review process, and delivered a global strategy for capacity-building as well as guidance for the development of capacities of focal points for the GFC. Draft guidelines for focal points and a supporting roadmap have been completed and circulated to clarify the roles, responsibilities and practical steps required for effective national implementation ahead of the first International Conference. Six online global expert meetings were hosted to develop and review the strategy, guidance and roadmap.	
	Resolution Implementation: UNEA Resolution 6/11 on Highly Hazardous Pesticides	Highly hazardous pesticides	The resolution is encouraging stakeholders, including Member States, in accordance with target A7 of the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (GFC), to take effective	Significant challenges persist, especially in securing sustainable funding to strengthen regulatory enforcement, ensure long-term

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			measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives. Also, it invites Member States to continue to cooperate and coordinate in efforts to prevent illegal trafficking in highly hazardous pesticides, including, where relevant, as highlighted in decisions BC-16/24 of 12 May 2023, RC-11/11 of 12 May 2023 and SC-11/23 of 12 May 2023, adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, respectively, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. Additionally, it invites Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to become members of the voluntary, multi-stakeholder global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides, to be established under the GFC. Moreover, it encourages Member States and other relevant stakeholders that are in a position to do so to carry out further research on safer and affordable alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides, as appropriate. Not least, the Resolution requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides. UNEP developed the UNEA-7 report: UNEP/EA.7/16 - Progress in the implementation of resolution 6/11 on highly hazardous pesticides.	monitoring and scale up locally adapted alternatives.

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	Expert working group: UNEP contribution to the work of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management	Pesticides/Highly Hazardous Pesticides	UNEP contributes to the work of the FAO-WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management, as an Observer, ensuring that environmental dimensions are captured in the development of guidelines facilitating the implementation of individual articles of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.	Additional financial support is needed to carry out this work.
	Technical Assistance: GEF CW FARM Programme (Agriculture) (Global project & country projects in Kenya & Uruguay)	HHP, agricultural plastics	FARM is building the financial and knowledge foundations needed to incentivize investment in reducing the use of harmful HHPs, agricultural plastics and boosting biocontrol alternatives and no- and low-chemical production. Its work focuses on strengthening weak policy and regulatory systems, improving the level of sustainable financial support for alternatives, and sharing relevant knowledge required to adopt effective, less harmful practices that in turn support biodiversity conservation. FARM has started discussions with CBD representatives, and child projects to contribute to the targets GBF7 and GBF 19. FARM is interested in participating in CBD working groups around defining the measurements and indicators for these countries.	The business case, and incentives for policy makers and regulators to meet target 7 do not cover comprehensively the associated environmental and health costs. FARM is working with 7 countries to bridge this gap, but data availability is still a barrier in most of FARM countries.
	Technical Assistance: UNEP GEF CW/IW/LD FARM+ Benin (Agriculture, textiles/cotton)	HHP, POPs pesticides, nutrients	Phasing out use of POPs (chlorpyrifos) and HHPs in cotton production; strengthening nutrient and water management through improved agricultural practices and accessing certified value chains. Monitoring soil and water contamination; reporting to the Abidjan Convention protocol on land-based sources of pollution. It has a policy coherence component to align cotton sector reports on chemicals with NBSAP and reporting.	
	Technical Assistance: GEF 8 IP Supply Chains (Textiles, Construction)	Plastic, mercury and hazardous	The multi-focal area GEF program includes contribution to biodiversity due to reduced pollution e.g. in effluent from textile production, hazardous	Support on pollution and chemicals impacts being included in NBSAP

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	Global, Trinidad, Cambodia	waste in construction sector, PFAS and hazardous chemicals in textiles (dyes, finishing)	construction waste disposal. The programme includes making explicit links to pollution/ chemicals via private sector corporate nature target reports and strategies; and bringing fashion & construction impacts into NBSAP reporting. The Cambodia project includes work on sand mining for construction.	and corporate nature-related disclosure / ESG.
	Technical Assistance: UNEP GEF 11110 FIRE (PFAS in firefighting foams in airports)	POPs /PFAS	The project aims to help select airports in participating countries replace firefighting foams that contain PFAS. Over time, this action will decrease environmental pollution and lessen negative effects on biodiversity.	
	Technical Assistance: UNEP GEF CW ISLANDS programme	Marine litter, plastic, pesticides	GEF ISLANDS aims to strengthen Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) systems for managing chemicals and hazardous waste. These efforts directly reduce the risks posed by harmful chemicals in line with the objectives of Target 7. The programme also works to prevent marine litter and plastic pollution through partnerships with key sectors such as tourism and shipping	Funding for upgrading infrastructure and enforcement of environmental regulations remains a challenge for countries. Further work to operationalize policies, strengthen capacity development, as well as support for investment opportunities is required.