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PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

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18^{ème} Réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable (CMDD)

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Point 3 de l'ordre du jour : Rapport d'avancement sur les travaux réalisés après la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD

Rapport d'activité sur les travaux réalisés après la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD

Pour des raisons de coût et de protection de l'environnement, le tirage du présent document a été restreint. Il est aimablement demandé aux délégations d'apporter leur copie de ce document aux réunions et de s'abstenir de demander des copies supplémentaires.

Note du Secrétariat

À la suite de l'adoption de la Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable (SMDD) 2016-2025 ainsi que de la réforme de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable (CMDD) et des documents constitutifs mis à jour de la CMDD (décisions IG.22/2 et IG.22/17), un certain nombre de résultats clefs ont été obtenus en 2016-2017 et examinés lors de la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD (Athènes, Grèce, 4-6 juillet 2017), notamment la mise en place du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, l'édition pilote réussie du Mécanisme simplifié d'examen par les pairs (SIMPEER), la Feuille de route pour l'étude prospective MED2050 et le lancement de plusieurs initiatives phares de la SMDD.

À leur 17^{ème} Réunion, les Membres de la CMDD ont confirmé leur volonté de redonner à la Commission un rôle significatif au sein du système du PAM – Convention de Barcelone, un rôle rendu plus crucial du fait de la reconnaissance accrue de la dimension régionale comme une échelle essentielle à la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 (Programme 2030) et des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Les décennies de travaux de la CMDD et de collaboration avec des organes et institutions des Nations Unies représentent une base solide pour poursuivre les efforts visant à mettre en place des partenariats, à promouvoir la reconnaissance, la mise en œuvre et le suivi de la SMDD ainsi que l'adhésion à cette dernière, tout en mettant en valeur les travaux de la Commission dans les instances internationales et régionales.

La contribution de la CMDD au développement durable est importante et mérite d'être renforcée. Le mécanisme unique que représente la Commission dans le panorama mondial des mers régionales permet d'appréhender le développement durable dans son ensemble et de donner véritablement la parole à tous les acteurs qui œuvrent en faveur du développement durable dans notre région.

Le rôle consultatif de la CMDD revêt également une importance capitale pour ce qui est d'aider les Parties contractantes à la Convention de Barcelone à incorporer l'approche intégrée du développement durable aux niveaux national et local ainsi qu'à mettre fin au cloisonnement généré par les approches sectorielles. À cet effet, les travaux de la CMDD et la SMDD devraient être mobilisés autant que possible en faveur de mécanismes nationaux et locaux de développement durable.

L'adoption, lors de la vingtième réunion des Parties contractantes (COP 20), de la décision IG.23/4 sur la mise en œuvre et le suivi de la SMDD 2016-2025 et du Plan d'action régional sur la consommation et la production durables en Méditerranée ainsi que les activités connexes convenues dans le programme de travail et le budget du PNUE/PAM pour 2018-2019 (décision IG.23/14) ont posé des jalons pour les travaux de la CMDD au cours de l'exercice biennal 2018-2019. Les activités au cœur du mandat de la CMDD comprenaient la mise à jour du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, l'élaboration d'études d'évaluation, à savoir le Rapport 2019 sur l'état de l'environnement et du développement (RED 2019), l'étude prospective MED2050 et les études de cas sur l'économie bleue, ainsi que le renforcement et le maintien du SIMPEER par la mise en œuvre de sa deuxième édition.

Le présent document fournit un aperçu des progrès accomplis et des travaux réalisés depuis la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD au cours de la période allant de juillet 2017 à avril 2019.

Rapport d'activité sur les travaux réalisés après la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD

