



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/5



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

6 June 2017  
Original: English

17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017

**Agenda Item 5: MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation and Monitoring - Good Practices and Challenges Faced**

**Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025): Implementation and Monitoring Plan**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UN Environment/MAP  
Athens, 2017

## **Introduction: Context and Background**

1. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025) was prepared and endorsed by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) through a highly inclusive process. It was adopted, by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) at their 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016), as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional and national levels (Decision IG.22/2).
2. The proposed plan, as presented in this document, aims to promote and facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025. It is based on Chapter 3 of the Strategy, which highlights that the implementation is a collective process: while facilitated by the MAP system, it is the participation and active role of all stakeholders, including national governments, which will play a decisive role in its delivery. The MSSD 2016-2025 also highlights the important role of the MAP system, which includes the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and Components – namely the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and MED POL –, as well as the MCSD, in providing leadership and guidance with respect to implementing the MSSD 2016-2025.
3. The MSSD 2016-2025 mentions the following as essential instruments for its implementation:
  - a) The Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management for the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol);
  - b) The Roadmap for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean (EcAp Roadmap);
  - c) The Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO);
  - d) The Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP AP);
  - e) The Strategic Action Programme of regional and national activities to address land-based pollution;
  - f) The Marine Litter Regional Plan;
  - g) The Offshore Action Plan;
  - h) The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF);
  - i) The action programmes of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM);
  - j) The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD).
4. In addition, the MSSD 2016-2025 indicates that the MAP system will provide support to the Contracting Parties for its implementation. This support may include technical guidance, the coordination of implementation actions and monitoring processes, as well as a platform for the exchange of relevant information, experience and synergies developed at regional or sub-regional level.
5. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat and revised by the MCSD Steering Committee at its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017). It begins by outlining the aims of the MSSD monitoring and implementation process, then it provides priority areas for implementation (flagship initiatives and targets). Finally, it outlines a list of actions together with a tentative work plan, to be further fed by MCSD Members during their 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### **Aims of the MSSD 2016-2025 Monitoring Process**

6. The MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring process should aim to:
- a) raise awareness amongst key stakeholders and implementers about the MSSD 2016-2025;
  - b) identify the optimal mechanisms for the participation of national institutional frameworks responsible for sustainable development in the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 actions at the national level;
  - c) collect baseline and updated data on monitoring indicators related to all the MSSD 2016-2025 actions, formulating a monitoring database, as well as a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard with a set of populated indicators;
  - d) explore a variety of tools and processes that might be used to implement the MSSD 2016-2025;
  - e) report on progress on the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring to the MCSD and the Contracting Parties every two years, establishing synergies with other existing sustainable development mechanisms and monitoring systems at regional and global level; and,
  - f) ensure successful implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 and of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

### **Priority areas for implementation**

7. The MSSD 2016-2025 contains two types of priority actions: those related to targets and the Flagship Initiatives, both of which should be accorded targeted attention in the implementation process. The list of targets is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Targets in the MSSD 2016-2025**

<b>MSSD 2016-2025 Objective</b>	<b>MSSD 2016-2025 Action</b>	<b>Target</b>
1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas	1.1.1. Strengthen the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and other regional policy instruments, through enhanced prioritization and results-based management through ministries with environmental and budget portfolios and implementing line agencies.	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information (14.5) <sup>1</sup>
	1.2.5. Safeguard the Mediterranean fisheries by ensuring that all fish stocks are being fished sustainably and effectively.	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics (14.4)
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food	2.1.1. Ensure that legal measures are in place to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in line with international and regional commitments.	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and

