



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

EP



UNEP(DEPI/MED ECP.4/Inf.1
4 December 2008

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Fourth Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 16 December 2008

**MCSD TASK FORCE ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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MCS D Task Force on Adaptation to Climate Change

Background

The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCS D) will meet next year in June to discuss climate change issues with a focus on adaptation. The objective is to forge a consolidated position of the Med Region and present it on the occasion of important international and regional events such as UNCSD and UNFCCC meetings (in particular those taking place at the end of next year in Copenhagen). The consolidated perspective: "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Experience and Strategies in the Mediterranean" will help structuring and financing concrete actions on the ground.

In order to substantiate the process and ground it in the reality of the Region, case studies on adaptation and mitigation will be prepared by countries that are Parties to the Barcelona Convention. Potentially promising initiatives and concrete actions would thus be identified for implementation at the regional, subregional or national levels, under the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

The establishment of a MCS D Working Group on Climate Change is also considered to explore different facets of climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g. vulnerabilities and risk perception of the different stakeholders; adaptation experience and potential in the different sectors and at different levels; planning and financing for adaptation). This Working Group will have to: operate in close interaction with currently existing groups within the MAP system and outside; benefit from the technical expertise of the different RACs; and be under the auspices of a "task manager"; MCS D member still to be identified.

Close interactions will be sought with lead institutions/organisations in the domain, including UNFCCC Secretariat, UNEP Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, UN CSD, World Bank, UNDP specific initiatives, programmes and projects, OECD, WRI.

Purpose

A Task Force is established under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit to steer the preparatory process described in the background.

Composition

The Task Force is open to any individual MCS D Member, representative of key resource institutions and MCS D Steering Committee member that can contribute to the organisation of the next MCS D meeting by offering appropriate expertise, manpower, services and relevant network. While it is open to everybody, the number of participants should remain manageable (between 5 and 8 approximately). Participation is on a voluntary basis but requires a commitment throughout the process.

The co-chairs of the Task Force will be the person in charge of SD in the MEDU and a country representative still to be identified, (possibly the representative of the task manager country anticipated for the Working Group on Climate Change). They will be responsible for facilitating/moderating the dialogue between Task Force members, maintaining momentum, coordinating the inputs of different TF members, and circulating the relevant information to

them. They will also be responsible for ensuring that all agreed deliverables are produced timely.

Timing and duration

The Task Force will operate with a 7 months mandate starting in November 2008, until the MCSD meeting in June 2009.

Meeting and procedures

The Task Force will essentially operate through e-mail exchanges facilitated by the Secretariat. Permanent communication will be established with the SC members who are not involved in the Task Force.

Tasks and Schedule (preliminary and tentative)		
1.	Finalize the TORs of the Task Force	by end of November, 2008
2.	Review the TOR for country studies on adaptation for Climate Change	by end of November, 2008
3.	Identify constituting elements of the next MCSD Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ presentations on themes around climate change (e.g. adaptation, vulnerabilities, CC and sustainable tourism, CC and energy), ▪ country case studies, sub regional approach to adaptation, ▪ examples of concrete successful approaches, ▪ break out sessions around themes (e.g. financing adaptation): contents, objective, facilitation, ▪ group dynamics. 	by end of December, 2008
4.	Draft TOR of WG on adaptation and mitigation	by end of December, 2008
5.	Prepare annotated agenda and outline of a concept paper of the MCSD meeting	by end January, 2009
6.	Identify potential key note speakers and support network	before 1 March 2009
7.	Contribute to the 13 th SC meeting of March 2009	before 15 March 2009
8.	Prepare annotated outline of the MCSD Declaration to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change	before 15 April 2009
9.	Finalize a concept paper on adaptation strategies in the Med. on the basis of the CC Working Group results	before 15 April 2009
10.	Maintain contacts with other MCSD members and authorities in their respective countries (individual TF members)	continuing
11.	Mobilize knowledge networks (individual TF members)	continuing