



Report of
the National Focal Points Meeting
of Plan Bleu / Regional Activity Centre

Nice, France, 25 & 26 April 2017

Report of the National Focal Points meeting of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center, April 2017

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Report of the National Focal Points meeting of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center, April 2017

Venue and participation

The National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting of Plan Bleu / Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC) was organised in the Hotel Aston La Scala in Nice, France, on 25-26 April 2017.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Tunisia. In addition, some experts as well attended the meeting. The list of participants is provided in Annex 1.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Ms. Tatjana Hema (UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator) and Mr. Thierry Lavoux (Plan Bleu President). Ms. Tatjana Hema reminded the objectives of the meeting and Mr. Thierry Lavoux presented the structure and the specificities of Plan Bleu as a UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre and as a French NGO supported by the Government of France and especially the Ministry of the Environment (MEEM).

The objectives of the meeting were to present and discuss the status of implementation of BP/RAC activities 2016-2017 and the proposal of the Programme of Work for 2018-2019.

Agenda item 2: Organization of the meeting

Following consultations and as proposed by the Secretariat, the Meeting elected the following officers:

- Chair: Mr. Charles-Henri De Barsac (France)
- Vice Chairs: Ms. Evangelia Stamouli (Greece) and Mr. Hamid Rhiouani (Morocco)
- Rapporteur: Ms. Marija Mijuskovic (Montenegro)

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud (Deputy Secretary General) presented the Provisional agenda of the Meeting, which was unanimously accepted (see Annex 2).

Agenda item 4: Progress report on Plan Bleu's activities 2016-2017

Overview of the activities 2016-2017

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud gave an overview of the Programme of Work and activities implemented in 2016-2017 (until March 2017). These activities are structured around three major functions:

1. Observing the environment and development to support decision-makers
2. Shaping possible futures for sustainable development
3. Monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

And 3 main issues:

4. Integrating climate change as a priority
5. Supporting the transition to a green and blue economy
6. Providing socio-economic insights for an appropriate management of Mediterranean resources

All the Plan Bleu activities, founded by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) or related to specific projects were shortly presented then detailed in the next sessions.

OBSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKERS

SoED 2019 – Towards a new report on environment and development in the Mediterranean

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud presented the rationale and a proposal for a detailed table of content of the State of the Environment and Development (SoED) 2019 based on the MSSD framework. He stressed on the relationships between this SoED 2019 and some reports, such as Quality Status report (QSR), State of the Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) and SEIS/H2020 assessment (Shared environment information system / Horizon 2020 initiative). SoED 2019 could be used as a knowledge basis for the MED 2050 exercise.

The Secretariat suggested that this meeting could help to brainstorm and provide some ideas on the structure of the SoED allowing Plan Bleu to be directly ready to start the work.

The participants recommended to think about a better interaction/coordination with the National Focal Points (NFPs), to integrate a multiscale aspect (regional, national and international) and launch a wider reflexion on the structure of the report not necessary based on the MSSD.

A suggestion was made to analyse what was good or negative in the previous report (SoED 2009), what type of information we would need/include in the report.

The meeting asked for a detailed calendar with the major steps and with the interactions with the countries (NFPs).

The participants recommended avoiding duplications of data collection for SoED 2019, MED 2050 and the monitoring of the MSSD implementation.

The Morocco representative stressed the need to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they are implemented in the countries.

The ENSSMAL representative asked for stronger focus on the land–sea interface elaborated in cooperation with the other RACs.

The Plan Bleu President concluded by underlining that the proposed table of content is still provisional and need to be improved/detailed using similar reports.

EcAp, Ecosystem Approach

Antoine Lafitte, ICZM & Sea Programme Officer, presented the Plan Bleu's contribution to the MAP Ecosystem Approach initiative (EcAp) and mainly the strengthening of the Science Policy Interface (SPI) via the organisation of several workshops gathering scientists and decision-makers. The last workshop on relevant spatial and temporal scales for monitoring for the EcAp Common Indicators and the QSR was organised back to back with this NFPs meeting on 27-28 April 2017.