<sup>1</sup> The bracketed numbers in the last column refer to the targets in the final draft of the outcome document for the United Nations Summit in September 2015, which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	MSSD 2016-2025 Action	Target
security through sustainable forms of rural development		prevent the extinction of threatened species, and take further action as needed by 2030 (15.5)
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	3.2.1. Strengthen urban governance by establishing communication and participatory mechanisms to enhance urban stakeholders' involvement and engagement in decision-making.	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries (11.3)
	3.4.1. Implement innovative, integrated and sustainable waste management solutions, in line with the waste hierarchy: prevention, reduction, reuse, sorting, recycling, recovery, and disposal.	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse (12.5)
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.6.5. Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels.	By 2025, the majority of Mediterranean countries are committed to green or sustainable public procurement programmes
6. Improving governance in support of sustainable development	6.2.3. Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.	By 2025, two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded to the Aarhus Convention

8. Furthermore, the list of the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives is provided in Table 2, including preliminary proposals on potential main actors who can significantly contribute to their implementation, an indicative timetable, as well as the links of each Flagship Initiative with MSSD 2016-2025 Targets.

**Table 2: MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives**

No	Flagship Initiative	Main actors	Indicative timetable	Links with MSSD 2016-2025 Targets
1.1.10.	Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas	Secretariat (SPA/RAC), Contracting Parties, MCSD members, MedPAN, WWF MedPo, IUCN Med	2016-2019	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information
2.3.5.	“Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress)	IUCN Med, IUCN National Committees, Secretariat (SPA/RAC), MCSD	2016-onward	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species, and take further action as needed by 2030
3.1.9.	Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	Secretariat, MCSD members (e.g. Med Cities, UCLG, Association of Italian Local Agenda 21), MAP Partners, local authorities (coastal cities)	2016-onward	NA
3.2.5.	Sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean	Secretariat, MCSD, MAP Partners, regional and international institutions, national governments, local authorities, planning	2016-2020	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

		authorities, civil society, private sector		
3.4.5.	Regional assessments of solutions to achieve waste reduction	Secretariat (SCP/RAC), MCSD members, Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, private sector	2018-onward	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
4.1.9.	Science-policy interface on climate change	Secretariat, MCSD members, Regional and global institutions, academic networks (e.g. MedECC), specialized governmental agencies (e.g. ADEME), civil society, national governments	2016-2020	NA
5.4.5.	Mediterranean business award	Secretariat, MCSD members, Regional institutions, national governments	2016-2020	NA
5.6.5.	Sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels	National governments, local authorities	2016-2025	By 2025, the majority of Mediterranean countries are committed to green or sustainable public procurement programmes
6.2.3.	Adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society	2016-2020	By 2025, two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded to the Aarhus Convention
6.3.5.	Capacity building on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, incl. EIAs and SEAs	Secretariat, MCSD members, international institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, private sector	2016-2020	NA
6.5.5.	Publicly-accessible Mediterranean integrated information system on the state of the environment	Secretariat, regional institutions (e.g. EEA), national governments, civil society, academia, private sector	2016-2025	NA

### **MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation and Monitoring Actions – Work Plan**

9. A tentative work plan for the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring process is provided in Table 3. The actions included in Table 3, based on Chapter 3 of the MSSD 2016-2025, are proposed to achieve the aims of the implementation and monitoring plan. The implementation is on-going for several actions (see document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/3 *Progress Report on Work Carried out since the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD*).

10. The work plan will be further developed following the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, where the MCSD members will be invited to express their own efforts and actions for the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring. The Secretariat will then further feed the following table with relevant information provided by MCSD Members.

