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18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019

**Agenda item 3: Progress Report on the Work Done after the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD**

**Progress Report on the Work Done after the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD**

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### **Note by the Secretariat**

Following adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 and the Reform of the MCSD and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents (Decisions IG.22/2 and IG.22/17), a number of key achievements were reached in 2016-2017 and discussed at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017), including *inter alia* the establishment of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, the successful pilot edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER), the Roadmap for the MED2050 Foresight Study, and the launch of several MSSD Flagship initiatives.

At their 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD Members confirmed their commitment to bringing back the Commission to a significant role within the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, a role becoming more crucial as the regional dimension is increasingly recognized as an essential scale to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Decades of work of the MCSD and collaboration with UN bodies and agencies represent a strong basis to pursue efforts for building partnerships, for promoting the MSSD recognition, ownership, implementation and follow-up, and for showcasing the work of the Commission in international and regional fora.

The MCSD's contribution to sustainable development is important and deserves strengthening. The unique mechanism that the Commission represents in the panorama of Regional Seas worldwide allows to look at sustainable development in its entirety and gives a strong voice to all the actors that work towards sustainability in our region.

The advisory role of the MCSD is also of paramount importance to support the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for mainstreaming the integrated approach of sustainable development at the national and local levels, as well as for breaking silos generated by sectoral approaches. The work of the MCSD and the MSSD should be mobilized as much as possible for this support to national and local sustainable development mechanisms.

The adoption at COP 20 of Decision IG.23/4 "Implementation and Monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean" and the related activities agreed in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) paved the way for the work of the MCSD during the biennium 2018-2019. Activities that are at the core of the MCSD's mandate included *inter alia*: Updating and populating the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard; Preparing assessment studies, namely the 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED 2019), MED2050 Foresight Study, and Case Studies on the Blue Economy; and Strengthening and sustaining SIMPEER through the implementation of its second edition.

The present document provides an overview of the progress done and work carried-out after the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD: period July 2017 – April 2019.

### **Progress Report on the Work Done after the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD**

1. The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD made constructive comments on the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019, providing inputs that were reflected in documents submitted to COP 20. The President of the MCSD, Ms. Maria Papaioannou (Greece), presented the outcome of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD to MAP Focal Points during their meeting in Athens, Greece, in September 2017. She also participated in the COP 20 Ministerial Session in Tirana, Albania, in December 2017.
2. The second half of 2017 was devoted to the preparation of COP 20 that culminated with a wide successful event where fourteen decisions were adopted, including the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019, the Resource Mobilization Strategy, the Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR), and other decisions on governance, indicators, biodiversity and marine protected areas (MPAs), integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and marine spatial planning (MSP), pollution and emergencies. The decisions, the Tirana Ministerial Declaration and the high-level discussions on the theme “Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with focus on Sustainable Development Goal 14: Pollution and Biodiversity”, with contributions from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), confirmed the increasingly crucial role of the regional dimension for implementing global policies, especially the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
3. The key note speech delivered by a UN DESA senior expert at COP 20 eloquently articulated two important dimensions for the Barcelona Convention and sustainable development of the Mediterranean region, namely: (i) the implementation of the SDG on Oceans (SDG 14), focusing on the voluntary commitments registered at the UN Ocean Conference (New York, June 2017) and the Conference “Our Ocean, an ocean for life” (Malta, October 2017); and, (ii) the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the MSSD, highlighting the interest of peer learning exercises such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) annually presented at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) implemented under the guidance of the MCSD. Interactions with UN DESA were regularly fed for promoting the work of the MCSD. Contacts with UN Regional Commissions (Africa, Europe, Western Asia), that have a mandate regarding the 2030 Agenda implementation at the regional level, were also established during the biennium 2018-2019.
4. The adoption at COP 20 of Decision IG.23/4 “Implementation and Monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean” and the related activities agreed in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) paved the way for the work of the MCSD during the biennium 2018-2019. Activities that are at the core of the MCSD’s mandate included *inter alia*: Updating and populating the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard; Preparing assessment studies, namely the 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED 2019) and the MED2050 Foresight Study, including Case Studies on the Blue Economy; and Strengthening and sustaining SIMPEER through the implementation of its second edition.
5. The progress and perspectives of these core activities are described in the paragraphs below.

#### **I. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard**

6. At COP 20 the Contracting Parties took note of the list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, as a basis for further work, and the list of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP AP), requesting its further elaboration in synergy with the work undertaken for the relevant SDG and MSSD Indicators.

7. The MCSD Steering Committee was mandated by Decision IG.23/4 to coordinate the work on ensuring full consistency and synergy between the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the work on SDG Indicators, the main objective being to better align the dashboard with SDG Indicators.

8. Following the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee (teleconference, 20 June 2018, and Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019), the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) finalized the update of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, prepared a revised version of the analytical factsheets, and drafted proposals and recommendations for improving the process. These elements, as well as the timeline agreed by the MCSD Steering Committee, are presented in Document UNEP/MED WG.469/4.

9. The updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and related deliverables will be submitted, after discussions at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) and COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

10. In line with Activity 6.2.1.1 “SCP Action Plan indicators aligned with MSSD relevant work, identified, selected and factsheets developed” (Decision IG.23/14), forthcoming work on SCP Indicators were included in the second phase of the SwitchMed programme<sup>1</sup>, whose launch took place during the first trimester of 2019. SwitchMed II includes *inter alia* the update of the SCP indicators database and a trend analysis of those indicators.

11. In parallel of the work on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, the Secretariat carried out a comprehensive mapping of the MAP – Barcelona Convention policies and instruments against relevant SDG Targets and Indicators. The outputs of this mapping feed the SDGs Synergies Portal<sup>2</sup>, which is an interactive tool developed by the UN Environment Science Division. Highlining synergies between global/regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and SDGs, this online tool represents a relevant vehicle to showcase the relevance of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system for implementing the 2030 Agenda at the regional level, offering a visualized demonstration of synergies between MAP vs. SDG Targets and Indicators.

## II. Assessment Studies

12. **2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019):** As per Strategic Outcome 1.4 and Indicative Key Output 1.4.1 of the MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1), the SoED 2019 aims at presenting a comprehensive and updated assessment of the interactions between environment and development in the Mediterranean. By applying an integrated and systemic approach, the SoED 2019 aims at increasing awareness and understanding of environmental and development status and trends in the Mediterranean, their driving forces and impacts, facilitating the measurement of progress towards sustainable development, providing an up-to-date foundation for improved decision-making at all levels, and enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and the MSSD.

13. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) was responsible of the SoED 2019 elaboration process, with the support of all MAP Components. The SoED 2019 was prepared in synergy with previous reports and relevant MAP initiatives, such as the 2017 MED QSR, MED2050, etc.

14. The chapter working groups involved more than 60 authors and contributors. MCSD Members and national experts recommended by Plan Bleu Focal Points voluntarily contributed to the drafting and review process.