SHAPING POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MED 2050 – Towards new foresight for the Mediterranean

Mr. Jacques Theys (Vice-President of the Plan Bleu Board) presented a first version of the MED 2050 roadmap taking into account the benchmark of similar studies/exercises with several options mainly based on the budget available for this activity. He reminded that the main objective of this new foresight exercise is to enlighten the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with some scenarios on the futures of the Mediterranean region, focusing of the risks and vulnerability of the marine and coastal areas in relation with the climate change.

The chair asked to focus the questions on the added value of such exercise in the Mediterranean region.

The ENSSMAL representative stressed on the capacity of the Mediterranean region to change and on the uncertainties, especially for the marine ecosystems.

The CIHEAM representative found the proposed options interesting. According to the CIHEAM experience in publishing future studies, he stated that the methods are essentials and that there is a need for a collective effort and a dialogue with many stakeholders.

The Eco-Union representative suggested using interactive tools, such as a platform accessible to everybody, in order to better communicate and to raise awareness of the actors about the future stakes.

The representative of Morocco stressed the importance of the linkages with the other activities (SoED 2019) and on the scale issues (national/regional).

The representative of Slovenia found essential to have national/local approaches built on existing partnerships and networks. He stressed the importance of the linkages with the other activities (SoED 2019) and of the scale issues (national/regional). An integrated synthesis taking into account social/cultural dimension is really needed.

The Secretariat reminded that this is the 3rd report and that it still depends on the resources. It is not easy to deliver such a report; we have to count on the existing, because we do not have enough time / resources to do otherwise. The report should be delivered by 2021. It is also an opportunity to make a midterm evaluation of the implementation of the MSSD.

The Chair asked for a concept note on the benchmark and on the foresight exercises.

The Plan Bleu representative answered that, whatever the option, some trends will be developed and extended beyond 2030. Plan Bleu will capitalise on existing works but wish to go further in providing some tools to define strategies. It is important to define some targets/objectives and to find the ways to reach them. It is really difficult to integrate the social/cultural dimension and the exercise could become too much complex. It will be also essential to strengthen the dialogue between the scientists and the socio-economic stakeholders. Regarding the uncertainties, it is important to imagine the potential ruptures to build hypothesis. It will be difficult to consider the heterogeneity of the Mediterranean countries or regions.

MONITORING THE DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) for National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD)

Mr. Julien Le Tellier (Sustainable Development Programme Officer) detailed this pilot activity, which involved three volunteer Contracting Parties: France, Montenegro, and Morocco. This peer review was implemented with the assistance of 2 senior experts and via specific country missions allowing to gather the national policymakers and relevant institutions in charge of the NSSD. A meeting gathering the three pilot countries will take place on 28th April in Nice to take stock of this successful activity.

The participants welcomed this activity as it allows evaluating the national sustainable development strategies of some Mediterranean countries and exchanging on the definition and the implementation of these national strategies.

The chair asked if a specific event or something else is planned to communicate about the SIMPEER mechanism.

The representative of Tunisia counted on this experience in these three pilot countries to improve the follow-up of the NSSD implementation and wished to apply the methodology in his country.

The Plan Bleu representative announced that a presentation of SIMPEER will be made at the next MCSD meeting in Athens. A side event of the next COP in Tirana could be proposed to present and discuss the results of SIMPEER.

Relaunch of "Tourism and Sustainability" activities

Mr. Julien Le Tellier presented the activities related to "Tourism and Sustainability" implemented in 2016-2017, such as a Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (Marseille, France, 23-24 May 2016) and the published documents. He also presented the draft of a new document named "Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean: State of Play and Strategic Directions" allowing to propose some specific actions towards a more sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean region.

The Secretariat reminded that the development of strategic directions for sustainable tourism was proposed by Plan Bleu and was very well welcomed by MAP CU and RACs. The report is very fine and it would be interesting to know how to integrate this activity in the MSSD. A discussion would be interesting to see how to use these Strategic Directions to tackle a cross-cutting issue and how other actors and RACs can provide inputs to support this activity.

The Chair stated that the ICZM framework is also relevant to integrate the sustainable tourism issue.

The Eco-Union representative stressed the importance of the social dimension and reminded that United Nations declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The representative of Croatia reminded that there are some historical reasons explaining why sustainable tourism was not integrated in SD policies. A reflexion is needed to avoid the rejection of the Strategic direction on sustainable tourism.