1. La 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD a permis de formuler des observations constructives sur le projet de programme de travail du PNUE/PAM pour 2018-2019, apportant des contributions qui figuraient dans les documents soumis à la vingtième réunion des Parties contractantes (COP 20). La Présidente de la CMDD, Mme Maria Papaioannou (Grèce), a présenté les résultats de la 17^{ème} réunion de la CMDD aux Points focaux du PAM au cours de leur réunion qui s'est tenue à Athènes, en Grèce, en septembre 2017. Elle a également participé à la session ministérielle de la COP 20 qui s'est tenue à Tirana, en Albanie, en décembre 2017.
2. La deuxième moitié de 2017 a été consacrée à la préparation de la COP 20, qui a abouti à une importante manifestation couronnée de succès au cours de laquelle 14 décisions ont été adoptées, notamment le programme de travail et le budget du PNUE/PAM pour 2018-2019, la Stratégie de mobilisation des ressources, le Rapport sur la qualité de la Méditerranée 2017 ainsi que d'autres décisions sur la gouvernance, les indicateurs, la biodiversité et les aires marines protégées, la gestion intégrée des zones côtières et l'aménagement de l'espace marin, la pollution et les urgences. Les décisions, la Déclaration ministérielle de Tirana et les débats de haut niveau sur le thème « Mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 en accordant une attention particulière à l'objectif de développement durable 14 : pollution et biodiversité », ainsi que les contributions du Département des affaires économiques et sociales de l'ONU (DESA) et du secrétariat de la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB), ont confirmé le rôle de plus en plus crucial de la dimension régionale dans la mise en œuvre des politiques mondiales, en particulier du Programme 2030 et des ODD.
3. L'intervention d'une experte de haut niveau du DESA lors de la COP 20 a exposé de façon éloquente deux dimensions importantes de la Convention de Barcelone et du développement durable dans la région méditerranéenne, à savoir : i) la mise en œuvre de l'Objectif de développement durable sur les océans (ODD 14), en mettant l'accent sur les engagements volontaires enregistrés lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les océans (New York, juin 2017) et de la Conférence « Notre océan, un océan pour la vie » (Malte, octobre 2017) ; et ii) les liens entre le Programme 2030 et la SMDD, en soulignant l'intérêt des exercices d'apprentissage par les pairs tels que les examens nationaux volontaires présentés chaque année lors du Forum politique de haut niveau et le mécanisme simplifié d'examen par les pairs (SIMPEER) mis en œuvre selon les orientations de la CMDD. Les interactions avec le DESA ont été régulièrement entretenues afin de promouvoir les travaux de la CMDD. Des contacts avec des commissions régionales des Nations Unies (Afrique, Europe, Asie occidentale) qui disposent d'un mandat concernant la mise en œuvre régionale du Programme 2030 ont également été établis durant l'exercice biennal 2018-2019.
4. L'adoption, lors de la COP 20, de la décision IG.23/4 sur la mise en œuvre et le suivi de la SMDD 2016-2025 et du Plan d'action régional sur la consommation et la production durables en Méditerranée ainsi que les activités connexes convenues dans le programme de travail et le budget du PNUE/PAM pour 2018-2019 (décision IG.23/14) ont posé des jalons pour les travaux de la CMDD au cours de l'exercice biennal 2018-2019. Les activités qui constituent l'essentiel du mandat de la CMDD comprenaient la mise à jour du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, l'élaboration d'études d'évaluation, à savoir le Rapport sur l'état de l'environnement et du développement 2019 (RED 2019) et l'étude prospective MED2050, y compris les études de cas sur l'économie bleue, ainsi que le renforcement et le maintien du SIMPEER par la mise en œuvre de sa deuxième édition.
5. Les progrès accomplis dans le cadre de ces activités ainsi que les perspectives connexes sont décrits dans les paragraphes ci-après.

I. Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité

6. À leur COP 20, les Parties contractantes ont pris note de la liste des indicateurs du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, en tant que base pour la poursuite des travaux, ainsi que de la liste des indicateurs de suivi de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action régional sur la consommation et la production durables (CPD) en Méditerranée, demandant que cette dernière soit actualisée en synergie avec le travail réalisé pour les indicateurs pertinents des ODD et de la SMDD.

7. Le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD a été chargé, par la décision IG.23/4, de coordonner le travail permettant d'assurer une cohérence et une synergie totales entre le Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité et les travaux sur les indicateurs relatifs aux ODD, le principal objectif étant de mieux aligner le Tableau avec lesdits indicateurs.

8. À l'issue des 19^{ème} et 20^{ème} Réunions du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD (téléconférence, 20 juin 2018, et Athènes, Grèce, 23-24 janvier 2019), le Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) a finalisé la mise à jour du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, élaboré une version révisée des fiches d'information analytiques et rédigé des propositions et des recommandations afin d'améliorer le processus. Ces éléments ainsi que le calendrier convenu par le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD sont présentés dans le document UNEP/MED WG.469/4.

9. La version mise à jour du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité et les produits connexes seront soumis, à l'issue des débats menés lors de la 18^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD, à la réunion des Points focaux du PAM (Athènes, Grèce, 10-13 septembre 2019) et à la COP 21 (Naples, Italie, 2-5 décembre 2019).

10. Dans le cadre de l'activité 6.2.1.1 « Identifier et sélectionner les indicateurs du Plan d'Action CPD et développer des fiches d'information conformément à la SMDD » (décision IG.23/14), des travaux à mener sur les indicateurs CPD ont été inclus dans la deuxième phase du programme SwitchMed¹, dont le lancement a eu lieu au cours du premier trimestre de 2019. SwitchMed II comprend notamment la mise à jour de la base de données des indicateurs CPD et une analyse des tendances de ces indicateurs.

