



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention



INFO/RAC

National Focal Points Meeting

Palermo, Italy 20-21 May 2025

Lorenza Babbini
Director

INFO/RAC progress report Programme of Work 2024–2025

Part I: Environmental Information and Knowledge Systems

Part II: Communication, Education, and Outreach



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OBJECTIVE AND MISSION

- Contribute to the **collection and sharing of information**,
- Raise **public awareness** and participation;
- Enhance **decision-making processes** at regional, national, and local levels;
- Provide up-to-date **information and communication services**, and **infrastructure technologies**;
- Support Contracting Parties in the implementation of **Article 15 on public participation** and **Article 26 on reporting** under the Barcelona Convention.

Part I: Environmental Information and Knowledge Systems

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MAP Data Policy Implementation

- Disseminating standardized **data flow annexes** for all relevant areas.
- Supporting Contracting Parties in applying the policy through targeted sessions.
- Developing a **Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)** to manage external access to MAP data

Decision IG.25/10

MAP Data Policy

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 22nd Meeting,

Considering Decision IG.17/5 on the governance of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 15th Meeting (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), and Decision IG.19/6 on the Mediterranean Action Plan Civil Society Cooperation and Partnership, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 16th Meeting (COP 16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009),

Considering further Decisions IG.20/13, IG.21/13, IG.23/3 and IG.24/2 on governance, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 17th (COP 17) (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012), 18th (COP 18) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), 20th (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), and 21st (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) Meetings respectively,

Recalling the mandate of INFO/RAC, as laid down in Decision IG.19/5 on the Mandates of the Components of MAP, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 16th Meeting (COP16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009), and its relevance to the implementation of this Decision,

Acknowledging the importance to apply the UNEP/MAP Data Policy in the data managed by the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System in order to achieve a base level of legal interoperability,

1. *Adopt* the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Data Policy as set out in Annex I to the present Decision;
2. *Request* the Secretariat (INFO/RAC) to provide the necessary technical support to Contracting Parties and to address any needs identified to fully implement the UNEP/MAP Data Policy;
3. *Call upon* the Contracting Parties to take effective measures to implement the UNEP/MAP Data Policy.