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<sup>1</sup> The final evaluation of the policy component of the SwitchMed Programme was satisfactory. Switch Med II will be launched in 2019, with SCP/RAC as key implementing partner. <https://www.switchmed.eu/en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://environmentlive.unep.org/portal>

15. The SoED 2019 Steering Committee<sup>3</sup> supported the preparation of Chapter 9 “Synthesis and Conclusions” (see Document UNEP/MED WG.469/5).
16. The MCSD Members and Plan Bleu Focal Points will be invited to review the SoED 2019 draft chapters and discuss the key messages of the report, as indicated in Annex I of the present document.
17. **MED2050 Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean:** At COP 20, the Contracting Parties welcomed the Roadmap for MED2050 Foresight Study (Annex 2, Decision IG.23/4), requested its implementation through a participatory approach, endorsed its Phase I, and requested the preparation of an updated roadmap to be submitted for approval at COP 21.
18. MED2050 Phase I (2018-2019) focused on (i) mobilizing existing resources and building a network of partners; and, (ii) assessing regional trends captured in the SoED 2019. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) was also actively searching for funding to complement available resources.
19. MED2050 is conceived as a participatory science-policy interface working on contrasted visions across the Mediterranean. The study is expected to capitalize on previous and on-going works, including the SoED 2019, while reinforcing dissemination, communication and capacity building.
20. A specific study, conducted early 2019, helped further strengthen the network and map out innovative approaches to ensure a broad and diverse participation in the upcoming MED2050 consultation phase, as recommended by the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD.
21. As requested by COP 20, an updated version of the MED2050 Roadmap will be presented at COP 21, based on further consultations, including with the Members of MCSD and Plan Bleu Focal Points. See document UNEP/MED WG.469/6.
22. **Case Studies on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean:** To support the implementation of SDG 14 in the Mediterranean, Activity 4.4.1.2 planned the preparation of Case studies to foster the Blue Economy in the region (Decision IG.23/14). This activity consisted in the identification and dissemination of case studies, covering economic benefits of environmental services and innovation. Sectors considered included fisheries and aquaculture, maritime transport and port activities, wind energy, tourism and recreational activities, and biological resources. The case studies also considered MPAs as a contribution to a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in the Mediterranean region.
23. Building on the UN Environment Report *Blue Economy, Sharing Success Stories to Inspire Changes*<sup>4</sup> (2015), this activity provided a Mediterranean perspective to Blue Economy issues and challenges, assessing and highlighting the current weight and various opportunities provided by the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean through a range of concrete examples and good practices.
24. Beyond MAP Components, the following key partners were involved in this activity: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Food and Agriculture Organization – General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), World Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB), and EU DG Mare.

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<sup>3</sup> The SoED 2019 Steering Committee gathered five Contracting Parties (Algeria, France, Italy, Montenegro, and Morocco), the President of the MCSD, the Secretariat (MAP Coordinating Unit and Components), and four partners, i.e. European Agency for the Environment (EEA), International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), and the Mediterranean Experts Network on Climate and Environmental Changes (MedECC).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publications/blue-economy-sharing-success-stories-inspire-change-0>

25. A detailed methodology was prepared, including a case study template, so that detailed case studies were prepared under a common format, allowing for comparisons, aggregate conclusions and analyses on lessons learned, as well as potential for scaling up.

26. Draft case studies are provided in document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.7.

### **III. Second Edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)**

27. Based on lessons learned from the pilot edition, the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) updated the SIMPEER methodology to reflect the recommendations from the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, notably regarding the importance to strengthen synergies with the VNRs presented at the HLPF and to further involve relevant stakeholders beyond Contracting Parties (see document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.5).

28. At their 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Meetings, the MCSD Steering Committee reiterated the importance of SIMPEER to assist Contracting Parties in their efforts to adapt and implement SDGs at the national level. SIMPEER is an innovative mechanism for carrying out periodic review of national implementation of the MSSD and SDGs, encouraging the exchange of good practices on sustainable development structures and processes at the national level, and enhancing the MAP visibility in regional and international fora. SIMPEER can support Contracting Parties to set up or review institutional mechanisms for sustainable development at the national level through a cross-sectoral approach and a systemic perspective. SIMPEER has also a strong potential to help Contracting Parties to prepare their VNRs presented at the HLPF and/or to ensure the follow-up of this process.

29. Three volunteer Contracting Parties (i.e. Albania, Egypt and Tunisia) are involved in the SIMPEER second edition carried out by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu).

### **IV. MSSD Flagship Initiatives**

30. At its 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD welcomed the efforts done for implementing the following MSSD Flagship Initiatives and regional programmes/actions:

- The Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs, with synergetic efforts from SPA/RAC, MedPAN, WWF Med, and Med-SDSN;
- The IUCN Green List of Protected Areas in Mediterranean riparian states;
- The Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award;
- The Sustainable Urban Toolbox for the Mediterranean created by MED CITIES;
- The network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental change (MedECC);
- The SwitchMed Programme and SCP/RAC's activities on green entrepreneurship;
- The EDILE project (Economic Development Through Inclusive and Local Empowerment), led by ANIMA;
- The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), led by MIO-ECSDE;
- The Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

31. The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD urged the Contracting Parties, MCSD Members, MAP Partners, the Secretariat and other actors to undertake actions for launching other MSSD Flagship Initiatives.

32. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee acknowledged with appreciation the concept notes drafted by MCSD Members (COMPSUD, MIO-ECSDE, MEPIELAN) and the Secretariat (SCP/RAC), as included in document UNEP/MED WG.469/7, to put in motion four MSSD Flagship Initiatives. The fact that MCSD Members drafted these concept notes represents a positive signal, demonstrating that the MSSD implementation is a collective process.

33. The MCSD Steering Committee reiterated the need to further mobilize efforts to put in motion the two Flagship Initiatives that are still not yet launched, i.e. (i) Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels; and (ii) Establish a publicly-accessible Mediterranean integrated information system through a triumvirate of national governments, international institutions and the private sector to collate and transparently display information on the state of the environment.

#### **V. Second Edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (2018-2019)**

34. As per Decision IG.22/19 adopted at COP 19, the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award responds to one of the MSSD Objective 3 Flagship Initiatives. The first edition of the Award was granted on the occasion of the COP 20 Ministerial Session and the second edition (2018-2019) was included in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14).

35. In accordance with the conclusions of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016) and following comments from the three eminent independent experts who supported the first edition, the Secretariat undertook the review and refinement of the Award's methodology, based on lessons learned from the first edition.

36. Since operational and measurable indicators were needed for a more reliable evaluation of applications and to improve the nomination and selection process in general, the International Initiative for Sustainable Built Environment – Italy<sup>5</sup> (iisBE – Italy), CESBA<sup>6</sup> MED Project<sup>7</sup> and MED CITIES provided support to the Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, to update the methodology of the Award, review the assessment framework of indicators (application form), and provide methods of calculation of the quantitative indicators (guidelines).

37. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee discussed ways to increase the effectiveness of the Award, as an incentive for Mediterranean coastal cities to pursue sustainable development at the municipal level. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to expand communication items because the Award contributes to raise the profile of the MAP system and to reach local authorities. The Committee also discussed the name of the Award, considering that the reference to Istanbul can be confusing for stakeholders outside the MAP system, and recommended to give adequate visibility to all short-listed cities as an acknowledgement to their efforts.

#### **VI. Reporting Tool to Ensure the Follow-up of the MSSD Implementation**

38. At their 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, *“the MCSD Members agreed to provide inputs in line with their responsibilities and areas of expertise for the completion of the MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation and Monitoring Plan, in particular regarding the state of play, in order to deliver a state of progress by all MCSD Members and the Secretariat as complete as possible. To this end, the Secretariat will circulate a document/table to the MCSD Members, asking them to fill it with relevant activities they undertake”*.

39. Such a table was submitted to and discussed at the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee, which took note of this reporting tool to support the follow-up of the MSSD

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.iisbe.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cesba.eu/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://cesba-med.interreg-med.eu/>

implementation, in particular in identifying gaps and areas where additional efforts are needed. This table/tool is also an indication of the fact that the MSSD implementation is a collective endeavor of all Mediterranean partners and stakeholders that goes far beyond the responsibilities of the Secretariat.

40. The MCSD Steering Committee proposed to test the reporting tool prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD and encouraged the MCSD Members to report on their respective activities contributing to the MSSD implementation. The table filled-in by MCSD Members, MAP Partners, other actors and the Secretariat is included in Annex II. The reporting tool should be reviewed by the Secretariat and further used in the framework of the MSSD mid-term evaluation in 2020-2021.

## **VII. Partnerships and Outreach: Cooperation and Communication**

41. Below are presented key activities related to Partnerships/Cooperation and Outreach/Communication linked to the work of the MCSD. Events are listed by chronological order from the most recent.

42. The Secretariat joined forces with the Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy to organize, in cooperation with France and Montenegro, a side event at the 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 March 2019). Entitled “Voluntary Peer Review Mechanisms in support of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean”, this side event aimed at (i) showcasing the analogs of global mechanisms for sustainable development that are in place in the Mediterranean region; and, (ii) introducing testimonies from France, Greece and Montenegro on peer learning activities in the context of the 2030 Agenda’s implementation.

