





## **Introduction**

1. This report covers the MSSD and MCSD related activities and outputs carried out in the period between July 2013 and June 2014.

## **The COP18 Process**

2. During the period between July 2013 and December 2013, the focus was on obtaining COP18 approval for the recommendations emerging out of the 15th MCSD meeting relating to the MCSD Reform and the MSSD Review. To this end an informal work plan until the COP was agreed and timeframes set for the work during the first meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee in June 2013 in Malta. Following that meeting, the SC, in cooperation with the Secretariat, drafted two decisions. The second MCSD SC meeting via telephone was held in August, to approve the decisions to be forwarded for the consideration of MAP Focal Points during their meeting in September 2013 to prepare for the COP.
3. The MCSD SC President was present at the MAP Focal Points Meeting in order to present the draft decisions and reply to questions about them. The Focal Points endorsed the draft decisions and agreed to forward it, as amended, for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 18th Meeting.
4. During November, a meeting was held between Plan Bleu and the MCSD SC Presidency to discuss broad methodological issues relevant to the MSSD review.
5. The revised draft decisions were then sent to the Contracting Parties for agreement during the COP in December 2013. The MCSD SC President also attended the COP 18 to present the decisions and respond to questions about them. The two decisions were approved by the COP18 as:
  - Decision IG.21/11, supporting the review of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), proposed by the MCSD Steering Committee (including the Roadmap for the Review of MSSD as Annex)
  - Decision IG.21/12, supporting the reforming of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), proposed by the MCSD Steering Committee
6. During one of the days of the COP, an informal lunch meeting was held with the members of the MCSD SC who were present at the COP, when general orientations regarding the MSSD structure and methodology were discussed.

## **The MSSD Revision Process - Initiation**

7. During the six months between June and December 2013, awareness about the MSSD review was raised on a number of occasions through the work of Plan Bleu, the Secretariat and the MCSD SC President.
8. At the end of December 2013, a third MCSD SC meeting to report on the outcome of the COP and agree the MCSD work plan was held, and various points regarding methodology were raised.

9. The priority during January 2014 was to begin the implementation of the roadmap for the MSSD review as laid out in the COP Decision. A Core Group was formed between the MCSD Presidency, the Secretariat and Plan Bleu, to manage the project on a day-to-day level.
10. In January, the work focused on the setting up of the MSSD webpage on the Plan Bleu website, and the mechanism for the online portal mentioned in the Road Map. The compilation of a mailing list also began and the structure of the consultation document required in the road map agreed in the Core Group.
11. On 14 February 2014, the MSSD review process was launched during an event in Malta, where the Hon. Mr Leo Brincat, Malta's Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate launched the process. The launching was attended by Mr Murat Turan, representing the UNEP/MAP Bureau Presidency, UNEP/MAP Coordinator and Executive Secretary of the Barcelona Convention Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Plan Bleu Director Mr Hugues Ravenel and the President of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, as well as a number of other key figures in the field of sustainable development in Malta, including the Chairperson of Malta's Sustainable Development Network.
12. During February a draft methodology for the MSSD review, prepared by the MCSD SC Presidency in coordination with the Secretariat and Plan Bleu was sent to the MCSD SC for approval.
13. A Task Force was established, which was composed of representatives of MAP components. There were online meetings and bilateral exchanges. The involvement of the task force will allow better reflection of regional strategic frameworks, roadmaps and action plans of MAP components, to strengthen links and synergies with MSSD 2.0 by establishing a regular exchange mechanism for well-tuned and -coordinated processes.

### **The MSSD Revision Process – Consultation**

14. The focus during March and April was the finalization of the MSSD Review Consultation Document.
15. From 10<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014, a wide stakeholder consultation was carried out. For this purpose the Consultation Document, which was focusing on synergies with other regional initiatives, possible issues and the vision for MSSD 2.0, providing background elements, proposals and questions was submitted to stakeholders in order to elicit their feedback and advice. The document was widely disseminated: more than 6,000 contacts received an e-mail inviting them to participate to this first stakeholder consultation in the framework of MSSD Review. Around 60 answers were received.
16. During May the comments were compiled, translated where necessary, and analyzed, and necessary documentation for the fourth MCSD SC in June drafted and approved.
17. During the five months between January and May, informal outreach with key organizations and partners about the MSSD review continued through the work of the Secretariat and Plan Bleu.