



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

10 May 2019
Original: English

18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019

Agenda item 7: Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System

Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System

Note by the Secretariat

Opening perspectives for the work of the MCSD in 2020-2021, the present document aims at facilitating discussions within the MCSD on integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System. It includes the following sections:

- (a) Review of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2020-2021: Based on the rationale and presentation of the draft PoW for 2020-2021, the 18th Meeting of the MCSD is expected to produce opinions on the overall PoW, with the aim of integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention system.
- (b) Consultation on the draft Ministerial Declaration of COP 21: The 18th Meeting of the MCSD is expected to facilitate the identification of issues of relevance to the Ministerial Session/Declaration of COP 21. The MCSD Members are invited to provide advice on the priority areas and key issues (i.e. Marine Litter; MPAs and Biodiversity; Climate Change; Blue Economy, with a possible focus on ICZM/MSP and sustainable tourism), including the way forward in terms of possible commitments and outreach. MCSD advice shall help the Secretariat to trigger the Ministerial-level discussions, identifying main items and key elements for the Ministerial Declaration; and,
- (c) Inputs on the definition of priority areas and key issues, both existing and emerging, as well as sectoral and transversal, that could be better covered by the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, the MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 and other regional processes. Aiming at supporting the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, the 18th Meeting of the MCSD is finally invited to address the following questions:
 - What are the priorities for the future of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system from the MCSD perspective?
 - What is/are the strategic message/s that the MCSD addresses to COP 21?

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.

Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System

1. This document aims at facilitating discussions within the MCSDD on integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System, including:

(a) Review of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021;

(b) Consultation on the draft Ministerial Declaration of COP 21; and,

(c) Inputs on the definition of priority areas and key issues, both existing and emerging, as well as sectoral and transversal, that could be better covered by the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, the MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 and other regional processes.

A. Review of the Draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021

2. The UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) mandated the Secretariat to prepare a simplified and strategic results-based PoW for 2020-2021, ensuring coherence and continuity with the results achieved during the previous biennia to deliver the MTS by 2021.

3. The draft PoW for 2020-2021 aims at strengthening the contribution of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, as a unique legally-binding regional MEA and an effective collaboration framework gathering Mediterranean coastal States and the EU in partnership with other actors, including civil society, for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal area to achieve their Good Environmental Status (GES) and sustainable development in the framework of the MSSD.

4. The draft PoW for 2020-2021 is built around 40 strategic outcomes and 70 key outputs to be delivered through the implementation of 144 main activities, distributed over the overarching theme (Governance: 45 activities), three core themes (Land and Sea-based Pollution, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Land and Sea Interaction and Processes: 33, 24 and 12 activities respectively) and three cross-cutting themes (Integrated Coastal Zone Management/ICZM, Sustainable Consumption and Production/SCP, Climate Change Adaptation: 8, 11 and 11 activities respectively). To measure the progress and results, a set of 53 Indicators and corresponding Targets are proposed.

5. **Overarching Theme – Governance** (MSSD Objectives 1, 2, and 6; SDGs 16 and 17): The envisaged activities are expected to promote and support the ratification process and achieve that all Protocols enter into force, as recommended by the MSSD Objective 1. The activities are also expected to contribute to an effective reporting and compliance mechanism, that will enable an in-depth analysis of the implementation of the regulatory framework of the Barcelona Convention. This is fully in line with MSSD Strategic Direction 1.1 “Strengthen implementation of and compliance with the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (...)”.

6. A key deliverable is the evaluation of the MTS 2016-2021 and the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027. This will be done through an inclusive, participatory, Contracting Parties’ driven process that will include a dedicated MAP Focal Points meeting at the first half of 2021.

7. Under the Governance Overarching Theme, there are specific outputs and envisaged activities directly linked to the MSSD implementation and monitoring. More specifically:

8. The preparation of three major policy documents such as the SAP BIO considering the Post- 2020 Biodiversity Agenda, the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (post-2021) and the MAP Data Management Policy are among the envisaged key policy instruments expected to define the way forward for the 10-15 forthcoming years. Envisaged Activity 1.1.2.7 “Formulate in coordination with regional bodies a Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO 2021-2035)” is particularly relevant to MSSD Objective 2 and SDGs 13 and 14. The objective is to prepare SAP BIO 2021-2035, aligned with relevant SDGs, harmonized with the Global CBD Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, and taking into account EcAp/IMAP process, SoED 2019 recommendations, and other regional and global processes. In line with MSSD Objective 1 and SDG 14, envisaged Activity 1.1.2.8 “Develop/update Regional Strategies/Action Plans addressing sea-based pollution” aims at updating the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan to further integrate GES and related Ecological Objectives and streamline ICZM provisions and relevant SDGs.