11. Parallèlement aux travaux sur le Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, le Secrétariat a réalisé une cartographie exhaustive des politiques et instruments du PAM – Convention de Barcelone au regard des objectifs et indicateurs relatifs aux ODD pertinents. Les résultats de cette cartographie alimentent le portail « SDG Synergies »², un outil interactif élaboré par la Division de la science du PNUE. Mettant en évidence les synergies entre les accords multilatéraux sur l'environnement mondiaux/régionaux et les ODD, cet outil en ligne représente un instrument pertinent pour mettre en évidence l'utilité du système du PAM – Convention de Barcelone aux fins de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 au niveau régional, offrant une démonstration visuelle des synergies entre les objectifs et les indicateurs du PAM, d'une part, et des ODD, d'autre part.

II. Études d'évaluation

12. **Rapport 2019 sur l'état de l'environnement et du développement en Méditerranée (RED 2019)** : Conformément au résultat stratégique 1.4 et à la prestation indicative clef 1.4.1 de la Stratégie à moyen terme (SMT) du PAM pour 2016-2021 (décision IG.22/1), le RED 2019 vise à présenter une évaluation complète et à jour des interactions entre l'environnement et le développement en Méditerranée. En adoptant une démarche intégrée et systémique, le RED 2019 vise à renforcer la

¹ L'évaluation finale du volet politique du Programme SwitchMed était satisfaisante. SwitchMed II sera lancé en 2019, avec CAR/CPD comme partenaire d'exécution clef. <https://www.switchmed.eu/en>

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

prise de conscience et la compréhension de la situation et des tendances en matière d'environnement et de développement en Méditerranée, de leurs forces motrices et de leurs impacts, facilitant la mesure des progrès accomplis vers le développement durable, fournissant une base actualisée pour une prise de décisions améliorée à tous les niveaux et renforçant la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030, des ODD et de la SMDD.

13. Le Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) était responsable du processus d'élaboration du RED 2019, avec l'appui de l'ensemble des composantes du PAM. Le RED 2019 a été élaboré en synergie avec les rapports précédents et les initiatives pertinentes du PAM, notamment le Rapport sur la qualité de la Méditerranée 2017, MED2050, etc.

14. Les groupes de travail chargés des chapitres rassemblaient plus de 60 auteurs et contributeurs. Les Membres de la CMDD et les experts nationaux recommandés par les Points focaux du Plan Bleu ont contribué à titre volontaire au processus de rédaction et de révision.

15. Le Comité de pilotage du RED 2019³ a appuyé l'élaboration du chapitre 9 « Synthèse et conclusions » (voir le document UNEP/MED WG.469/5).

16. Les Membres de la CMDD et les Points focaux du Plan Bleu seront invités à examiner les projets de chapitres du RED 2019 ainsi que les messages clés du rapport, comme indiqué à l'annexe I du présent document.

17. **Étude prospective MED2050 sur l'environnement et le développement en Méditerranée :** À la COP 20, les Parties contractantes ont accueilli favorablement la Feuille de route pour l'étude prospective MED2050 (décision IG.23/4, annexe II), demandé sa mise en œuvre dans le cadre d'une approche participative, adopté sa phase I et demandé l'élaboration d'une feuille de route mise à jour devant être soumise pour approbation à la COP 21.

18. La phase I de MED2050 (2018-2019) était axée sur : i) la mobilisation de ressources existantes et la mise en place d'un réseau de partenaires ; et ii) l'évaluation des tendances régionales mises en évidence dans le RED 2019. Le Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) était également à la recherche active de fonds pour compléter les ressources disponibles.

19. MED2050 est conçue comme une interface science-politique participative travaillant sur des visions contrastées dans l'ensemble de la Méditerranée. L'étude devrait tirer parti de travaux précédents et en cours, notamment le RED 2019, tout en améliorant la diffusion, la communication et le renforcement des capacités.

20. Une étude spécifique, réalisée début 2019, a aidé à renforcer davantage le réseau et à élaborer des approches innovantes visant à assurer une participation large et diversifiée à la prochaine phase de consultation de MED2050, comme recommandé par la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD.

21. Comme demandé par la COP 20, une version mise à jour de la Feuille de route pour MED2050 sera présentée à la COP 21, sur la base de consultations supplémentaires, notamment avec les Membres de la CMDD et les Points focaux du Plan Bleu (voir le document UNEP/MED WG.469/6).