**Table 3: Tentative Work Plan for the MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation and Monitoring**

Strategic directions for implementation and monitoring	Actions	Main actors <sup>2</sup>	Biennium					State of Play / Progress <sup>2</sup>
			2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025	
Structures for implementation	Report on and encourage, when possible by targeted trainings and capacity development activities, the setting up of national sustainable development commissions, councils, fora, and networks as appropriate (in line with Action 7.1.1 of the MSSD 2016-2025)	National governments, Secretariat, MCSD						Following Annex II of COP 19 Decision IG.22/17, the pilot test of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) aims at engaging dialogue between volunteer Mediterranean countries for a mutual improvement and learning process on National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs). The SIMPEER is an incentive to enable NSSD review in line with the MSSD 2016-2025 and as a contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Information Documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/Inf.4 & Inf.5. Socio-Economic and SD Programme Management Officer. MAP PoW and Budget.
	Strengthen resources for Sustainable Development at the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat (in line with Action 7.1.2)	Secretariat, IFIs						
	Enlargement of the MCSD to ensure wider participation with stronger involvement of stakeholders which is central in the COP19 Decision IG.22/17 on the MCSD Reform (in line with Action 7.1.3)	MCSD SC, Secretariat					Implementation of Decision IG.22/17 on the MCSD Reform.	
	Carry out activities to raise awareness on the MSSD 2016-2025 with key stakeholders to improve visibility, including within the United Nations system (in line with Action 7.1.4)	MCSD, Secretariat					Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER). MSSD 2016-2025 published and downloadable online (Secretariat - Plan Bleu/RAC, UNEP/DTIE, UNESCO). Side events at the UNFCCC-COP 21 & COP 22 in Paris, France, and Marrakesh, Morocco. Meetings of the UfM Climate Change Expert Group (CCEG) and Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC), 13-16 March 2017, Barcelona, Spain.	

<sup>2</sup> Based mainly on MAP contributions and subject to further adjustments and completion by MCSD Members during their 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, so that it may be considered as the baseline.

								<p>Stakeholder Conference “Towards an initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean”, 2 February 2017, Barcelona, Spain. UfM – EC.</p> <p>International conference “What solutions for the Mediterranean?”, 23 February 2017, Paris, France.</p> <p>Programme Interreg MED 2014-2020 (horizontal and modular projects involving RACs).</p> <p>SDG Summer School (Marseille, France, 8-13 July 2016).</p> <p><u>Publications/communications:</u></p> <p>UNEP, 2015, Blue Economy: Sharing Success Stories to Inspire Change. <i>The Green Economy Principles within the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development</i>. GRID-Arendal.</p> <p><i>Delivering the MSSD 2016-2025 through a highly inclusive process to translate the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs at the regional level</i>, communication presented at the side event organized by UN Environment in New York on 4 April 2017 on the margins of the BBNJ PrepCom 3.</p> <p><i>Adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025: Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development</i>, in CIHEAM WatchLetter No 37, September 2016.</p> <p><i>Realising Cross-Sectoral Regional Oceans Governance Summary of case studies on regional cross-sectoral institutional cooperation and policy coherence</i>. UN Environment Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 199</p> <p>Further information is provided in Working Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/3 (Progress Report on Work Carried out since the 16th Meeting of the MCSD).</p>
	<p>Promote exchange of good practices and networking by the MCSD and in case funding available, create specific mechanism for exchange of best practices between the Contracting Parties and stakeholders (in line with Action 7.1.5)</p>	<p>MCSD, Secretariat</p>						<p>MCSD Meetings, SIMPEER, links with the Voluntary National Review process under the HLPF.</p>

<b>Regional process for monitoring and implementation</b>	Allocate funding within MAP system for MSSD 2016-2025 monitoring and implementation (in line with Action 7.2.1)	MCSO SC, Secretariat, Contracting Parties						MAP Programme of Work and Budget: e.g. Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard; SIMPEER; MED2050 Roadmap; Science-Policy Interface (MedECC).
	Prepare an implementation plan of the MSSD 2016-2025 (in line with Action 7.2.2)	MCSO SC, MCSO, Secretariat						The present document.
	Prepare of guidelines for countries to adapt the MSSD 2016-2025 to national contexts and undertake capacity-building measures (in line with Action 7.2.3)	MCSO, Secretariat						SIMPEER process to be continued.
	Undertake a participatory midterm evaluation of the MSSD 2016-2025 based on the first 5 years of data (in line with Action 7.2.4)	Secretariat, MCSO, MAP Partners, Contracting Parties						
	Review the MSSD 2016-2025 with a view to formulate a new MSSD 2026-2035 (in line with Action 7.2.5)	Secretariat, MCSO, MAP Partners, Contracting Parties						
<b>Strengthening capacity for financing</b>	Prepare a funding strategy, to be followed up by donor outreach, and a project portfolio associated with possible funding sources (in line with Action 7.3.1). This should be associated to the overall updated Resource Mobilization Strategy of the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention (under preparation, for adoption at COP20)	Secretariat, MCSO SC, Contracting Parties, IFIs						Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy (under preparation) France, Monaco, and UfM support to the MedECC initiative. French Agency Development and Plan Bleu/RAC Partnership. MAVA Foundation.
	Organize capacity-building workshops for Contracting Parties and stakeholders on fundraising (in line with Action 7.3.2)	Secretariat (mainly SCP/RAC),						SCP/RAC is organising “Green Start-ups Meet Investors” events in 8 Mediterranean countries in order to facilitate the match between the green businesses and interested financing institutions. The