43. The Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu) joined force with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) to organize a side event at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018). Entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: The Model of the Mediterranean”, this side event was an excellent opportunity to promote the work of the MCSD.

44. The Secretariat contributed to the FAO-GFCM Fish Forum (10-14 December 2018) and 42<sup>nd</sup> Session (22-26 October 2018) in Rome, Italy.

45. The Secretariat pursued cooperation with the UfMS in the context of (i) the BlueMed initiative towards an updated marine research agenda for the Mediterranean; (ii) the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean; and, (iii) the UfM Climate Change Expert Group Meetings.

46. The Secretariat participated in the preparation of UN Environment’s contribution to the Report of the UN Secretary-General entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment – Gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments”.

47. The Secretariat contributed to the UN Environment’s involvement in global processes: e.g. the “Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects” (the Regular Process), the process on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and the process on Ocean Governance for Africa.

48. The Secretariat disseminated communication items that contribute to the MCSD/MSSD’s visibility, such as a series of factsheets available online and related to the MSSD Flagship Initiatives (see document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9).

49. In addition of the meetings mentioned above, the Secretariat participated and promoted the MSSD and the work of the MCSD in the following events:

- The 2019 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development organized by UN-ESCWA (Beirut, Lebanon, 9-11 April 2019);
- The Annual Conference of the Arab Forum on the Environment and Development (AFED) (Beirut, Lebanon, 8-9 November 2018);
- The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Regional Workshop for the Mediterranean, organized by the CBD Secretariat (Tangiers, Morocco, 15-19 October 2018);
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sustainability Summit for the South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, a high-level event organized by *The Economist* and the Center for SDGs Governance and Public Law (Athens, Greece, 1-2 October 2018), where the Coordinator delivered a statement on “Environmental Sustainability and Regional Governance”;
- The 2018-Eco City Forum “Circular Economy in Smart Cities” (Thessaloniki, Greece, 3-5 October 2018), where the Coordinator delivered a video message focusing on SDGs 11 and 12;
- The Mediterranean Coast Day and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PAP/RAC, held back-to-back with the Regional Seas Annual Coordination Meeting (Split, Croatia, 23-25 September 2018);
- The General Assembly of the Inter-Mediterranean Commission (IMC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) (Patras, Greece, 28-29 June 2018);
- The UfM Conference on the Blue Economy (29-30 November 2017, Naples, Italy), with a specific workshop organized by the Secretariat;
- HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission) Workshop on Economic and Social Analyses (1 November 2017, Riga, Latvia);

**Annex I**

**Updated Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019**  
**(as agreed by the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee)**

**Annex I: Updated Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019****(as agreed by the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee)**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key contributors or reviewers</b>
September-October 2018	Members of the MCSD Steering Committee to provide comments on and guidance for the update of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) in cooperation with the MCSD Steering Committee	MCSD Steering Committee
November-December 2018	Preparation of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	Secretariat, in close cooperation with the President of the MCSD	MCSD Steering Committee
January 2019	20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee  Members of the MCSD Steering Committee to discuss at their 20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting (i) the draft populated dashboard and related factsheets; and (ii) the update of the dashboard  Revision of the SIMPEER methodology, taking into account recommendations from the 17 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD and ideas expressed during the meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee	President of the MCSD, with support from the Steering Committee and the Secretariat  MCSD Steering Committee  Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD Steering Committee  Secretariat (Plan Bleu)  MCSD Steering Committee
February 2019	Follow-up of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	Secretariat, Plan Bleu	MCSD Steering Committee
February-April 2019	Publication on the experience and outcome of SIMPEER pilot edition SIMPEER draft national reports and in-country missions	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD Steering Committee Volunteer Contracting Parties
March 2019	The MCSD Steering Committee to be represented at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SoED 2019 Steering Committee	Secretariat, Plan Bleu	MCSD Steering Committee
April 2019	Proposal for the update of the Dashboard, as well as populated dashboard and related factsheets, plus recommendations for improving the process based on challenges and lessons learned transmitted to the MCSD Members for review and comments during discussions at their 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  Report on the progress of the SIMPEER second edition submitted to MCSD Members for discussion at their 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)  Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD  MCSD

April-June 2019	MCS D Members to provide comments on the first draft of the SoED 2019 and draft Roadmap for MED 2050 Phase II	Secretariat (Plan Bleu), MCS D Steering Committee	MCS D
June 2019	Peer Review Meeting with volunteer Contracting Parties  18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCS D. MCS D Members to discuss the populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, First Draft of SoED 2019, Roadmap for MED 2050 Phase II, draft Final Report of the SIMPEER second edition, and first scientific assessment report on environmental and climate changes in the Mediterranean (MedECC)	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)  Secretariat (Plan Bleu), MCS D Steering Committee, Montenegro (host country)	Volunteer Contracting Parties  MCS D
June-July 2019	The President of the MCS D to contribute to the draft decision related to the work of the MCS D and MSSD implementation and follow-up, including the MSSD mid-term evaluation, for submission to MAP Focal Points and then COP 21  Final Report of the SIMPEER second edition submitted to MAP Focal Points as Information Document	President of the MCS D  Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCS D Steering Committee, Secretariat  MCS D Steering Committee and volunteer Contracting Parties
July-August 2019	Preparation of the MCS D's contribution to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points	President of the MCS D	MCS D Steering Committee, Secretariat
September 2019	The President of the MCS D to present the outcome of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCS D to MAP Focal Points	President of the MCS D	MCS D Steering Committee, Secretariat
October-November 2019	Publication of the Final Report of the SIMPEER second edition	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	Volunteer Contracting Parties, MCS D Steering Committee
December 2019	The President of the MCS D to present MCS D recommendations to the Contracting Parties at COP 21	President of the MCS D	MCS D Steering Committee, Secretariat

**Annex II**

**MSSD Reporting Tool – Focus on Targets and Flagship Initiatives (April 2019)**

**Annex II: MSSD Reporting Tool – Focus on Targets and Flagship Initiatives (April 2019)**

The table below aims at supporting the follow-up of the work of the MCSD and the monitoring of the MSSD implementation, in particular the progress towards achievement of MSSD Targets and Flagship Initiatives. The Secretariat invited MCSD Members, MAP Partners and MAP Components to fill-in the table with relevant inputs from their activities, initiatives, programmes and projects that contribute to the achievement of MSSD Targets and Flagship Initiatives.