³ Le Comité de pilotage du RED 2019 réunissait cinq Parties contractantes (Algérie, France, Italie, Maroc et Monténégro), le Président de la CMDD, le Secrétariat (Unité de coordination et Composantes du PAM) et quatre partenaires, à savoir l'Agence européenne pour l'environnement (AEE), le Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), le Centre pour l'intégration en Méditerranée (CMI) et le Réseau méditerranéen d'experts sur les changements climatiques et environnementaux (MedECC).

22. **Études de cas sur l'économie bleue en Méditerranée** : Afin d'appuyer la mise en œuvre de l'ODD 14 en Méditerranée, l'activité 4.4.1.2 prévoyait la réalisation d'études de cas visant à favoriser l'économie bleue dans la région (décision IG.23/14). Cette activité consistait à recenser et diffuser des études de cas, couvrant les avantages économiques des services environnementaux et de l'innovation. Parmi les secteurs examinés figuraient la pêche et l'aquaculture, le transport maritime et les activités portuaires, l'énergie éolienne, le tourisme et les loisirs, ainsi que les ressources biologiques. Les études de cas examinaient également les aires marines protégées en tant que contributions à une économie bleue durable et inclusive dans la région méditerranéenne.

23. S'appuyant sur le rapport du PNUE intitulé « *Blue Economy, Sharing Success Stories to Inspire Changes* » (Économie bleue : partager le succès pour inspirer des changements)⁴ (2015), cette activité fournissait une perspective méditerranéenne sur les questions et défis liés à l'économie bleue, évaluant et mettant en évidence le poids actuel de l'économie bleue dans la région Méditerranée et les différentes possibilités offertes par celle-ci dans le cadre d'une série d'exemples concrets et de bonnes pratiques.

24. Outre les composantes du PAM, les partenaires clefs ci-après ont participé à cette activité : Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM), Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture – Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (FAO-CGPM), Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF), Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN), Réseau des gestionnaires d'aires marines protégées en Méditerranée (MedPAN), Banque mondiale, Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) et DG Mare de l'Union européenne.

25. Une méthodologie détaillée a été établie, comprenant un modèle d'étude de cas, de sorte que des études de cas détaillées ont été élaborées sous un format commun, permettant des comparaisons, des conclusions globales et des analyses des enseignements tirés, ainsi que la possibilité d'une transposition à plus grande échelle.

26. Les études de cas figurent dans le document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.5.

III. Deuxième édition du mécanisme simplifié d'examen par les pairs (SIMPEER)

27. Sur la base des enseignements tirés de l'édition pilote, le Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) a mis à jour la méthodologie du SIMPEER afin de tenir compte des recommandations de la 17^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD, notamment concernant l'importance du renforcement des synergies avec les examens nationaux volontaires présentés lors du Forum politique de haut niveau et de la participation renforcée des parties prenantes concernées autres que les Parties contractantes (voir le document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.4).

28. À ses 19^{ème} et 20^{ème} Réunions, le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD a rappelé qu'il était important que le SIMPEER aide les Parties contractantes dans leurs efforts visant à adapter et à mettre en œuvre les ODD au niveau national. Le SIMPEER est un mécanisme innovant permettant de réaliser un examen périodique de la mise en œuvre nationale de la SMDD et des ODD, encourageant l'échange de bonnes pratiques sur les structures et les processus de développement durable au niveau national et renforçant la visibilité du PAM dans les instances régionales et internationales. Il peut aider les Parties contractantes à mettre en place ou réviser des mécanismes institutionnels aux fins du développement durable au niveau national dans le cadre d'une approche intersectorielle et d'une perspective systémique. Il dispose également d'un potentiel important pour aider les Parties contractantes à réaliser leurs examens nationaux volontaires présentés lors du Forum politique de haut niveau et/ou à assurer le suivi de ce processus.

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

29. Trois Parties contractantes volontaires, à savoir l'Albanie, l'Égypte et la Tunisie, participent à la deuxième édition du SIMPEER réalisée par le Secrétariat (Plan Bleu).

IV. Initiatives phares de la SMDD

30. À sa 17^{ème} Réunion, la CMDD a salué les efforts ci-après consacrés à la mise en œuvre des initiatives phares de la SMDD et mesures/programmes régionaux :

- Le Fonds d'affectation spéciale pour les aires marines protégées de la Méditerranée, avec des efforts synergiques de CAR/ASP, MedPAN, WWF Med et Med-SDSN ;
- La Liste verte des aires protégées de l'UICN dans les États riverains de la Méditerranée ;
- Le Prix d'Istanbul pour les villes respectueuses de l'environnement ;
- La boîte à outils pour des villes méditerranéennes durables créée par MED CITIES ;
- Le Réseau méditerranéen d'experts sur les changements climatiques et environnementaux (MedECC) ;
- Le Programme SwitchMed et les activités du CAR/CPD sur l'entreprenariat vert ;
- Le projet EDILE (Développement économique par l'autonomisation locale et inclusive), dirigé par ANIMA ;
- La Stratégie méditerranéenne sur l'éducation au développement durable (SMEDD), dirigée par MIO-ECSDE ;
- La Convention d'Aarhus sur l'accès à l'information, la participation du public au processus décisionnel et l'accès à la justice en matière d'environnement.