The representative of Morocco mentioned that tourism is an essential component of the NSSD.

The Secretariat reminded that Plan Bleu and MAP have been working on tourism for 30 years and stated that it is still relevant to work on tourism issue but some additional resources needed to be mobilized.

Indicators / Dashboard for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud presented the overall process towards a « Dashboard for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development » with the list of indicators, the factsheets developed for the available indicators. Mr. Rémy Ferrer presented the prototype of a new website focused on the « Observatory function » of Plan Bleu for the dissemination of indicators factsheets and related maps. The first list of indicators issued from several lists including SDGs was discussed at a first workshop held in March 2016. This list was then assessed and improved with the comments received at a second workshop held in October 2016 and with an online consultation of the MCSD Steering Committee members in February 2017.

The Secretariat thanked Plan Bleu for the work done on the development of the MSSD indicators and reminded that an agreement on the list is still needed. The idea is to have a discussion on the indicators issue and to get an approval of the list of indicators at the next MCSD meeting.

The Chair proposed to Plan Bleu to launch an online consultation of the NFPs on the list of indicators in the weeks after the meeting.

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

Towards implementation of one of the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives? (MedECC)

Mr. Julien Le Tellier presented the Mediterranean expert network on climate and environmental change (MedECC), which has a strong potential to correspond to the flagship initiative of the MSSD Objective 4. The aim of MedECC is to develop and publish a first Assessment report with an executive summary for decision-makers. This assessment could be an important input of the SoED 2019 and MED 2050 exercise. One challenge of this activity will be the strengthening of the dialogue between scientists and stakeholders.

Method for Assessing Coastal Risk at Different Scales for the Mediterranean

Mr. Antoine Lafitte presented the development of a Coastal Risk Index (in collaboration with the MedSea Foundation) allowing to determine the major Climate Change “Hot-Spots” and to better understand the underlying risks and to identify appropriate response measures. A Coastal Risk Index map for the whole Mediterranean coast has been established. This index has also been developed in some local areas, such as the French CAMP area (Département du Var).

Med-ESCWET: Economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands in the context of climate change in the Mediterranean

Ms. Nelly BOURLION, Biodiversity programme officer (on behalf of Ms. Céline Dubreuil, Water programme officer) provided a presentation of the Med-ESCWET project financed by the Mava Foundation and the Foundation Prince Albert II and implemented in collaboration with “la Tour du Valat”. The overall objective was “To promote the consideration of the role of climate buffer played by wetlands in the adaptation strategies to climate change in the Mediterranean”. This project was implemented in 4 wetlands areas and for 3 specific services.

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

Project "Towards an Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean"

Mr. Julien Le Tellier presented the Plan Bleu contribution to this DG MARE project with the aim to “Prepare a Maritime Initiative for the sustainable, blue development of the Western Mediterranean basin, and an action plan for its implementation”. In this project, Plan Bleu ensured the linkages with the MSSD 2016-2015 and mainly the Objectives 1 and 5.

The Secretariat mentioned that the involvement of Plan Bleu in the consortium is important for the links with MAP and MSSD. The idea is to avoid duplication and to join forces towards sustainable blue economy.

Some participants pointed out that there is a risk of confusion between this initiative and the processes already in place.

Supporting “a blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean” (green economy in a blue world)

Mr. Jean-Pierre GIRAUD provided a presentation about this project financed by the MAVA Foundation and gathering 3 UNEP/MAP RACs (Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and SCP/RAC). The role of Plan Bleu was mainly the project management and the monitoring of the “Blue Economy” in the Mediterranean, with an indicators core set which could complement the MSSD Indicators core set (mainly for the objectives 1 and 5). A conference organised in Marseilles in May 2017 will allow to present the results of the project and to propose some recommendations towards a more sustainable “Blue Economy” in the Mediterranean region.

The Plan Bleu Vice president mentioned that the « blue economy » we want to reach in the Mediterranean region is a clean and sustainable one. We have to avoid an « ocean based economy », referring to the over-exploitation of the oceans and seas, and happening worldwide. Blue economy contributes to green economy which contributes to Sustainable Development. All the contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention agreed on MSSD and are concerned by the blue economy. International agreements provide a framework to this objective on blue economy.