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas</b></p>	<p>Target: 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. (SDG Target 14.5)</p>	<p><b>From SPA/RAC:</b> According to data available at the end of 2018, 1,231 MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures covering an area of 226,000 km<sup>2</sup> are in place in the Mediterranean Sea. This means that 8.97% of the total surface of the Mediterranean is under a legal designation status. 1.6% of the Mediterranean is covered by nationally designated sites and 0.04% of the Mediterranean is covered by MPAs no-go, no-take or no-fishing zones. However, for most sites, there is little available information on the implementation of management measures and on the effectiveness of such measures towards reaching the site’s conservation targets.</p>
	<p>Target: 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. (SDG Target 14.4)</p>	<p>Inputs to be provided by <b>FAO-GFCM</b> in 2020.</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas</p>	<p><b>From SPA/RAC:</b> The Environmental Fund for Mediterranean MPAs (MPA Environmental Fund) is a sustainable financing mechanism, which aims at developing and strengthening Mediterranean MPAs and their management, contributing to their financial autonomy and territorial integration. The MPA Environmental Fund was launched jointly by France, Monaco, and Tunisia, during the high-level session of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) (Ajaccio, France, October 2013). The MPA Environmental Fund received political support from riparian countries, in the framework of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).</p> <p>The Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) was established under Monaco law in 2015 as a cooperation platform bringing together governments, regional organizations and civil society. Membership in the M2PA is open to States that have confirmed their commitment to implementing an ambitious policy to support MPAs and that have explicitly demonstrated their support to the initiative. Albania, France, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia are members of the Association. The M2PA is also open to regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems, such as the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), the Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF Mediterranean, the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), Mediterranean Small Islands Organization (<i>Petites Iles de Méditerranée</i>), the French Coastal Protection Agency (<i>Conservatoire du Littoral</i>), the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Oceanographic Institute, and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). Private donors have joined the initiative, such as the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation. The Basel Zoo and the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco provide part of their admission fees to support M2PA.</p> <p>Members of the M2PA have adopted a sound strategy for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs, as well as an action plan for implementation during 2018-2022. The initiative was developed with the support of the government of the Principality of Monaco which contributed 500,000 Euros to the fund. In cooperation with the non-profit environmental organization Conservation International, the M2PA received in 2018 technical and financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF – 1 M\$) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM – 1.5 M€) to design the most appropriate institutional, legal, and financial structure to manage the MPA Environmental Fund and to fund MPAs in the south and east shore on the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Financial support has been provided through the M2PA for the improvement of management of three MPAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Al Hoceima National Park, implemented through the Moroccan NGO AGIR, in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, a governmental agency (<i>Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification</i>);</li> <li>• Kuriat Islands implemented through the Tunisian governmental agency Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (Agence de</li> </ul>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral / APAL) and the Tunisian NGO Notre Grand Bleu;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karaburun Sazan Marine Park implemented through a local Albanian NGO named Flag Pine in partnership with the Regional Department of the National Protected Area Agency.</li> </ul> <p>A study is ongoing to assess financial needs of 20 MPAs in seven Mediterranean countries: Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia, and Turkey. This assessment will lay the foundation for a second round of investments in 2019 and 2020 and will refine the capitalization target of the Fund. Management effectiveness indicators will be established in order to monitor the impact of M2PA funding. Fundraising activities are being implemented to proactively identify potential donors from public and private sources.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>See factsheet available online (2018)</u></a></p>
<p>Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development</p>	<p>Target: 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. (SDG Target 15.5)</p>	<p><b>From SPA/RAC:</b> The following Priority Actions, aiming at inventorying, mapping and monitoring Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity, or at the conservation of sensitive habitats, species and sites, have been implemented in the framework of SAP BIO:</p> <p><b>SAP BIO Priority Action 1 – Undertake a complete and integrated inventory (by sub-region) of sensitive Mediterranean coastal, wetland, and marine habitats:</b></p> <p>The mapping of habitats benefited from the use of GIS technologies that has made great progresses in many Mediterranean countries. Indeed, GIS and associated database are becoming a standard for recording and mapping the spatial distribution of sensitive habitats, analyze changes and develop indicators to propose management measures. The development of this tool is variable from country to country and varies for the different sensitive habitats. The most covered habitats are Posidonia meadows, wetlands, marine turtle nesting sites and recently Rhodolith beds and coralligenous assemblages. Furthermore, regional or sub regional databases are being developed and include where possible specific habitats such as seagrass meadows. Sporadic mapping of sensitive habitat has been done in many Mediterranean countries. The most covered habitat is the Posidonia meadow for which map coverage was elaborated at national level in some countries (Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain) and is underway in specific areas for other countries (Algeria, Croatia, Montenegro, Tunisia, Turkey). Also, during the last ten years, initiatives were undertaken to collect data about deep-sea habitats and their associated species. Portals available online were built thanks to the coordination of Regional Organizations. One example is the initiative launched for the Alboran sea where Spain, Morocco and Algeria are joining efforts to develop a portal (the Alboran Sea portal) covering multiple aspects of the marine environment and in particular providing elements for specific habitats, such as seagrass meadows and coralligenous formation. Another example is the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory (MWO) established in 2008 at the request of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) as a multi-partner project coordinated by Tour du Valat (TdV), the Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands, based in Arles, France. Initiatives for capacity building were undertaken in relation to marine habitat mapping of countries. The MedkeyHabitat projects provided assistance to some South and East Mediterranean</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Montenegro, and Turkey) to build their capacity for marine habitat mapping. These projects benefited from the financial support of the MAVA Foundation and were implemented under the coordination of SPA/RAC in collaboration with a number of partner organizations (IUCN, OCEANA, WWF). Checklists of species associated with each sensitive habitat were, to some extent, prepared in the EU Member States through development of interpretation manuals for marine habitats pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive. A similar interpretation tool was prepared by SPA/RAC for the habitats listed in the Reference List of Habitats for inventorying sites of conservation interest. However, although some general checklists for marine and coastal species exist in some countries (e.g.: the checklist of marine species in all Italian seas, published in 2010 or the permanently updated of the French waters species check list by the MNHN in collaboration with the French agency for Biodiversity), such lists are still lacking for many other countries. Habitats monitoring programmes have been developed in few countries, particularly for Posidonia meadows and coralligenous formations, but their implementation is limited. In the western Mediterranean, the mapping of seagrass meadows and the installation of a monitoring system for its deeper extension have been completed for <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>. Standard monitoring protocols were developed for Posidonia meadows, coralligenous assemblages and other sensitive habitats, but their use is still limited, for coralligenous formations or dark habitats, in particular due to the reduced number of specialists. In the Southern and Eastern part of the Mediterranean, efforts are variable with good knowledge of seagrass coverage in Tunisia, limited in Libya and Egypt. The long-term monitoring of habitat and species is expected to improve in the coming years in the Mediterranean thanks to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme being developed within the framework of the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention as well as the monitoring requirements set under the MSFD of the European Union. By the end of 2018, the national monitoring programmes in relation to the biodiversity Ecological Objectives of EcAp and the Descriptors of the MSFD are expected to be finalized and ready to be operational, pending availability of resources.</p> <p><b>SAP BIO Priority Action 2 – Establish of a monitoring system of endangered and threatened species:</b></p> <p>During the last decade, several monitoring initiatives were launched in particular to monitor the populations and habitats of endangered species (monk seal, turtles, some marine bird species, Posidonia meadows, coralligenous assemblages, cetaceans, cartilaginous fishes, etc.) in the Mediterranean. Most of these initiatives are coordinated by international/regional organizations such as SPA/RAC that provide assistance (training programmes, funding, action plans, preparation of management plans for protected areas and species, etc.) and facilitation (an updated standardization of monitoring methods of Marine Magnoliophyta, coralligenous and Rhodoliths assemblages, organization of conferences and workshops). Monitoring activities of endangered species are mostly sporadic and implemented at national level. At regional level, significant efforts have been made for inventorying and monitoring of cetaceans and sea turtles at regional level in the scope of the EU IPA Adriatic NETCET project, the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and LIFE EUROTURTLES project. IUCN Red Lists have been developed at national levels. Conservation status pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive has been assessed in the EU MS 27 countries after the 2007 – 2013 reporting period. Updating of regional Red List of cetaceans is pursued in the</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>scope of ACCOBAMS.</p> <p><b>SAP BIO Priority Action 5 – Update, coordinate and enforce legislation to conserve biodiversity:</b></p> <p>All Mediterranean countries have adopted new or updated their legislation for protection or conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including species, habitats or sites, based on national, regional and/or international instruments. A list of the legal texts promulgated by the Mediterranean countries appears in the Annex to this report Between 2010 and 2016, eleven countries have adopted a new legislation on protected areas, such as Morocco in 2010 and Algeria in 2011. During the same period, thirteen have established new administration such as MPA, Biodiversity, or Environment Agency or Authority (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). Others have adopted a national strategy of guidelines for Marine and coastal protected areas, such as Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Egypt, Lebanon and Libya, reinforcing their activities to support their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) as recommended by the CBD. In the Adriatic, all countries have adopted legislation regulating protection of species, habitats or sites and legislation is being harmonized with the EU standards even in the non-EU countries.</p> <p><b>SAP BIO Priority Action 6 – Develop actions to conserve threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) Mediterranean species:</b></p> <p>The coordination of Action Plans is the responsibility of SPA/RAC, as they are the responsible authority for the follow up of the adopted conservation plan for the Mediterranean region. To-date, 8 conservation plans exist for marine species and habitats: monk seals, marine turtles, cetaceans, marine vegetation, marine birds, cartilaginous fishes, coralligenous and bio-concretion formation and dark habitats (another cover exotic species). For some of them, the coordination and cooperation are developed with a specialized organization such as ACCOBAMS for cetaceans, Fishes with GFCM, marine birds with Birdlife or IUCN with endangered species and red list assessments. Monitoring of species is sporadic and mostly done at national level, with some regionally implemented activities like monitoring of cetaceans, marine turtles or marine birds.</p> <p>Cetaceans, marine turtles and birds have been covered for most part of the Mediterranean by an aerial and boat survey during the summer 2018 within the framework of the ACCOBAMS survey initiative, funded by numerous organizations (in particular MAVA foundation) and countries. All over the years, the EU has been funding numerous projects such as for the marine turtles (IPA Adriatic NETCET project and LIFE EUROTURTLES project). The cartilaginous fish appear to be the least known species among vertebrates. In addition, knowledge on numerous marine species is incomplete or inadequate for evaluating their status, habitat or rarity, such as the invertebrates or the deep corals. In some EU member states species national monitoring programs are being established for certain species linked to implementation of the relevant EU Directives and in the scope of the EU MSFD implementation. In this context, species and habitats are being protected through establishment of Natura 2000 or other marine protected areas, as countries are enforcing the Habitats and Bird Directives. Other countries have defined sites of ecological or biological importance, such as Morocco, being considered for future</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>conservation and other countries are using their national strategy and relevant list of sites to be considered in the future. National stranding networks for monitoring incidental mortality of marine species such as cetaceans, sea turtles and cartilaginous fish are organized in different countries, such as Croatia, Italy or Lebanon, with the support of SPA/RAC, GFCM and ACCOBAMS, all concerned by this threat. For the legislation improvement and enforcement, please consult the section 5 just above.</p> <p><b>From IUCN Med:</b> In the Mediterranean region, the conservation status of almost 6,000 species has been assessed for the IUCN Red List of Species. 25% of them have been classified as threatened. The highest percentage of threatened animals are freshwater species (319 species of molluscs and 225 fishes). It is estimated that there are 25,000 vascular plant species in the Mediterranean. With just approximately 7% of Mediterranean plants already assessed, 28% of these have already been classified as threatened.</p> <p>About 1.247 species assessed for the Red List are recorded as being native and occurring in coastal terrestrial habitats and 253 of them are endemic to the Mediterranean region. At least 168 (14%) of the coastal species assessed (101 of them endemics) are threatened with extinction at global or regional level, half of them (84 species) are plants. For the marine habitats, 694 species of the species have been assessed for the IUCN Red List and 68 of them are endemic to the Mediterranean Sea. At least 78 (11%) of the coastal species assessed (68 of them endemics) are threatened with extinction at global or regional level in the Mediterranean region. Cartilaginous fishes is the group with highest number of threatened species (40 species), followed by anthozoa with 17 threatened species.</p> <p>In this scenario, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) is a tool to prioritise where actions need to be taken to save species from extinction. For the most threatened biodiversity, the freshwater ones, 376 KBA areas have been identified in the Mediterranean region, and only 14% of these sites are included in protected areas. The implementation of integrated management schemes combining protected areas, private lands and other important sites for biodiversity needs to be enhanced in the future.</p> <p>With approximately 25% of Mediterranean known species threatened, the design and implementation of science-based strategies for species conservation and the continuous monitoring of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region have become essential. In the last three years, four conservation strategies for threatened species have been developed with national governments in the Maghreb region (<a href="https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean/our-work/mediterranean-species-programme/species-conservation/strategies-action-plans">https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean/our-work/mediterranean-species-programme/species-conservation/strategies-action-plans</a>). The capacities of conservation managers and civil society for developing strategic plans for species conservation has increased in these countries and more strategic plans for threatened groups are being developed. For example, Morocco is currently working on the preparation of a national conservation strategy for birds of prey.</p>