31. À sa 17^{ème} réunion, la CMDD a exhorté les Parties contractantes, les Membres de la CMDD, les Partenaires du PAM, le Secrétariat et d'autres acteurs à prendre des mesures pour lancer d'autres initiatives phares de la SMDD.

32. À sa 20^{ème} Réunion, le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD a pris note avec satisfaction des notes de cadrage élaborées par des Membres de la CMDD (COMPSUD, MIO-ECSDE, MEPIELAN) et le Secrétariat (CAR/CPD), figurant dans le document UNEP/MED WG.469/7, afin d'entreprendre quatre initiatives phares de la SMDD. Le fait que les Membres de la CMDD aient rédigé ces notes de cadrage représente un signal positif, démontrant que la mise en œuvre de la SMDD constitue un processus collectif.

33. Le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD a rappelé la nécessité de mobiliser davantage d'efforts afin d'entreprendre les deux initiatives phares qui n'ont pas encore été lancées, à savoir : i) l'intégration des principes de durabilité dans les marchés publics aux échelles nationale et locale ; et ii) la mise en place d'un système d'information intégré pour les pays méditerranéens, accessible au public, à travers un triumvirat de représentants d'administrations nationales, d'institutions internationales et du secteur privé pour rassembler et diffuser de façon transparente des informations sur l'état de l'environnement.

V. Deuxième édition du Prix Istanbul pour les villes respectueuses de l'environnement (2018-2019)

34. En application de la décision IG.22/19 adoptée à la COP 19, le Prix Istanbul pour les villes respectueuses de l'environnement donne suite à l'une des initiatives phares de l'Objectif 3 de la SMDD. La première édition du Prix a été remise à l'occasion de la session ministérielle de la

vingtième réunion des Parties contractantes et la deuxième édition (2018-2019) a été inscrite dans le programme de travail et le budget du PNUE/PAM pour 2018-2019 (décision IG.23/14).

35. Conformément aux conclusions de la 83^{ème} Réunion du Bureau des Parties contractantes (Tirana, Albanie, 25-26 octobre 2016) et à la suite d'observations formulées par trois éminents experts indépendants qui ont appuyé la première édition, le Secrétariat a révisé la méthodologie du Prix, sur la base des enseignements tirés de la première édition.

36. Étant donné que des indicateurs opérationnels et mesurables étaient nécessaires pour une évaluation plus fiable des candidatures et une amélioration de la procédure de nomination et de sélection en général, l'Initiative internationale pour un environnement bâti durable – Italie⁵, le projet CESBA⁶ MED⁷ et MED CITIES ont apporté un appui au Secrétariat, sur une base volontaire, afin de mettre à jour la méthodologie du Prix, d'examiner le cadre d'évaluation des indicateurs (formulaire de candidature) et de fournir des méthodes de calcul des indicateurs quantitatifs (directives).

37. À sa 20^{ème} Réunion, le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD a débattu des moyens d'améliorer l'efficacité du Prix, visant à inciter les villes côtières méditerranéennes à mettre en œuvre un développement durable au niveau municipal. Le Comité a encouragé le Secrétariat à développer les éléments de communication dans la mesure où le Prix contribue à faire mieux connaître le système du PAM et à atteindre les autorités locales. Le Comité a également débattu du nom du Prix, considérant que la référence à Istanbul pouvait prêter à confusion pour les parties prenantes extérieures au système du PAM, et recommandé de donner une visibilité adéquate à l'ensemble des villes présélectionnées afin de reconnaître leurs efforts.

VI. Outil de communication des informations visant à assurer le suivi de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD

38. À leur 17^{ème} Réunion, « les membres de la CMDD ont convenu d'apporter des contributions en fonction de leurs responsabilités et domaines d'expertise pour la réalisation du Plan de mise en œuvre et de suivi de la SMDD 2016-2025, notamment en ce qui concerne l'état d'avancement, afin de permettre à tous les membres de la Commission et au secrétariat de disposer d'un état des lieux le plus complet possible. À cette fin, le secrétariat transmettra un document ou un tableau aux membres de la CMDD, dans lequel ils consigneront les activités pertinentes qu'ils entreprennent ».