The Eco-Union representative stressed on the importance of the Blue Growth and the related pressures and challenges.

The ENSSMAL representative underlined the similarity between blue economy and climate change as they are transversal and complex issues and they need more solidarity between the Mediterranean countries.

ActionMed: Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes and Coordinated Programmes of Measures of marine environment

Mr. Antoine Lafitte, on behalf of Ms. Lina Tode (foresight studies and environmental economics programme officer), presented this DG Environment pilot project, whose overall aim was “to strengthen the regional integration of monitoring programmes of the marine environment and of programmes of measures to achieve GES in the Mediterranean”. The Plan Bleu was in charge of the socio-economic assessment of programmes of measures. The final report will be available soon after the EC validation.

The Secretariat reminded that ActionMed was implemented by several European institutions and that this project is linked to the work done within the MAP system. The socio-economic aspect needs to be strengthened. The Contracting Parties must be informed on this kind of initiative/project and in this context it is also the role of Plan Bleu.

Programme MED

Ms. Nelly BOURLION presented the Interreg Med projects (InnoBlueGrowth, BleuTourMed, PANACeA) on respectively: “Horizontal Communication and Capitalization project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level”, “Sustainable maritime and coastal tourism in the Mediterranean region” and “A regional initiative of streamlining management efforts in Protected Areas for enhanced protection in the Mediterranean Sea”. The major role of Plan Bleu in these projects is the capitalisation of the related projects outputs via the “community building” and communication to the decisions makers. The role of Plan Bleu is also to improve the communication via the presentation in some international events and the involvement of the South and East countries.

The ENSSMAL representative asked for a partner who would be involved for strengthening the North-South relations.

The Secretariat mentioned that the participation to this program could be viewed as an opportunity and it is important to coordinate better the participation of the UNEP MAP RACs to this kind of projects.

As MAP is working for the whole Mediterranean region, the Coordinating Unit will try to better integrate ineligible Mediterranean countries in the different projects.

The Plan Bleu representative answered that there are some associated partners involved in the production of the outputs

PROVIDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS FOR THE APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN RESOURCES

“Optimising the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change” and “Cooperation framework for Mediterranean forests”

Ms. Nelly BOURLION presented this project on the Mediterranean forest founded by the *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM) and implemented in cooperation with FAO and Sylva Mediterranea. This project based on 5 pilot site studies allowed a better understanding of the stakeholders and interactions and the development of an important documentation on the results and in the methodology. Plan Bleu is also pursuing its cooperation with several institutions in participating to the “Mediterranean forest” events and to the next report on the “State of Mediterranean Forests” to be published in 2018.

The CIHEAM representative mentioned that the forest resources are still considered in the parks and he asked for a better coordination with MAP and Plan Bleu.

The representative of Morocco asked for a better consultation of NFPs about this kind of projects and for a better communication.

The ENSMAL representative thought that is not only a matter of communication, but the design of the project has to consider the governance and the sustainability of the activities implemented in the countries.

The Chair mentioned a similar problem for the CAMPs.

The representative of Slovenia thought that it is a core issue for the projects and the end users have to be considered from the beginning. Another issue is the dissemination of the results and the Contracting Parties should work on how to use, capitalise and share the results to the users.

The representative of Cyprus proposed to have a common procedure and to visit the « pilot sites » 2-3-5 years after the end of the project. It will allow to follow the sites and to know if the proposed activities are still carried on or if the project is forgotten.

The Secretariat thought that it is very hard to have such procedure for the regional projects but it is already a matter of discussions on this subject. For national activities, the FP of the country should be consulted and asked for his/her approval prior to start the implementation of the activities. There is a room for improvement and for an internal exercise to tackle this issue.

Implementation of public-private partnerships for the management of protected areas in the Mediterranean

Ms. Nelly BOURLION presented this new project on the public-private partnerships for the management of protected areas funded by the French development Agency (AFD) and implemented in cooperation with SPA/RAC, IUCN and MedPAN. It is an exploratory project in the field of management of natural resources and ecosystem services (biodiversity) with a special focus on public-private partnerships for the management of protected areas.

The CIHEAM representative stressed on the importance of this project for the Southern and Eastern countries with a high pressure on the natural resources and proposed to test the approach on few pilot sites.