<p>Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development</p>	<p>Flagship initiative: Promote the “Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies created</p>	<p><b>From IUCN Med:</b> The IUCN Green List is a global programme aiming to achieve and promote effective, equitable, and successful management of protected and conserved areas by highlighting best practices and providing a benchmark for effective management and governance quality. The overarching objective is to increase the number of protected and conserved areas that are effectively and equitably managed and deliver conservation outcomes, contributing to sustainable development and towards meeting Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p> <p>The development of the IUCN Green List was supported by Resolution WCC-2012-41 of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012. Such concerns about protected area effectiveness date back to at least the World Parks Congress held in Bali in 1982.</p> <p>At the heart of the Green List programme is the voluntary global Sustainability Standard providing a global benchmark that motivates improved performance and successful achievement of conservation objectives. The standard includes seventeen guiding criteria that describe successful conservation and equitable governance in protected and conserved areas, addressing four themes: good governance, sound design, sound planning, and effective management.</p> <p>The Green List Standard is implemented through a jurisdictional approach, tailored to each country or region where it is adopted. The programme allows for flexibility for each jurisdiction to implement the global standard while reflecting local contexts. It also assures that mechanisms and procedures in place ensure independence and credibility of decision-making, through an independent assurance services provider (Accreditation Services International) tasked with providing assurance of the programme globally.</p> <p>Areas that voluntarily commit to achieving IUCN Green List status must demonstrate and maintain successful implementation of the global Sustainability Standard throughout three defined phases: the application phase, the candidate phase, and the green list phase. Progression to each phase is independently evaluated by a technical Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) and a process reviewer, typically established at the national level. In each phase, the views and consensus of stakeholders and public opinion are factored into the area’s ongoing performance.</p> <p>At the global level, IUCN coordinated a Green List pilot phase in eight countries between 2012 and 2014 and announced the first protected areas to meet the criteria during the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014. Seven of the total 25 areas recognized across the world were located in Mediterranean countries (France, Italy, and Spain).</p> <p>In 2017, the IUCN Council formally approved the Green List Standard Version 1.1 and mandated its further implementation by IUCN, members, and partners, worldwide.</p> <p>In the Mediterranean region, IUCN supports the Green List through its regional offices: IUCN-MED, IUCN- Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), IUCN-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECARO). The programme is implemented in collaboration with several institutions that are committed to coordinate the process at the respective national level, among which Europarc Italy, Europarc Spain, the IUCN French Committee in Europe and the World Commission of Protected Areas in the North Africa region.</p>
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Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>In 2018, following the approval of the Standard by the IUCN Council, IUCN Med supported the re-activation of the Green List EAGLs in Italy and Spain. EAGL Italy is now in place, supported by Federparchi, WWF Italy and under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment. The adaptation of the standard to the Italian context is ongoing and an official launch of the process to Italian Parks is foreseen by Spring 2019.</p> <p>The process for selection of candidates for the Spanish EAGL has been also launched and the EAGL is expected to be trained and functional by Spring 2019. In Spain, the process is supported by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>IUCN, through its Med and Europe office, is also promoting the application of the Green List Standard to Natura 2000 sites; the adaptation of the standard to N2000 has been finalized and a final feasibility assessment is expected by the end of the year.</p> <p>In North Africa, a regional EAGL has been created for the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia). 15 members are representing this EAGL (5 members per country). Generic indicators have been adapted by EAGL members in September 2018 followed by the stakeholder’s consultation that was conducted during October and November 2018. In early 2019 the standard Committee is expected to examine the indicators adaptation and validate it. The auto-evaluation of the seven candidate sites by sites managers should start by mid-2019.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>See factsheet available online (2018)</u></a></p>
<p><b>3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities</b></p>	<p>Target: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries. (SDG Target 11.3)</p>	<p><b>From MED CITIES:</b> MED CITIES implements several projects to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanizations in the Mediterranean region through technical assistance in cities across the region. MED CITIES acted as a methodological partner of the MEDINATOUNA project, part of the Cities Alliance Country Program in Tunisia that expanded urban development strategies based on participatory approach. The elaboration of 9 new City Development Strategies put urban planning at the core of sustainable development national policies in Tunisia.</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
	<p>Target: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	<p><b>From SCP/RAC:</b> The Switchers Support Programme is one of the demo-sub components of the EU-funded SwitchMed Programme launched in 2013 to speed up the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Southern Mediterranean, notably through the promotion of circular economy approaches. SCP/RAC developed an innovative training methodology for green entrepreneurs provided by 123 local instructors from the 8 countries in which the programme has been implemented (southern Mediterranean countries). By the end of 2018, approximately 5,900 applications for these training sessions had been submitted; from almost 2,200 green entrepreneurs were selected and trained on the development of their environmental business models. 31% of the trainees developed business models in the area of resource efficiency and waste management. The Switchers platform includes more than 110 examples of initiatives of green entrepreneurs and change makers aiming at improving the resource efficiency and waste management in the Mediterranean region: <a href="https://www.theswitchers.eu/en/activity/environment/">https://www.theswitchers.eu/en/activity/environment/</a></p> <p>In the framework of the Marine Litter Med Project and IMELS cooperation agreement, SCP/RAC is supporting southern Mediterranean countries to improve their policy framework related to single-use plastic bags and food and beverage packaging and to prevent the generation of Marine Litter and release of plastics into the environment.</p> <p>SCP/RAC also organized 2 capacity building activities: an international workshop on Environmental Sound Management of plastic waste in the framework of the Basel Convention, in which some Mediterranean countries participated (Barcelona, Spain, 3-5 April 2019); a regional training, in the framework of the SWIM-H2020 Supporting Mechanism project: “Fostering a switch to Green Economy in the Mediterranean: Capacity building for SMEs and Policy makers on eco-design, eco innovation and enabling policies in the food and beverage packaging sector” (Barcelona, Spain, 12-14 December 2018).</p> <p>[MIO-ECSDE and EEA, through SEIS project, to provide inputs]</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Promote the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award approved by COP 19</p>	<p>At COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), the Contracting Parties decided to establish the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to Mediterranean coastal cities. This award aims to provide recognition to the efforts of local authorities to improve the environment and the quality of life and promote urban sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal towns and cities. It also aims to encourage Mediterranean coastal towns and cities to move towards a more environment-friendly future and to enable them to serve as model-cities in the region. The award is an opportunity to promote public awareness of the importance of coastal cities and communities and encourage efforts in addressing the pressures to the marine and coastal environment associated with urban development.</p> <p>For the first edition, the call for applications was open from 15 May to 30 June 2017 and was promoted through a specific communication campaign. Small towns and metropolitan cities were invited to submit their applications in partnership with NGOs, the scientific community, the private sector or other stakeholders. The Secretariat received 17 applications. The evaluation of applicant cities was undertaken, applying various criteria classified under four main categories: Nature and Biodiversity Protection; Built Environment; Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability; and Governance. The historical perspective of each candidate city was also considered.</p> <p>The selection of the winner of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award was carried out through a rigorous, inclusive and transparent process in three phases. The Award was conferred to the winning city, the Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir, during the Ministerial session of COP 20 held in Tirana, Albania, on 19 December 2017. The Mayor of Izmir, Mr. Aziz Kocaoğlu received the award from H.E. Ms. Ornela Çuçi, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment of Albania, who congratulated the municipality on its exemplary implementation of the sustainable urban political agenda. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Kocaoğlu described Izmir as a vibrant, multicultural city, steeped in history, where living in a clean and healthy environment was viewed as a fundamental right.</p> <p><u>Work done in 2018-2019, in cooperation with iiSBE, CESBA MED Project, and MED CITIES:</u></p> <p>The Secretariat undertook the review and refinement of the Award's methodology, based on lessons learned from the first edition. Operational and measurable indicators were needed for a more reliable and objective evaluation of applications and to improve the nomination and selection process in general. The improvement of the application form, with more quantitative indicators, based on both qualitative and quantitative criteria, aimed at rendering the comparison between applicant cities more objective.</p> <p>At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee discussed ways to increase the effectiveness of the Award, as an incentive for Mediterranean coastal cities to pursue sustainable development at the municipal level. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to expand communication items because the Award contributes to raise the profile of the MAP system and to reach local authorities – which are not the usual, priority target of this system. The MCSD Steering Committee also suggested to give adequate visibility to all short-listed cities as an acknowledgement to their efforts.</p> <p><a href="#">See factsheet available online (2018)</a></p>