39. Un tel tableau a été soumis et examiné aux 19^{ème} et 20^{ème} Réunions du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD, qui a pris note de cet outil de communication des informations visant à appuyer le suivi de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD, en particulier pour recenser les lacunes et les domaines dans lesquels des efforts supplémentaires sont nécessaires. Ce tableau/outil met également en évidence le fait que la mise en œuvre de la SMDD constitue une démarche collective de l'ensemble des parties prenantes et partenaires méditerranéens, qui dépasse largement les responsabilités du Secrétariat.

40. Le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD a proposé de tester l'outil de communication des informations avant la 18^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD et encouragé les Membres de la CMDD à faire rapport sur leurs activités respectives contribuant à la mise en œuvre de la SMDD. Le tableau complété par les Membres de la CMDD, les Partenaires du PAM, d'autres acteurs et le Secrétariat figure en annexe II. L'outil de communication des informations devrait être révisé par le Secrétariat et ensuite utilisé dans le cadre de l'évaluation à mi-parcours de la SMDD en 2020-2021.

⁵ <http://www.iisbe.org/>

⁶ <https://www.cesba.eu/>

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

VII. Partenariats et sensibilisation : coopération et communication

41. Sont présentées ci-après les principales activités de partenariat/coopération et de sensibilisation/communication en lien avec les travaux de la CMDD. Les événements sont énumérés par ordre chronologique, en commençant par le plus récent.
42. Le secrétariat s'est associé au Ministère hellénique de l'environnement et de l'énergie pour organiser, en coopération avec la France et le Monténégro, une manifestation parallèle lors du Forum régional 2019 pour le développement durable dans la région de la CEE-ONU (Genève, Suisse, 21-22 mars 2019). Intitulée « Mécanismes d'examen volontaire par les pairs et développement durable en Méditerranée », cette manifestation parallèle visait à : i) montrer les analogies entre les mécanismes mondiaux à l'appui du développement durable en place dans la région méditerranéenne ; et ii) présenter des témoignages de la France, de la Grèce et du Monténégro sur les activités d'apprentissage par les pairs dans le contexte de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030.
43. Le Secrétariat (Unité de coordination et Plan Bleu) s'est associé au secrétariat de l'Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM) et au Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF) pour organiser une manifestation parallèle lors de la Conférence sur l'économie bleue durable (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 novembre 2018). Intitulée « La dimension régionale d'une économie bleue durable et inclusive : le modèle de la Méditerranée », cette manifestation parallèle a été une excellente occasion de promouvoir les travaux de la CMDD.
44. Le Secrétariat a contribué au Forum du poisson FAO-CGPM (10-14 décembre 2018) et à la 42^{ème} session de la CGPM (22 au 26 octobre 2018), qui se sont tenus à Rome.
45. Le Secrétariat a poursuivi sa coopération avec l'UpM dans le contexte : i) de l'initiative BLUEMED en vue d'un programme de recherches marines actualisé pour la Méditerranée ; ii) de l'Initiative pour le développement durable de l'économie bleue en Méditerranée occidentale ; et iii) des réunions du groupe d'experts sur les changements climatiques de l'UpM.
46. Le Secrétariat a participé à l'élaboration de la contribution du PNUE au rapport du Secrétaire général de l'ONU intitulé « Vers un pacte mondial pour l'environnement – Lacunes du droit international de l'environnement et des textes relatifs à l'environnement ».
47. Le Secrétariat a contribué à la participation du PNUE à des processus mondiaux, notamment le « Mécanisme de notification et d'évaluation systématiques à l'échelle mondiale de l'état du milieu marin, y compris les aspects socioéconomiques », le processus relatif à un instrument international juridiquement contraignant se rapportant à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer et portant sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité marine des zones ne relevant pas de la juridiction nationale, ainsi que le processus relatif à la gouvernance des océans en Afrique.
48. Le Secrétariat a diffusé des éléments de communication contribuant à la visibilité de la CMDD/SMDD, notamment une série de fiches d'information disponibles en ligne et portant sur les initiatives phares de la SMDD (voir le document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.7).
49. Outre les réunions susmentionnées, le Secrétariat a participé à la mise en œuvre et à la promotion de la SMDD et des travaux de la CMDD dans le cadre des manifestations ci-après :
- Le Forum arabe pour le développement durable 2019 organisé par la Commission économique et sociale des Nations Unies pour l'Asie occidentale (Beyrouth, Liban, 9-11 avril 2019) ;
 - La Conférence annuelle du Forum arabe pour l'environnement et le développement (Beyrouth, Liban, 8-9 novembre 2018) ;