		regional and international organisations, MCSD, MAP Partners						financial needs of Green Entrepreneurs are being mapped to identify potential participants in each country. More than 100 Green Companies' profiles including financial needs have already been developed (as of May 2017). In addition, an Access to Finance Guide for Green Entrepreneurs is in development.
	Set up Mediterranean Investment Facility for sustainable development (in line with Action 7.3.3)	Secretariat (mainly SCP/RAC), MCSD, regional and international organisations, national governments, EC						SCP/RAC has partnered with FEBEA for the establishment of the Green Impact Investing Network. Till date, 120+ financing agents were engaged in 4 countries, and also the finance ecosystem and the interest of financing institutions regarding investments in eco-innovative and green businesses were assessed. With the support of the UfM, 2 more countries will be included under this assessment and a comprehensive report is planned for publication in November 2017. In addition, a hybrid investment fund, whose objective is to support the development of Green Start-ups in the Mediterranean, is in progress. A first pilot for the grants component of the "Switchers Fund" will be established by FEBEA and the SCP/RAC with the kind support of the OSCE.
	Undertake actions to encourage private sector to engage with civil society and foster greater corporate social responsibility (in line with Action 7.3.4), which is similar to Action 21 under the SCP Action Plan Appendix 1 (Roadmap for Implementation)	National and local governments, planning authorities, private sector, civil society, Secretariat (mainly SCP/RAC), MCSD, MAP Partners						Switch Med Programme (Secretariat - SCP/RAC), an initiative that supports and connects stakeholders to scale-up social and eco innovations in the Mediterranean. Switch Med provide tools to support partners for social and eco innovations, to achieve productive, circular and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. EDILE (Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment - ANIMA), labelled by the UfM: EDILE is a regional approach to support investments with high positive spill-over effects on economic, social, environmental and community levels.
<b>Monitoring the strategy</b>	Facilitate the provision of regular biannual support from the Contracting Parties and stakeholders to the Secretariat in providing data for monitoring the MSSD 2016-2025 (in line with Action 7.4.1)	National governments, regional organisations, Secretariat						Meetings of the MCSD and of its Steering Committee. RACs National Focal Point Meetings.

	Use of meetings of the MCSD for the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation monitoring (in line with Action 7.4.2)	MCSD SC, MCSD, Secretariat						Meetings of the MCSD and of its Steering Committee.
	Link between the MSSD 2016-2025 monitoring systems and wider UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention data and information systems (in line with Action 7.4.3)	Secretariat, national governments, regional organisations, MCSD						Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard (on-going): Working Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/6 and Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/Inf.3. Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). MAP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) agreed on a joint work plan (2016-2021) to contribute towards creating solid knowledge base and awareness among policy makers, civil society and the public at large, about the state of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean and its sustainable development.
	Set up a dashboard of sustainability indicators (in line with Action 7.4.4)	Secretariat (Plan Bleu/RAC), Secretariat, MCSD SC, MCSD						Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard (on-going): Working Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/6 and Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/Inf.3.