Agenda item 5: Proposed programme of work of Plan Bleu for 2018-2019

Overview of the proposed activities 2018-2019

The Secretariat invited the NFPs to share and express their needs and priorities on the 2018-2019 activities. After this introduction, Mr. Jean-Pierre GIRAUD provided a presentation about the programme of work (PoW) for the next biennium, to be endorsed by COP 20 in December 2017.

The Chair asked Plan Bleu to share with the NFPs the programme of work of Plan Bleu for 2018-2019 to receive written comments in the 10 coming days after the meeting.

The EEA representative asked for a better visibility of the Horizon 2020 related activities, including the SEIS programme.

The Eco-Union insisted on the importance of the activities on tourism, cruise in relation to the blue economy.

The ENSSMAL representative wished that climate change mitigation would also be tackled in the climate change activities.

The representative of Slovenia welcomed the tourism and climate change activities as they are critical transversal issues and he proposed to emphasise the bottom-up approach based on good practices in each country. The bottom-up approach can help to catch the interest of stakeholders and to better satisfy their needs.

The representative of Lebanon stressed on the need for a better coordination of the activities and a wider dissemination of the outputs.

The Secretariat reminded that the roles of other MAP components have to be considered and asked the NFPs to make concrete proposals on some issues, such as water issues.

The representative of Morocco confirmed the need to integrate the SEIS program in the PoW and asked for a better consistency of the proposed activities and mainly for the SoED 2019 and MED 2050.

The representative of Croatia thought that the linkages of activities with the MSSD are very important and proposed to be highlighted in the PoW.

OBSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENLIGHTEN DECISION MAKERS

SoED 2019: Towards a new report on environment and development in the Mediterranean

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud presented the activities planned for the next biennium:

- 2018: Co-construction of SoED 2019 chapters (led by Plan Bleu) via drafting groups established for each chapter (MAP components, CP representatives, partners and consultants) and with the support of workshops and/or online consultation
- 2019: Consultation and validation of the draft version of SoED 2019

The EEA representative stressed on the importance of these 2 major exercises (SoED 2019 and MED 2050) for the "Observatory" function of Plan Bleu and suggested more visibility on the indicators/data related indicators.

SHAPING POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MED 2050: Towards new foresight for the Mediterranean

For the MED 2050, the activities planned during the next biennium are as following:

- 2018: Mobilization of MED2050 governance structure, then online consultation of selected experts on the benchmarking recommendations.
- 2019: Development of the table of contents and of the participatory processes, which will be applied to the construction of alternative / thematic scenarios (via workshop and/or online survey).

Start the development of a trend scenario serving as basis for the development of other scenarios, based on results of specific reports such as QSR, Horizon 2020 assessment and SoED 2019.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) for National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD)

Mr. Julien le Tellier presented the activities planned for the next biennium:

SIMPEER activities will be implemented by Plan Bleu in collaboration with all MAP Components, under the guidance of the MCSD.

Update of the methodology, based on the results and assessment of the 2016-2017 pilot test (SWOT analysis); Take into account the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, as requested by Contracting Parties and the MCSD SC; Implementation with at least two CPs from different Mediterranean sub-regions.

A larger budget should allow securing the implementation with two or three Contracting Parties and the development of a Web Platform for the capitalisation and dissemination of the best practices.

Towards a Regional Strategic Framework on sustainable tourism

Mr. Julien le Tellier presented the activities planned for the next biennium: Plan Bleu to develop a Regional Strategic Framework on sustainable tourism in consultation of the MCSD, NFPs and key stakeholders in relation with the MSSD, ICZM Protocol and SCP Action Plan.

The representative of Montenegro asked for assistance on the development of a nautical strategy.

The representative of Greece proposed to focus the framework on the environmental aspects.

The Chair suggested to avoid any comparison between the ICZM Framework and the Sustainable tourism framework and proposed another wording such as "strategic lines of action" focusing on nautical and cruise.