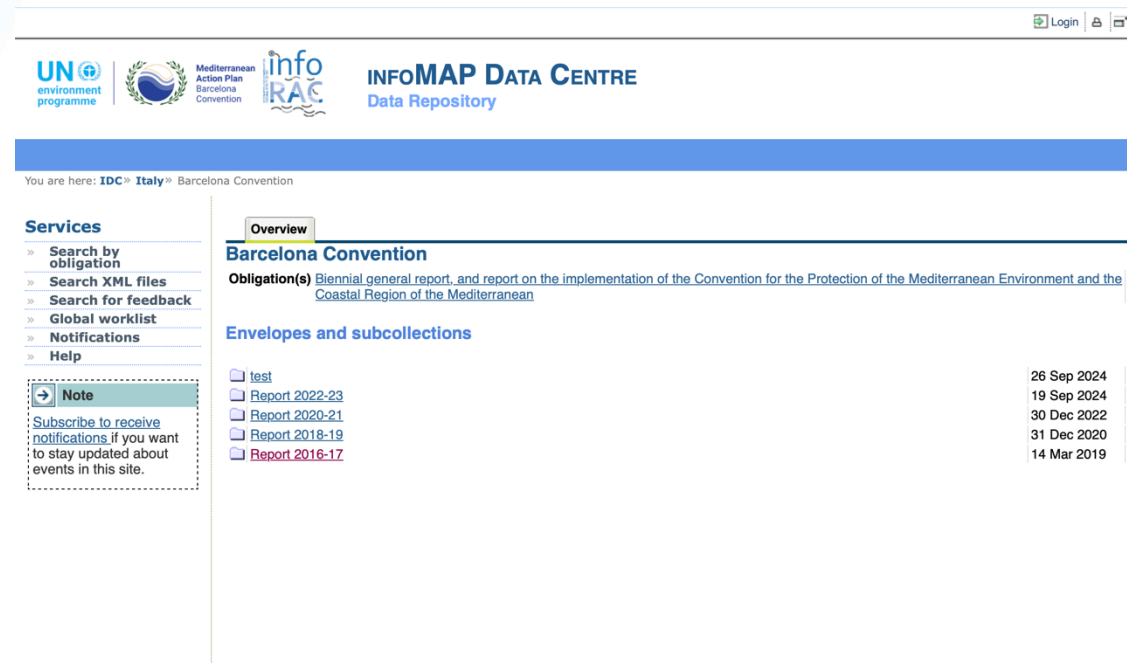
InfoMAP Platform Upgrades

- Integration of datasets from MAP Components (like REMPEC, SP/RAC, Plan Blue and MedWaves) completed;
- Creation of a **common data catalogue** and a **visualization/analysis interface**;
- Enhance **decision-making processes** at regional, national, and local levels;
- Development of **interoperability layers** with other platforms, including UNEP's Knowledge Management Platform (KM_aP) and MED Programme.



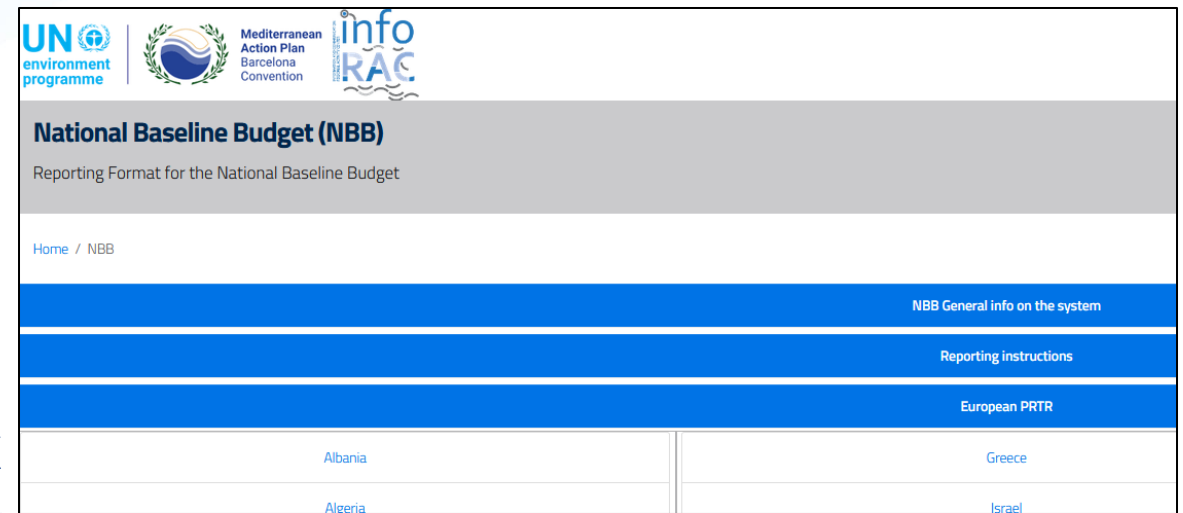
Data Centre and Reporting Support

- **BCRS (Barcelona Convention Reporting System)** – reporting under article 26 of the amended Barcelona Convention and several articles of different Protocols of Mediterranean Action Plan: Enhanced templates (e.g. SPA/BD Protocol's Table III).
- A **Help Desk**, which has led to a marked increase in correctly submitted reports, including previously incomplete ones.