9. As recommended by MSSD Objective 1, the further implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap is envisaged through several policies and strategies’ development, including the coordinated Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and the execution of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) Roadmap.

10. Indicative output 1.3.3 “MSSD implementation set in motion through actions on visibility, capacity building, and the preparation of guidelines to assist countries adapt the Strategy to their national contexts” focuses on the third edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER).

11. Indicative output 1.4.1 “Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach and published, addressing *inter alia* status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development, as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run” focuses on the continuation of MAP assessment work, including climate change-related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine and coastal zone, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production. Assessment work will benefit of indicative outputs 1.4.2. “MSSD implementation monitored, as appropriate and evaluated, as appropriate on periodic basis through the agreed set of indicators in line with SDG and the sustainability dashboard” and 1.4.4. “Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific institutions, knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications”. With regards to knowledge management, the draft PoW reflects the intention to reinforce the role of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system in assessment work in the region, and its contribution to global assessment processes in the framework of UN Environment. That includes actions defined in the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, the coordinated implementation of IMAP at regional, sub-regional and national level, thematic products building on the findings of the SoED 2019 for outreach, and MED2050 Phase II. Information and communication technology tools are expected to be delivered on processing, circulating and sharing information, knowledge and tools, with the aim to improve the level of environmental information reaching decision-makers and the public.

12. The draft PoW plans the execution and progress review of MAP projects with external funding, with the initiation of six child projects in the framework of the GEF-funded MedProgramme. Another important dimension of the draft PoW is the strengthening of partnerships with regional and global actors

to maximize synergies, as well as the strengthening of participation and engagement of the civil society, including on dealing with specific challenges, e.g. marine litter, climate change.

13. The draft PoW also includes activities aiming to strengthen collaborations and promote educational programmes in cooperation with academic institutions, echoing provisions of MSSD Objective 6 and SDG 4.

14. The draft PoW envisages activities to enhance awareness and the MAP – Barcelona Convention system’s visibility and impact, through the implementation and update of the MAP Operational Communication Strategy and contribution to national, regional and global events. That will respond to the need – expressed by the MCSD Steering Committee at its 20th meeting – for long term support to the communication of the work of the MCSD.

15. **Core Theme – Land and Sea Based Pollution** (MSSD Objectives 1 and 2; SDGs 12 and 14): The main objective of the draft PoW for this core theme is to support the continued implementation of the updated National Action Plans (NAPs) (LBS Protocol, 1996), Regional Plans on Marine Litter, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and Mercury, Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and SCP AP. It also aims to develop or update key pollution-related Regional Plans and Protocol Annexes, and to further implement IMAP for pollution and marine litter cluster. Efforts will be made at identifying emerging issues of particular relevance to the Mediterranean region (e.g. under-water noise, e-waste, etc.) that require responses to be developed for the MTS 2022-2027.

16. In line with MSSD Objective 5 and SDG 12, Activity 2.3.3.1 envisages to “support the establishment of regulatory and economic measures related to the implementation of SCP/circular economy”. Under this activity, the Secretariat plans to support, at the national level in two countries, circular economy measures in key sectors of the SCP Regional Action Plan, in particular in the food and agriculture sector with a specific focus on the role of biowaste. In addition, envisaged Activity 2.5.1.3 aims at developing training programmes around key SCP and circular economy themes.

17. **Core Theme – Biodiversity and Ecosystems** (MSSD Objective 2; SDGs 14 and 15): The main objective of the draft PoW for this core theme is to strengthen the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol, 1995) and its related Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO, 2003), including the updating/development of biodiversity related National Action Plans (NAPs) to achieve GES. It also aims to support the active implementation the Regional Action Plans and Strategies for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and their habitats. Envisaged activities under Key outputs 3.1.1 “A comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean set up and implemented” and 3.2.2 “Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species, key habitats, for non-indigenous species” echo MSSD Strategic Directions 2.1 and 2.3. This is complemented with envisaged activities aiming to provide support towards national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures, including capacity building and awareness raising programmes.