- L'Atelier régional pour la Méditerranée de l'Initiative pour des océans durables, organisé par le secrétariat de la CDB (Tanger, Maroc, 15-19 octobre 2018) ;
- Le deuxième Sommet de la durabilité pour l'Europe du sud-est et la Méditerranée, une manifestation de haut niveau organisée par *The Economist* et le Center for SDGs Governance and Public Law (Centre de gouvernance et de droit public des ODD) (Athènes, Grèce, 1-2 octobre 2018), au cours duquel le Coordonnateur a prononcé une déclaration sur la durabilité environnementale et la gouvernance régionale ;
- Le Forum Eco City 2018 « L'économie circulaire dans les villes intelligentes » (Thessalonique, Grèce, 3-5 octobre 2018), au cours duquel le Coordonnateur a prononcé un message vidéo axé sur les ODD 11 et 12 ;
- La Journée de la côte méditerranéenne et le quarantième anniversaire du CAR/PAP, célébrés en marge de la réunion annuelle de coordination des mers régionales (Split, Croatie, 23-25 septembre 2018) ;
- L'Assemblée générale de la Commission inter-méditerranéenne de la Conférence des régions périphériques maritimes (Patras, Grèce, 28-29 juin 2018) ;
- La Conférence de l'UpM sur l'économie bleue (Naples, Italie, 29-30 novembre 2017), avec un atelier spécifique organisé par le Secrétariat ;
- L'atelier HELCOM (Commission pour la protection du milieu marin de la mer Baltique – Commission Helsinki) sur les analyses économiques et sociales (Riga, Lettonie, 1^{er} novembre 2017).

Annexe I

**Programme de travail mis à jour du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD pour l'exercice biennal 2018-2019
(tel que validé par la 20^e Réunion du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD)**

Annexe I: Programme de travail mis à jour du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD pour l'exercice biennal 2018-2019

Période	Activité	Responsable	Principaux contributeurs ou examinateurs
Septembre-octobre 2018	Les Membres du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD font des observations et donnent des orientations sur l'actualisation du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité	Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) en coopération avec le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
Novembre-décembre 2018	Préparation de la 20 ^e Réunion du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD	Secrétariat, en étroite coopération avec la Présidente de la CMDD	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
Janvier 2019	20 ^e Réunion du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD Les membres du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD discutent à leur 20 ^e Réunion du (i) projet de tableau de bord renseigné et des fiches d'information correspondantes, et de (ii) la mise à jour du tableau de bord Révision de la méthodologie du SIMPEER tenant compte des recommandations de la 17 ^e Réunion de la CMDD et des idées exprimées lors des Réunions du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD	Présidente de la CMDD, avec l'appui du Comité de pilotage et du Secrétariat Comité de pilotage de la CMDD Secrétariat (Plan Bleu)	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
Février 2019	Suivi de la 20 ^e Réunion du Comité de pilotage de la CMDD	Secrétariat, Plan Bleu	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
March 2019	Le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD participe à la 3 ^e Réunion du Comité de pilotage du RED 2019	Secrétariat, Plan Bleu	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
Février-avril 2019	Publication relative à l'expérience et aux résultats de l'édition pilote du SIMPEER Élaboration des rapports nationaux du SIMPEER et des missions dans les pays	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD Secrétariat (Plan Bleu)	Parties contractantes volontaires Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
Avril 2019	Tableau de bord mis à jour, tableau de bord renseigné et fiches analytiques, ainsi que des recommandations pour améliorer le processus en fonction des difficultés rencontrées et des enseignements tirés, transmis aux Membres de la CMDD pour examen et commentaires au cours des débats lors de leur 18 ^e réunion. Le projet de rapport final de la deuxième édition du SIMPEER est	Secrétariat (Plan Bleu) Secrétariat (Plan Bleu)	CMDD CMDD