<p>Flagship Initiative: Create a sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean, with a view to planning cities that will work for everyone, in order to make them inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p><b>From MED CITIES:</b> The proposal for the creation of a toolkit on urban development addressed to decision-makers, notably local authorities, and experts in the Mediterranean region was led by the Mediterranean Cities Network (MedCities), in cooperation with different regional actors participating in the Urban Hub of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). The proposal was presented during the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD in July 2017.</p> <p>MedCities is committed to the development of the toolkit, building on its own capacities and existing partnerships on urban issues at the regional level. The process involves the strengthening of existing regional networks of cities, as well as the development of new ones, that will contribute to the creation of the sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The Sustainable Urban Toolbox aims to provide the necessary resources to ensure that Mediterranean cities are planned cities, inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. It also aims to contribute to creating a common understanding among practitioners and decision-makers of the challenges faced by Mediterranean cities and provide local decision-makers with knowledge on relevant successful experiences from the region that can be used, adapted and updated to inspire sound policymaking.</p> <p>MedCities leads the Mediterranean sustainable urban toolbox project, which associates different actors working on sustainable urban development in the region, including members of the Urban Hub of the CMI which brings together urban experts from institutions such as the World Bank, Cities Alliance, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), European Investment Bank (EIB), UNDP, Agence des Villes et Territoires Méditerranéens Durables (AVITEM), Cooperation for urban mobility in the developing world (CODATU) and MedCities.</p> <p>MedCities is financing the pilot phase of the initiative which mainly involves the members of its own network. The objective for the second phase of the project is to diversify donors and to enrich the process with the academic and technical expertise of additional Mediterranean local authorities and urban experts.</p> <p>During the pilot phase, 37 Mediterranean cities have contributed their successful experiences to the knowledge base. The pilot phase of the initiative has identified eleven topics under which 50 best practices from Mediterranean cities have been shared: 1) Environment and Climate Change; 2) Waste; 3) Water; 4) Energy; 5) Strategic Planning; 6) Economic Development; 7) Housing, Urban Planning and Mobility; 8) Innovation; 9) Ports and Tourism; 10) Culture and Identity; 11) Health and Social Rights.</p> <p>In addition, ten experts from the region have been interviewed for the production of 40 video clips included in the knowledge base – which contribute to the debate while increasing visibility of the initiative.</p> <p>Knowledge collected for the creation of the sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean is organized, since March 2018, in a database accessible through the MedUrbanTools knowledge sharing platform: <a href="http://www.medurbantools.com">www.medurbantools.com</a>.</p> <p><i><a href="#">See factsheet available online (2018)</a></i></p>
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Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction</p>	<p><b>Draft Concept Note prepared by COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE</b>, reviewed by the President of the MCSD, and discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019) – See document UNEP/MED WG.469/7.</p> <p>The draft concept note suggests that the activities envisaged be fully included in the Work Programme of the upcoming ENI - Water and Environment Support Mechanism (WES) project. The WES project is entered into its tendering phase, i.e. short-listing of eligible consortia – the awarded WES proposal and consortium will not be known till April-May 2019. It is a regional EU funded project under the “EU for GreenMed III and sustainable transport” line (EuropeAid/139671/DH/SER/MULTI). The beneficiary countries are the following: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia. It is planned for a 4-year duration and approximately EUR 9 million budget.</p> <p>One of the objectives of the WES project is to reduce the pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea by providing technical assistance and trainings to enforce national regulatory frameworks, to foster dialogue at national and regional levels and, to promote the exchange of best practices among various stakeholders. A special attention will be given to measures aimed at reduction and prevention of plastic pollution. The support to the pollution prevention under the WES project should be done within the framework of the Horizon 2020 for a cleaner Mediterranean and the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>As soon as the WES contract is awarded to one of the submitting consortia in 2019, COMPSUD and/or MIO-ECSDE, with support from the Secretariat, should approach the European Commission / DG NEAR Project Manager and/or the project implementers during its inception phase (foreseen from May-July 2019) in order to practically see how to best incorporate the implementation of the MSSD Flagship Initiative in the WES project. Furthermore, if a few Contracting Parties request the MSSD Flagship Initiative to be part of the WES work programme at the first project steering committee meeting (or even during the inception missions), the MSSD Flagship Initiative could be included as a needed driven request.</p> <p>The MSSD Flagship Initiative on Waste Reduction Solutions could include a number of practical actions, subject to availability of resources, in line with the WES project objectives, to be carried out by the WES project consortium.</p> <p>The draft concept note includes a work plan (proposal) for implementing this MSSD Flagship Initiative.</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Flagship Initiative: Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism, including the social and behavioural sciences, endorsed by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options</p>	<p>MedECC is an acronym that stands for “Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change” (<a href="http://www.medecc.org">www.medecc.org</a>). MedECC is an important regional initiative that supports several aspects of the MAP work on assessment of human-made and natural pressures and impacts on the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. This network of scientific experts aims at gathering, updating and consolidating the best scientific knowledge about climate change in the Mediterranean basin and rendering it accessible to policymakers, key stakeholders and citizens.</p> <p>The creation of MedECC responds to needs and intentions expressed by the UN Environment/MAP through the MSSD and the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean, as well as the Expert Group on Climate Change of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM CCEG).</p> <p>To date (February 2019), MedECC counts more than 400 scientific members from 35 countries, including 19 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, working on a voluntary basis on climate and environmental changes from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities perspectives.</p> <p>MedECC has an important role to play in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as it contributes to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) with a cross-chapter dedicated for the first time to the Mediterranean. MedECC voluntarily contributes to the preparation of the SoED 2019, by co-leading the chapter on Climate Change, and MedECC’s analyses of trends of climate change and associated risks and impacts will also support the drafting of the MED2050 foresight study.</p> <p>By rendering the best scientific knowledge on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean basin accessible to all stakeholders, MedECC also aims to bridge the gap between research and decision-making, contributing to the improvement of policies at all levels such as future Mediterranean assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).</p> <p>MedECC works in two complementary directions of interest for the implementation of the MSSD, namely: (i) Publishing improved assessments and comprehensive synthesis of global change knowledge in the Mediterranean region; and, (ii) Building a relevant regional science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>MedECC is supported by regional, national, and local organizations and individual experts, including: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM); Plan Bleu/RAC (UN Environment/MAP); Agence de l’Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l’Énergie (ADEME), France; Mediterranean Integrated Studies at Regional And Local Scales (MISTRALS); Principality of Monaco; Métropole Aix-Marseille Provence, France; Aix-Marseille University, France; Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS), Spain; Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France; Laboratory of Excellence OT-Med, France; Government of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, France.</p> <p><u><a href="#">See factsheet available online (2019)</a></u></p>
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Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	<p>Target: By 2025, the majority of Mediterranean countries are committed to green or sustainable public procurement programmes</p>	
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Create and promote a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation</p>	<p><b>Draft Concept Note prepared by the Secretariat (SCP/RAC)</b>, reviewed by the President of the MCSD, and discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019) – See document UNEP/MED WG.469/7.</p> <p>The Catalonia Eco-Design Award, developed by the Waste Agency of Catalonia (ARC: Agència de Residus de Catalunya), was created in 2001 under the name of Design for Recycling Award. Then, it evolved into the Eco-Design Award as part of the Catalan Eco-Design Strategy (Ecodiscat) 2012-2015, promoted by the Ministry of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia and coordinated by the Directorate General for Environmental Quality. It aims to encourage the incorporation of eco-design in the production process, foster a cross-cutting approach and knowledge transfer, and boost the sustainable consumption and production. The award recognizes innovative products and services (e.g. existing products, products in development, strategies for sustainable product design, young designers) that promote eco-design and circular economy solutions.</p> <p>The Award has five categories: Categories A, B, C and D are for entrants from Catalonia, and Category E - Euro-Mediterranean Design opened to entrepreneurs for all Mediterranean countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The 2015-pilot edition of the Category E was supported by the SwitchMed programme, with 45 applications from 11 countries; the Award Ceremony held in Barcelona brought +150 participants. This successful pilot edition has not been reproduced so far.</p> <p>The draft concept note prepared by the Secretariat (SCP/RAC) proposes to create a proper Mediterranean Business Award for Environmental Innovation, based on the solid experience of the Catalan Eco-Design Award and on the lessons learned from its Euro-Mediterranean Category E. This edition will be operationally linked to the implementation of the MSSD Flagship Initiative.</p> <p>The MAP – Barcelona Convention system has the institutional mandate, via the MSSD Flagship Initiative 5.4.5, to create and promote a Mediterranean Business Award for Environmental Innovation, and SCP/RAC as a centre hosted by the Waste Agency of Catalonia and the initiator of the Euro-Mediterranean Category E of the Catalan Eco-Design Award has the necessary skills and experience to support the technical process of such initiative. Therefore, a possible avenue would be that the Secretariat flags the Mediterranean Award. This setting-up requires external funds; the EU funded SwitchMed II recently launched (January 2019) includes resources to fund the organization of a Mediterranean Business Award for Environmental Innovation and the preparation of a long-term strategy for its replication over the years. It is expected that the first edition will target southern Mediterranean countries, including Jordan and Palestine, as beneficiaries of the SwitchMed II programme; eligible applicants should be based in the following countries: Algeria, Morocco,</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon. It should be possible to develop several categories of the Mediterranean Business Award for Environmental Innovation. The possible categories could include products already available in the market, products under development or product promotion strategies that are developed in Mediterranean countries and that take into account environmental considerations with the goal of reducing the environmental impact of the product over the course of its life cycle. A specific attention will be put on awarding initiatives led by women and youth.</p> <p>The Mediterranean Business Award for Environmental Innovation will be based on the proceedings of the Eco-Design Award developed in 2015 by the Waste Agency of Catalonia, as explained above. But a benchmark analysis of other similar awards will be also conducted.</p> <p>This Award will aim to recognize, reward, and encourage the efforts of entrepreneurs to incorporate environmental innovation and eco-design in the production process, to foster knowledge transfer and a cross-cutting approach between the three pillars of sustainable development, and to boost circular economy solutions and the consumption of sustainable products and services in the Mediterranean. See detailed objectives in document UNEP/MED WG.469/7.</p> <p>For the first edition, applications should be submitted by entrepreneurs and circular businesses from a SwitchMed beneficiary country (listed above). Any person or corporate entity, domiciled or with corporate headquarters in those countries, who designs or manufactures a product or service, promotes or designs a product or service under development, or promotes any eco-innovation strategy, should be invited to submit an application.</p> <p>The recently launched “European Sustainability Award” by the European Commission with the support of the EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform on SDGs aiming to recognize the initiatives (by the private sector, large companies and SMEs, public agencies, civil society and youth) working towards turning the SDGs into concrete solutions and opportunities, could be used as a source of inspiration and information.</p> <p>The draft Concept Note proposes Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria, as well as an Application, Evaluation and Nomination Process. According to the MSSD stating that the Flagship Initiative should be launched for the period 2016-2020, a possible timeline is suggested in the relevant Concept Note (included in document UNEP/MED WG.469/7).</p>
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels</p>	