Indicators / Dashboard for the monitoring of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and SEIS project (Shared environment information system / Horizon 2020 initiative)

Mr. Jean-Pierre GIRAUD presented the activities planned in the next biennium:

- Population and update of the Dashboard to show trends
- Development/improvement of the core set of Indicators for the monitoring of the MSSD implementation
- Data collection/sharing using existing processes/projects (Info MAP/SEIS)
- Assess some new indicators for the objectives 1 and 5 and elaborate the related factsheets
- Elaborate the methodological factsheets for the indicators
- Continue to develop the Plan Bleu Information system and the Sustainability dashboard web site

These activities on Indicators will also feed the next regional reports SoED 2019 and MED 2050

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

Towards implementation of one of the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives (MedECC)

Mr. Julien le Tellier presented the activities planned for the next biennium consisting mainly in supporting the development of MedECC, with a contribution to its Secretariat, the drafting of the first assessment report, and an improvement of the Science Policy Interface 9dialogue between scientists and decision-makers) as asked by the NFPs.

The Chair suggested to strengthen the involvement of the decision-makers in the next phase and to disseminate the outputs also in French to facilitate their utilisation.

Economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by ecosystems located at the land-sea interface in terms of climate change

Ms. Nelly Bourlion presented the activities proposed for the next biennium:

Strengthen the development and implementation of nature based solutions in the Mediterranean to:

- Integrate natural areas in the methods of adapting to climate change
- Structure a collective thought process
- Initiate a shared action plan organizing future common measures

These activities will mainly lead to:

- Assess the key ecosystem services and values
- Disseminate the best practices on nature-based solutions
- Provide socio-economic insights for appropriate management of Mediterranean ecosystems
- Transfer knowledge to policymakers and other stakeholders

The representative of Slovenia supported the proposed bottom-up approach and proposed to build on the good practices.

The representative of Morocco suggested to use similar approaches for other issues and to think about a capacity building activity within the countries.

The ENSSMAL representative welcomed this efficient approach allowing to work with the local stakeholders. The Nature Base Solutions are local approaches but they could be adapted to other contexts/issues. A platform allowing to share the local solutions, tools and experiences should be useful.

Develop vulnerability and impact indicators of climate change on biodiversity and natural resources

Ms. Nelly Bourlion presented the activities proposed for the next biennium:

- The development of a core set of indicators (focusing on climate change and ICZM) within 11 countries involved in the project from the South and East part of the Mediterranean. These indicators will be related to the Biodiversity vulnerability to CC and to the impacts of CC on natural resources. These activities will be implemented in cooperation with the SCP/RAC.

The ENSSMAL representative suggested to develop this activity using the "Mediterranean small islands Initiative" and in cooperation with SPA/RAC.

The representative of Morocco stressed on the capacity building on this issue, mainly for the sustainability of the project and on the involvement of national/local experts for the appropriation of the results. A part of the budget has to be allocated to capacity building of national experts.

The Secretariat thought that Plan Bleu has a very relevant experience on indicators and could lead the activity in coordination with all the RACs.

Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP)

To get some comments on potential future developments, Mr. Antoine Lafitte presented the MEDICIP platform developed during the year 2014 within the framework of the ClimVar project (2012-2015). MedICIP is a tool to support decision making process in providing an access to about 1500 GIS layers and relevant reports and studies dealing with ICZM and climate change. So far, 11 Southern and Adriatic countries are covered by MedICIP.

Some representatives welcomed the presentation and proposed to host a national training/workshop to feed the platform with national data, layers and documents.

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

Implementing the SDG 14 in the Mediterranean by promoting the Blue Economy in the MSSD framework

Mr. Jean-Pierre GIRAUD and Mr. Christian Avérous (Plan Bleu Vice-Chair) presented the activities proposed for the next biennium:

They reminded that:

- The UN 2030 Agenda has been shaped in 2015 by the conferences of Addis (finance), New-York (sustainable development goals) and Paris (climate agreement). It includes SDG 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources).
- The MSSD has been adopted by the COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention in 2016 with the objectives:
 - 1 "Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas"
 - 5 "Transition towards a green and blue economy".

The activities could focus on case studies to foster the blue economy (in fisheries and aquaculture, maritime transport and port activities, wind energy, tourism and recreation, biological resources), covering economic benefits of environmental services, of innovation, of inclusion (e.g. of the young).

The activities will be detailed using the conclusions of the next conference on blue economy in the Mediterranean, which will be organised end of May 2017 in Marseilles (financed by the MAVA Foundation).