Période	Activité	Responsable	Principaux contributeurs ou examinateurs
	soumis aux Membres de la CMDD pour discussion à la 18 ^e Réunion de la CMDD		
Avril-juin 2019	Les Membres de la CMDD font des observations sur la première version du RED 2019 et le projet de Feuille de route pour la deuxième phase de MED 2050	Secrétariat (Plan Bleu), en coopération avec le Comité de pilotage de la CMDD	CMDD
Juin 2019	Réunion d'examen par les pairs rassemblant les Parties contractantes volontaires 18 ^e Réunion de la CMDD. Les Membres de la CMDD discutent du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité renseigné, de la première version du RED 2019, de la Feuille de route pour la deuxième phase de MED 2050, du projet de rapport final de la deuxième édition du SIMPEER et du premier rapport d'évaluation scientifique du MedECC sur les changements climatiques et environnementaux en Méditerranée	Secrétariat (Plan Bleu), Comité de pilotage de la CMDD Secrétariat (Plan Bleu), Comité de pilotage de la CMDD, Monténégro (pays hôte)	Parties contractantes volontaires, Comité de pilotage de la CMDD CMDD
Juin-juillet 2019	La Présidente de la CMDD contribue au projet de décision lié au travail de la CMDD ainsi qu'à la mise en œuvre et au suivi de la SMDD, y compris l'évaluation à moyen terme de la CMDD, à soumettre aux Points Focaux du PAM, puis à la COP 21 Le rapport final de la deuxième édition du SIMPEER est soumis aux Points Focaux du PAM en tant que document d'information	Présidente de la CMDD Secrétariat (Plan Bleu)	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD, Secrétariat Comité de pilotage de la CMDD et Parties contractantes volontaires
Juillet-août 2019	Préparation de la contribution de la CMDD à la Réunion des Points Focaux du PAM	Présidente de la CMDD	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD, Secrétariat
Septembre 2019	La Présidente de la CMDD présente les résultats de la 18 ^e Réunion de la CMDD aux Points Focaux	Présidente de la CMDD	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD, Secrétariat
Octobre-novembre 2019	Publication du Rapport final de la deuxième édition du SIMPEER	Secrétariat (Plan Bleu)	Parties contractantes volontaires, Comité de pilotage de la CMDD
Décembre 2019	La Présidente de la CMDD présente les recommandations de la CMDD aux Parties contractantes à la COP 21	Présidente de la CMDD	Comité de pilotage de la CMDD, Secrétariat

Annexe II
(en anglais)

Outil de rapportage de la SMDD - Priorités aux Cibles et Initiatives phares (avril 2019)

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="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas</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>From SPA/RAC: 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 km² 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 FAO-GFCM in 2020.</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas</p>	<p>From SPA/RAC: 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"> • 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>); • Kuriat Islands implemented through the Tunisian governmental agency Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral / APAL) and the Tunisian NGO Notre Grand Bleu;

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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><u>See factsheet available online (2018)</u></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>From SPA/RAC: 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>SAP BIO Priority Action 1 – Undertake a complete and integrated inventory (by sub-region) of sensitive Mediterranean coastal, wetland, and marine habitats:</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 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</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>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>SAP BIO Priority Action 2 – Establish of a monitoring system of endangered and threatened species:</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 scope of ACCOBAMS.</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>SAP BIO Priority Action 5 – Update, coordinate and enforce legislation to conserve biodiversity:</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>SAP BIO Priority Action 6 – Develop actions to conserve threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) Mediterranean species:</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 conservation and other countries are using their national strategy and relevant list of sites to be considered in the future. National</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<p>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>From IUCN Med: 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 (https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean/our-work/mediterranean-species-programme/species-conservation/strategies-action-plans). 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>From IUCN Med: 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><u>See factsheet available online (2018)</u></p>
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	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>From MED CITIES: 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>From SCP/RAC: 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: https://www.theswitchers.eu/en/activity/environment/</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 20th Meeting, the MCS D 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 MCS D Steering Committee also suggested to give adequate visibility to all short-listed cities as an acknowledgement to their efforts.</p> <p>See factsheet available online (2018)</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>From MED CITIES: 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 17th 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: www.medurbantools.com.</p> <p><u>See factsheet available online (2018)</u></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>Draft Concept Note prepared by COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE, reviewed by the President of the MCSD, and discussed at the 20th 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>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” (www.medecc.org). 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>See factsheet available online (2019)</u></p>
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Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	Target: By 2025, the majority of Mediterranean countries are committed to green or sustainable public procurement programmes	
	Flagship Initiative: Create and promote a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation	<p>Draft Concept Note prepared by the Secretariat (SCP/RAC), reviewed by the President of the MCSD, and discussed at the 20th 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	Target: By 2025, two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded to the Aarhus Convention	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).
	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>Draft Concept Note prepared by COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE, reviewed by the President of the MCSD, MEPIELAN and the Aarhus Convention Secretariat, and discussed at the 20th 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>Draft Concept Note prepared by MEPIELAN, 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 20th 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>From MIO-ECSDE – Update on progress (01 July 2017 – 30 November 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • September – November 2017: Five “<u>Training of trainers</u>” 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. • 22-24 November 2017: The “<u>1st Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee/Regional Training on ESD</u>” 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: http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=8&aID=1165&ereg= • January 2018 – April 2018: A targeted factsheet on the MSESD was produced by the MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE, showcasing the MSESD as integral part of the MSSD.

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2018 – November 2018: Efforts for MSED 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 MSED 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.). <p>See factsheet available online (2018)</p>