18. **Core Theme – Land and Sea Interactions and Processes** (MSSD Objectives 1 and 2; SDGs 14 and 15): The main objective of the draft PoW for this core theme is to facilitate the understanding of the

land and sea interactions, reduce pressures on the coastal and marine ecosystems, and implement concrete projects with a view to proposing adequate prevention, conservation and/or recovery measures. In addition of supporting implementation of Coastal Area Management Plan (CAMP) projects that represents the core activity under this core theme, proposed activities envisage *inter alia* to assess socioeconomic aspects of land-sea interactions and to identify ways to foster blue economy in support of SDG 14 implementation in the Mediterranean. In line with MSSD Strategic Direction 1.2, envisaged activities also aim to further promote and support region-wide coherent implementation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), including the development of management plans in Contracting Parties' coastal areas.

19. **Cross Cutting Theme – ICZM** (MSSD Objectives 1 and 3; SDGs 9, 11, 14 and 15): The main objective of the draft PoW for this cross-cutting theme is to contribute to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Common Regional Framework (expected to be adopted by COP 21). The proposed activities will also contribute to the implementation of IMAP regarding the coast-related ecological objectives. Proposed activities envisage *inter alia* to support the preparation and adoption of national ICZM strategies and plans.

20. **Cross Cutting Theme – SCP** (MSSD Objective 5; SDG 12): The main objective of the draft PoW for this cross-cutting theme is to facilitate the implementation of the SCP AP activities, focusing on the four major areas that have been selected according to their relevance with the LBS, Hazardous Waste and ICZM Protocols and to their contribution as main source of pollution in the marine and coastal areas: i.e. food, fisheries and agriculture; goods manufacturing; tourism; and, housing and construction. Proposed activities are fully in line with MSSD Objective 5 and include: Supporting the development of National SCP/Circular Economy Action Plans in several Contracting Parties; Conducting the mid-term evaluation of the SCP AP; Developing and implementing SCP pilots, for the identification of circular economy opportunities with a particular focus on food and textile sectors; Populating the set of SCP indicators in line with the Decision IG.23/4 adopted by COP 20; Supporting the assessment of environmental, and socio-economic performance of green entrepreneurs and circular business and the development of key measures and supporting structures, such as label/standard schemes; Building capacities of green entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs as SCP drivers, through targeted trainings and tools and supporting their access to finance; Scaling up SCP solutions in the Mediterranean by increasing visibility of sustainable products and services, providing coaching, and supporting open innovation and matchmaking platforms; Further developing SCP networks and alliances for exchange of knowledge and dissemination of best practices.

21. **Cross Cutting Theme – Climate Change Adaptation** (MSSD Objective 4; SDG 13): The main objective of the draft PoW for this cross-cutting theme is to contribute to strengthening the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socio-economic systems to climate change by mainstreaming relevant considerations into the implementation of existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures and support the implementation of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean. Proposed activities are fully in line with MSSD Objective 4 and include *inter alia*: Identifying and promoting efficient climate change adaptation measures; Supporting the preparation of national climate change adaptation strategies and the integration of biodiversity conservation elements and nature-based solutions in several Contracting Parties; Streamlining climate change adaptation elements into national coastal zone management strategies and plans; Assessing and promoting alternative renewable marine energies (i.e. wind power, tidal energy) in the Mediterranean; Populating and

disseminating indicators of climate change impacts on biodiversity and natural resources, also addressing socio-economic trends; Promoting knowledge, awareness and stakeholders' engagement on climate change, through case studies, guidance, tools and sharing of best practices and lessons learnt.

B. Consultation on the Draft Ministerial Declaration of COP 21

22. The preparation of the Ministerial Session and Declaration of COP 21 towards strategic guidance for the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027 should take into account the global context of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs, CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, Paris Agreement, and UNEA resolutions. More specifically, it is expected that the Ministerial Session and Declaration of COP 21 focuses on the following priority areas and key issues: Marine Litter; MPAs and Biodiversity; Climate Change; Blue Economy, with a possible focus on ICZM/MSP and sustainable tourism.

23. The draft Ministerial Declaration will be prepared under the guidance of the Bureau and through an inclusive, transparent and participatory process in which the involvement of MCSD Members and MAP Partners shall be sought.

C. Consultation on Priority Areas and Key Issues

24. The preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, to be undertaken in 2020-2021, represents a unique opportunity for the MCSD to raise the attention of the Contracting Parties to issues that should be better addressed by the MAP – Barcelona Convention system.

25. At its 20th Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended to take advantage of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD for providing inputs on the definition of priority issues and key areas that would be reflected in the MTS 2022-2027 and other MAP regional processes.