

6 Plastic waste generation (by country)

Definition and scope

This parameter provides a clear measure of the amount of plastic waste generation by country. It is related to the consumption of plastics and generation of plastic waste (mass/day).

Factsheet rationale

This indicator summarizes the amount of plastic waste generated (in kg or tonnes per day) and allows comparison among countries. This is based on initial estimations from the one UNEP/MAP Marine Litter Report conducted in 2015 for the Mediterranean region. Further statistics on plastic waste generation could provide information on consumption behaviour trends. Over the coming years, a number of datasets being generated in this regard should become available for use in further evaluations.

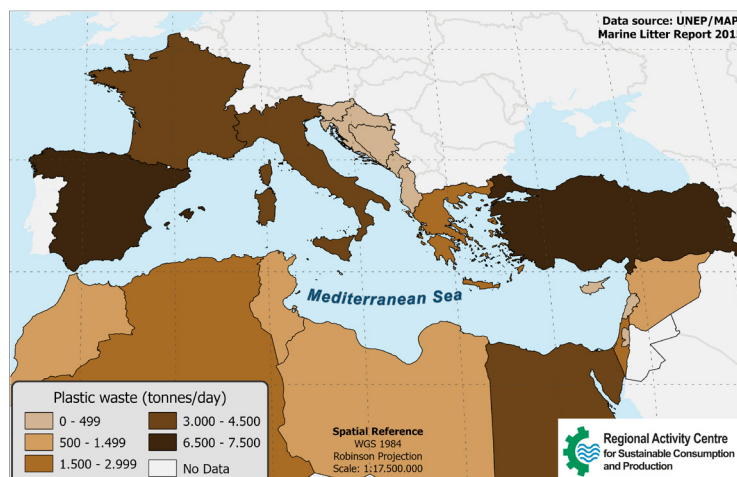
Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

The unsustainable generation of plastic waste poses serious environmental, economic and social concerns to all the countries in the Mediterranean region, without exception. Although the crisis only began to be highlighted a decade ago, it actually began much earlier, in the last quarter of the 20th century. The by-product of unsustainable models of consumption and production, plastic waste has been mismanaged, and a large proportion has come to rest in the Mediterranean Sea from land-based sources. Although the problem will persist in the medium term, major global efforts have promoted both national and regional agreements and policy based on SCP frameworks to reduce plastic waste generation. In the years to come, a visible reduction of plastic waste is expected. The impact on the marine environment, however, may persist for hundreds of years and is yet to be fully understood.

Key message

Ten years on from the beginning of the plastic litter waste crisis, it is still the focus of all Mediterranean stakeholders, representing the most serious threat to the conservation and protection of Mediterranean ecosystem services.

Plastic waste generation (2015)



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Sources
UNEP/MAP 2015

Links
<https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/9739/retrieve>