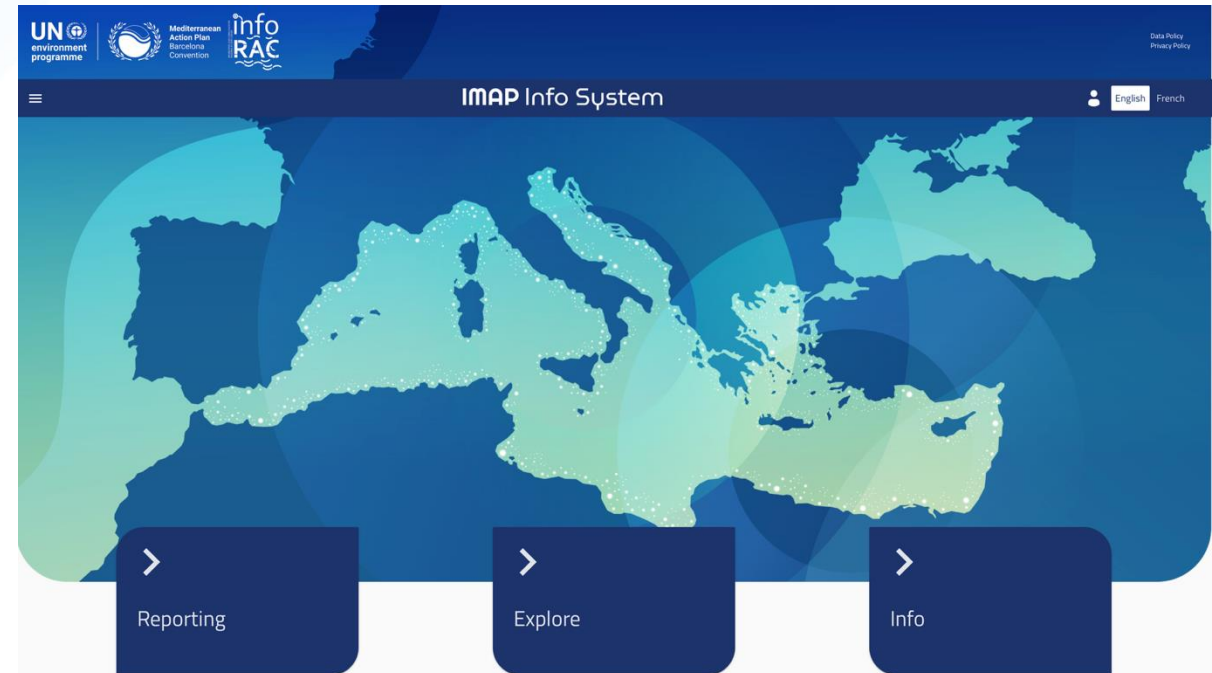
National Baseline Budget (NBB)

- The **NBB system** has been improved to streamline reporting and track progress on the Strategic Action Programme Supporting Contracting Parties in applying the policy through targeted sessions.
- **New reporting process** is underway
- **Training** and continuous **help desk support** were provided to assist Contracting Parties during all phases of reporting



IMAP Info System Developments

- Implementation of 18 Common Indicators, including new standards for Indicators 3, 4, 5, 18, 20, and candidate 24
- Integration of analytical tools like **Superset** and **JupyterLab** for dashboards and data assessment.
- **Enhanced user interface**, improved search features, and targeted technical support through workshops and help desk services.
- Release of **6 video tutorials** and updated technical/user guides to support national reporting



Part II: Communication, Education, and Outreach

Communication Strategy Implementation

- Reinforcing **MAP advocacy** and enhancing public awareness and outreach, particularly through observance of **UN Days** and key MAP topics
- Support for events like **Our Ocean 2024** and **Mediterranean Coast Day**
- Continued branding and alignment with UNEP's "Communicating as One" approach

Knowledge Management Strategy & KMaP

- Released a working **prototype of KMaP**, integrating spatial data, libraries from RACs, UNEP-MAP documents, and more.
- Started building an **IMAP Geo-viewer** to display published IMAP layers via KMaP.
- Strengthened cooperation with UNEP-GRID and MED Programme, ACCOBAMS and Pelagos Agreements.



Outreach and Awareness

- Promoted the **Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (IEFCA)**, including a user-friendly application process, vademecum, and promotional video.
- Developed a consultable website and downloadable version for the **2023 MED QSR**.
- Launched the **ODYSSEY RELOADED** campaign for UNEP/MAP's 50th anniversary.