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
6. Improving governance in support of sustainable development	<p>Target: By 2025, two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded to the Aarhus Convention</p>	<p>12 of the 22 (54,5%) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are Parties to the Aarhus Convention. The MSSD Target of two-thirds can be achieved by having five more Mediterranean countries joining the Aarhus Convention. The priority should be given to: (i) Three UNECE Member States: Israel, Monaco and Turkey (no approval by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention is required for their accession); (ii) Seven not-UNECE Member States: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia (their accession requires an approval by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention).</p>
	<p>Flagship Initiative: 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</p>	<p><b>Draft Concept Note prepared by COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE</b>, reviewed by the President of the MCSD, MEPIELAN and the Aarhus Convention Secretariat, and discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019), including a detailed work plan – See document UNEP/MED WG.469/7.</p> <p>The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have already a series of commitments to engage stakeholders and the public, at large, in consultations and participatory governance: e.g. for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp). These commitments concern all the countries of the region, most of which, apply participatory processes for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), management of specially protected areas, adaptation to climate change, etc. Participatory and information/communication processes are also related and supported by the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) and its Action Plan, both of which are endorsed and constitute integral parts of the MSSD. Accession to the Aarhus Convention provides a solid and comprehensive framework for governance to engage the public effectively.</p> <p>The Aarhus Convention is open for accession by any UN Member State. For States which are not Members of UNECE accession requires an approval by the Aarhus Convention’s Meeting of the Parties. In recent years, Parties to the Aarhus Convention have made clear their strong encouragement for countries outside the UNECE region to join. To guide interested non-UNECE Member States on the accession, they adopted Decision IV/5, encouraging States outside the UNECE region to accede to the Aarhus Convention and welcoming any expression of interest to do so.</p> <p>In the Budva Declaration adopted at their recent Joint High-level Segment (Budva, Montenegro, September 2017), the Aarhus Convention’s and its Protocol’s Meetings of the Parties once more stated: “We invite interested States to accede to the Convention and its Protocol or to apply their provisions, and we stand ready to offer our experience and knowledge in that regard. In the forthcoming period, we will strive to encourage new accessions, in line with the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020” (para. 28).</p> <p>The familiarization with and possible accession to the Aarhus Convention by the Mediterranean countries mentioned above requires first and foremost a strong political will from the governments of these countries to fulfil in a solid way the commitments concerning access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>Activities aimed at familiarization with and promotion of the accession to the Aarhus Convention requires also dissemination of information and capacity building meetings, which may be co-organized by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Barcelona Convention and Aarhus Convention Secretariats, and/or programmes such as the SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM.</p> <p>With respect to the political dimension of the present MSSD Flagship Initiative, an awareness raising and information campaign to make the benefits of joining the Aarhus Convention known to the above target countries could be undertaken by COMPSUD, on a voluntary basis, with advisory and expert support from both Secretariats of the Barcelona Convention and Aarhus Convention, as well as from MIO-ECSDE for the simultaneous mobilization of NGOs and other civil society organizations. Relatedly, and in view of the catalytic interconnection between law and policy aspects associated with the process of development of the Aarhus Convention regime, its promotion and expansion to other States, and the development of capacity building through training on targeted creative negotiation knowledge and skills for the construction of environmental common interest could be undertaken by MEPIELAN, with the support of the Secretariats of the Barcelona Convention and Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>Regarding its law and governance dimension, the compatibility of the legislation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in combination with the necessary institutional arrangements for the effective exercise of the procedural rights set in the Aarhus Convention should be explored. In addition, the establishment of specific administrative bodies or other independent institutions established by law (Ombudsman) that could contribute to the implementation of the relevant requirements should be examined. Further, the promotion of the active engagement of the subnational levels of government (municipalities, regional authorities) in decision-making processes, through the organization of a series of training workshops and/or by the establishment of relevant working groups aiming at improving coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention should also be pursued. Of particular importance would be the discussion and dissemination of best practices among the Mediterranean countries of the Aarhus Convention concerning access to environmental information and public participation. The examination of these necessary reformative actions could be undertaken by MEPIELAN with the support from the Secretariats of the Barcelona Convention and the Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>Furthermore, an important “added value” for the present MSSD Flagship Initiative would be the examination of the interaction between the Aarhus Convention and the very recently adopted Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018 (the Escazú Agreement) for the purpose of developing an appropriate platform of facilitating the accession of Developing States to the Aarhus Convention, and thus paving the way to the process of exploring the expansion of operation of the Aarhus Convention in view of the contextual particularities, the need for their informed management at all levels, and in the light of the implementation of the transformative Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDGs 16 and 17). This action could be undertaken by MEPIELAN with the support of the Secretariats of the Barcelona Convention and Aarhus</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>Convention.</p> <p>The MSSD Flagship Initiative on Public Participation provides a great opportunity for the Mediterranean countries to be familiarized, use and, eventually, accede to the Aarhus Convention. There are a number of practical actions to promote this, subject to availability of resources, such as suggested in the work plan included in the concept note.</p>
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments</p>	<p><b>Draft Concept Note prepared by MEPIELAN</b>, reviewed by the President of the MCSD, and discussed at the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019), including proposals of activities – See document UNEP/MED WG.469/7.</p> <p>At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, January 2019), the MCSD Steering Committee considered that the concept note introduces innovative concepts (e.g. the public trust approach and the <i>Talanoa dialogue</i>) and stresses the need for participatory approaches and for enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development mechanisms. Taking into account that this concept note is still quite academic, it could be further streamlined to become more concrete regarding proposed deliverables and capacity building activities. RAED has expressed interest to liaise with MEPIELAN to further review this concept note and proposed activities.</p>
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Establish a publicly-accessible Mediterranean integrated information system through a triumvirate of national governments, international institutions and the private sector to collate and transparently display information on the state of the environment</p>	

