



UNITED  
NATIONS

**EP**

UNEP/MED WG.469/8



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

10 May 2019  
Original: English

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

Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019

**Agenda item 5: MSSD Follow-up – Good Practices, Exchange of Experiences and Challenges**

**Draft Roadmap of the MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)**

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

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2019



**Draft Roadmap of the MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)**

**I. Background and Context**

1. MSSD Regional Action 7.2.4 recommends to “Undertake a participatory mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 based on the first 5 years of data regarding its implementation, using indicators associated with the actions, as well as the proposed dashboard of Sustainability Indicators”. Results of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be submitted to COP 22 in 2021, providing an opportunity to make the MSSD implementation, at its second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.
2. As per Decision IG.22/5 “Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean” (SCP AP), the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP AP is also expected to be undertaken in 2020-2021. Since SCP is one of the three cross-cutting themes of the MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021, the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP AP should feed the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027. This evaluation will highlight the main developments related to SCP in the four key economic sectors covered by the action plan: Food, Fisheries and Agriculture; Tourism; Goods Manufacturing; Housing and Building.
3. The timing of the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations is in-line with the cycle of the MTS 2016-2021. These processes shall mutually inform each other, as indicated in Table 1 below; preparation of the MTS 2022-2027 should benefit from the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations. MTS, MSSD and SCP AP processes shall go in parallel following a transversal approach. The use of common methods/tools should be encouraged as much as possible to support this transversal approach.

*Table 1: Indicative timeline of MTS, MSSD and SCP AP processes*

<b>COP</b>	<b>MTS process</b>	<b>MSSD process</b>	<b>SCP AP process</b>
COP 21 (end of biennium 2018-2019)	To launch the MTS 2016-2021 Evaluation and Review	To launch the MSSD mid-term evaluation (5 years of data - period 2016-2020)	To launch the indicator-based mid-term evaluation
COP 22 (end of biennium 2020-2021)	To adopt MTS 2022-2027	To approve the MSSD mid-term evaluation	To approve the indicator-based mid-term evaluation

4. At its 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties requested “the Secretariat to prepare, in due time, a draft thematic decision, including a dedicated roadmap, related to the processes of the MSSD mid-term evaluation and the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan, and to submit it to the next meeting of the MAP Focal Points for consideration and further submission to COP 21”.
5. The Secretariat will ensure consistency between the respective roadmaps of the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations that shall be undertaken by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, in close cooperation with the MCSD and the Focal Points of these two Regional Activity Centres. The MCSD, through its Steering Committee, is expected to have a leading role for the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation, while the SCP AP mid-term evaluation, as an indicators-based exercise, should be a straighter forward endeavor steered by the Secretariat (SCP/RAC).
6. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019), the MCSD Steering Committee recommended that the MSSD mid-term evaluation informs on the progress and gaps regarding the strategy’s implementation and the state of the sustainability in the Mediterranean. The effectiveness of the MSSD should be assessed at a later stage during the MSSD Review Process in 2024-2025.

7. The MSSD mid-term evaluation should be an open, participatory process and the result of collective efforts, combining both internal and external expertise, including both desktop analysis and stakeholder consultations. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended to use existing/well-known methodologies for this kind of assessments and to base the “self-assessment” component of the MSSD mid-term evaluation on MAP bodies’ and partners’ consultations, through interviews and workshops, and to use relevant communication channels within the MAP system.

8. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee agreed that the MSSD mid-term evaluation should be also based on quantitative and qualitative criteria, taking advantage *inter alia* of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Assessment Studies (SoED 2019, MED2050), capitalizing on the implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives, and collecting inputs from MCSD Members, MAP Partners, MAP Components, and other relevant stakeholders.

9. Finally, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended to the Contracting Parties, MAP Focal Points and the Secretariat to allocate the necessary resources for the evaluation of MAP Regional Strategies in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021.

## II. Elements of Terms of Reference and Draft Roadmap

10. The MSSD mid-term evaluation will be based on the following principles and requirements:

- The mid-term evaluation is an opportunity to make the MSSD implementation, at its second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.
- The MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations will inform the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, the three processes being expected to go in parallel following a transversal approach based on common methods/tools.
- The MCSD, through its Steering Committee, will have a leading role for the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation.
- The MSSD mid-term evaluation should be an open, participatory process and the result of collective efforts, combining both internal and external expertise, including both desktop analysis and stakeholder consultations.
- The “self-assessment” component of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be based on MAP bodies’ and partners’ consultations.
- The MSSD mid-term evaluation will be based on quantitative and qualitative criteria, taking advantage *inter alia* of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Assessment Studies, capitalizing on the implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives, and collecting inputs from MCSD Members, MAP Partners, MAP Components, and other relevant stakeholders.
- The results of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be submitted to COP 22 in 2021.

11. The draft Roadmap of the MSSD mid-term evaluation includes the following phases:

- ***Phase 1 (Q1 – Q3 2020): Prepare and launch the process***
  - a. Define the organizational structure for the management of the evaluation;
  - b. Collect internal knowledge, raw materials, and evidence on the MSSD implementation within the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, including best available practices and experiences, as well as obstacles encountered;
  - c. Mobilize independent experts for carrying out the external evaluation;
  - d. Set-up an online platform to support consultations of MAP bodies and partners;

- e. Draft a consultation document based on a desktop analysis identifying successes, good practices and challenges, as well as on the results of the external evaluation.

- ***Phase 2 (Q4 2020 – Q1 2021): Conduct the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation***

- a. Define consultative expert groups and draft their terms of reference, considering the six MSSD Objectives and the two levels of implementation, i.e. regional and national;
- b. Identify chairs/leaders of the expert groups;
- c. Mobilizing participants in the expert groups, in particular from relevant MAP bodies;
- d. Launch the stakeholder consultation, online (teleconferences, questionnaires) and face-to-face (workshops), based on the consultation document;
- e. Consolidate the results of the consultations and draft the final report.

***12. Phase 3 (Q2 – Q4 2021): Finalization and submission for approval***

- a. Consultation of the MCSD and its Steering Committee on the draft final report of the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation;
- b. Launch an internal review within the MCSD Steering Committee and the Secretariat, involving all MAP Components;
- c. Submission for various stages of approval: MAP Focal Points and MCSD Meetings, COP 22.