HOME

ISTANBUL ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY CITY
AWARD • 5TH EDITION 2024-2025

BE PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEST
FOR THE MOST SUSTAINABLE COASTAL CITY

Applications deadline extended to: **30th May 2025**

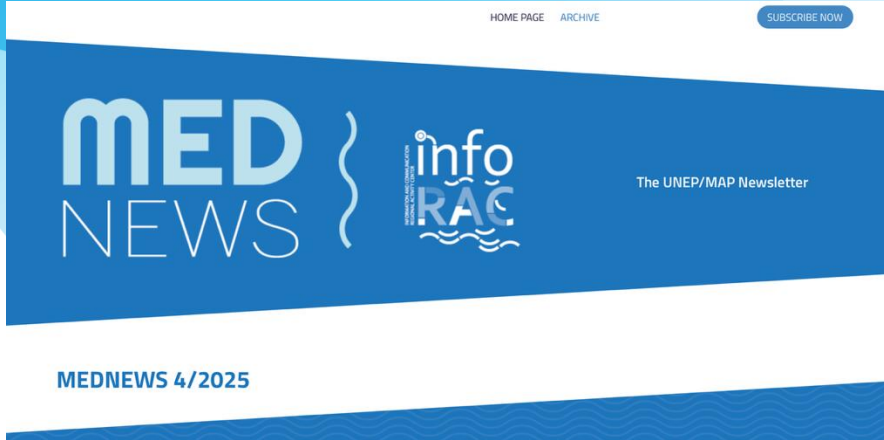
MAY 20 - 15.00 CE| THE 2ND REGIONAL WORKSHOP

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

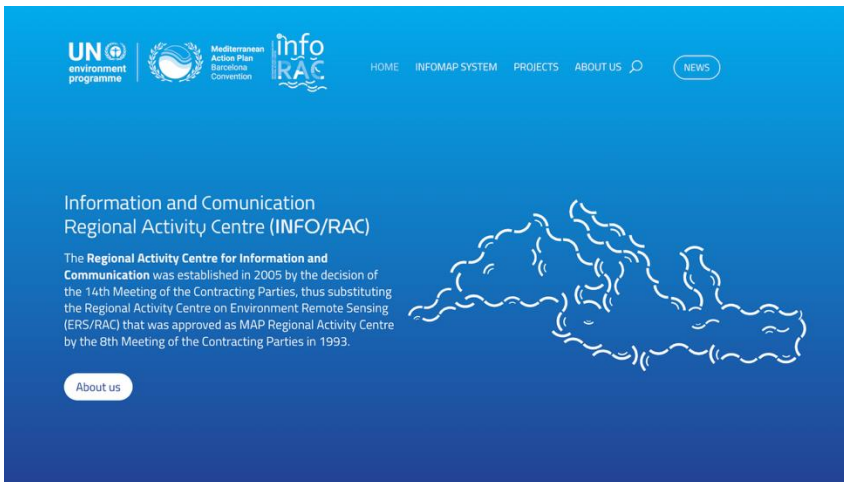
2023 MEDITERRANEAN QUALITY STATUS REPORT



Media and Social Presence



- **LinkedIn**, where professionals and institutions engage on sustainability
- **X** (formerly Twitter), revitalized with thematic cards and updates
- The **MEDNEWS newsletter** restyled and now published monthly, featuring original stories, events, and opportunities from across the MAP system.
- New **INFO/RAC website** developed and released



Participatory Tools & Education



- **MedLearn platform:** Virtual learning hub, currently being redesigned.
- **PCTO School Programme in Rome:** Two successful editions with 34 students. The goal now is to replicate this across the Mediterranean as a best practice.



Partnership and Networking

- Strengthened collaboration with **ACCOBAMS** and the **Pelagos Agreement** through the signature of two Memorandum of Understanding.
- Expanded cooperation with GFCM, EEA, European Commission, and NGOs.
- Reinforced support to Contracting Parties via more trainings and exchanges.

Final Remarks

- INFO/RAC has made significant strides in digital transformation, data integration, communication, and partnership building.
- We are committed to completing the 2024–2025 Work Programme, including preparations for COP 24 in Egypt.

Your feedback and cooperation are essential as we continue building an integrated, transparent, and efficient information ecosystem for the Mediterranean.

Thank you for the attention!

lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org



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