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
	<p>Regional Action 6.4.1: Implement the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), which promotes the integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning</p>	<p><b>From MIO-ECSDE – Update on progress (01 July 2017 – 30 November 2018)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July – November 2017: The Mediterranean countries continued to appoint their National Focal Points in the Mediterranean ESD Committee (launched in Nicosia, Cyprus 2016), whose task is to follow and monitor the activities related to the MSESD and its Action Plan (adopted in Nicosia, Cyprus, in 2016).</li> <li>• September – November 2017: Five “Training of trainers” were held on how the MSESD and its Action Plan (AP) can be put into force at the national level. The trainings were organized in Algeria, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia by MEDIES/MIO-ECSDE through the EU funded SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism. The trainings aimed to build a critical mass of educators and professionals with advanced capacities on the MSESD itself and ESD application in general. 250 educators and professionals were trained and gained a solid understanding of the MSESD/AP. The trainings were combined with inter-institutional consultation meetings to facilitate the effective application of the MSESD at national level. Representatives of the Ministries of Education, Environment and/or Sustainable Development, Water, Youth Agencies, etc. engaged actively in these meetings, identifying strengths, priorities and needs in their countries in mainstreaming the MSESD implementation through the proper use and integration of the AP.</li> <li>• 22-24 November 2017: The “1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee/Regional Training on ESD” took place in Nicosia, Cyprus, co-organised and co-supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus, the EU funded SWIM-H2020 SM with the technical support of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean and MEDIES/MIO-ECSDE. The meeting achieved to bring together representatives of the major regional and international organizations active in the region, namely: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UNESCO, UNESCO Office in Venice, UN Environment/MAP, UNECE, and the League of Arab States, with a wide range of competent stakeholders related to the MSESD from Ministries of Education and Environment and civil society organizations from 18 countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia – 150 participants in total). The meeting aimed to review and discuss how the AP of the MSESD has been used, integrated and valued within the existing Programmes and Initiatives of the countries and of the associated international and regional organizations, one year after its adoption. On the first day a Special Session for Parliamentarians, Ministry Officials, Stakeholders and Educators hosted by the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and chaired by the Vice President of the Parliament, Mr. Adamou, the outcomes of which were shared with the Parliaments of the Mediterranean countries by the Parliament of Cyprus. The proceedings of the aforementioned meetings are available at the following link: <a href="http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=8&amp;aID=1165&amp;ereg=">http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=8&amp;aID=1165&amp;ereg=</a></li> <li>• January 2018 – April 2018: A targeted <a href="#">factsheet on the MSESD</a> was produced by the MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE, showcasing the MSESD as integral part of the MSSD.</li> </ul>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="640 292 2112 464">• January 2018 – November 2018: Efforts for MSES D and its AP to receive more political and international support and to become better known among policy- and decision-makers at global level continued from MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES. Efforts are made for the MSES D to be reflected in the UNESCO “<i>Post-GAP Position Paper on the future of ESD (2019-2030)</i>”. Efforts also continue by MIO-ECSDE to raise economic support and mobilize resources for enhancing the implementation of the AP in the countries of the region, e.g. by capitalizing on recent activities and utilizing the existing funding mechanisms (i.e. H2020, ERASMUS, UNESCO PP, etc.).</li></ul> <p data-bbox="640 483 1048 515"><a href="#">See factsheet available online (2018)</a></p>