The representative of Montenegro welcomed this activity which is in line with his NSSD.

The representative of Monaco mentioned that blue economy is a national priority and asked if Plan Bleu planned some collaborations with specific partners mainly for fisheries.

The Secretariat stated that there is an agreement with GFCM and collaboration is already in place.

Promote environmental taxation especially for fossils fuel emissions.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud reminded that an international conference on environmental taxation has been proposed in the PoW 218-2019 but, due to the comments received from some countries, it was decided to focus on blue economy.

The Secretariat stressed on the importance of environmental taxation and asked for a decision to postpone this conference.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Communication

A discussion on the communication aspects took place and the Chair asked for a communication strategy commented and approved by the NFPs.

The Secretariat specified that it is an integrated activity in the whole MAP system and this meeting is an opportunity to catch the NFPs proposals for improving the communication and the visibility of MAP.

The Plan Bleu President underlined that the Board is willing to improve the communication, the dissemination of the results and would like to develop a proactive communication to catch the attention of the end users. The Board decided to launch a periodic newsletter.

Agenda item 6: Any other business

No other business

Agenda item 7: Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

Mr. Jean-Pierre Giraud presented a proposal for the recommendations and his presentation triggered a series of questions.

The representative of Croatia asked Plan Bleu to keep the NFPs more informed and involved in the activities and projects.

The representative of Slovenia asked Plan Bleu to consider the sub-regional level in the SoEd 2019.

The representative of Tunisia reminded that the role of the Focal Point is also to communicate on the Plan Bleu activities with the country.

The Plan Bleu Vice-President mentioned that the communication should have some influence and allow the changes. We have to keep in mind that we would like to have some influence on the stakeholders or on the opinion leaders.

The representative of Slovenia stressed the information and education issue which is a very weak point in most of the countries. It is then important to be connected to the education sphere.

The ENSSMAL representative pointed out that the Observatories of Environment have been forgotten in the discussions. Plan Bleu has to continue the activities on the indicators as effective communication tools.

The representative of Morocco, Vice-Chair, asked Plan Bleu to strengthen its communication and reminded the role of the Focal Point as a national relays. The Focal Point has to be regularly informed on the Plan Bleu activities and he has the knowledge for targeting the communication according the issue tackled. He can also collect and provide the data/information needed for the implementation of the activities.

After this discussion session, the Focal Points adopted the conclusions and recommendations as shown in Annexe 3:

Closure of the meeting

Prior to the closure of the meeting, the participants provided some comments and expressed their satisfaction with the meeting, which went in a very positive and friendly atmosphere. Mr. Christian Avérous thanked them for their valuable and constructive comments, the interpreters for the excellent work done and the Plan Bleu staff for the good organisation of the meeting and its commitment.

The meeting was closed at 18:00 by the representative of Morocco (Vice-Chair of the meeting), the Plan Bleu Vice President and the MAP Secretariat.

Annex 1: List of participants

Focal Points

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Annex 2: Agenda

Day 1

	Registration of the participants	9:00 – 9:30
Item 1	Opening of the meeting	9:30 – 9:50
Item 2	Organization of the meeting	9:50 – 10:00
Item 3	Adoption of the Agenda	10:00 – 10:10
Item 4	<p>Progress report on Plan Bleu's activities 2016-2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the activities 2016-2017 <p>Observing the environment and development to enlighten decision makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoED 2019 – Towards a new report on environment and development in the Mediterranean 	10:10 – 11:00
	Coffee-Break	11:00 – 11:30
	<p>Progress report on Plan Bleu's activities 2016-2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECAP, Ecosystem Approach <p>Shaping possible futures for sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED 2050 – Towards new foresight for the Mediterranean <p>Monitoring the implementation of Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) for National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD) 	11:30 – 12:30
	Lunch	12:30 – 14:00
	<p>Progress report on Plan Bleu's activities 2016-2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaunch of "Tourism and Sustainability" activities • Indicators / Dashboard for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 <p>Integrating climate change as a priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards implementation of one of the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives (MedECC) • Method for Assessing Coastal Risk at Different Scales for the Mediterranean". 	14:00 – 15:30
	Coffee-Break	15:30 – 16:00
	<p>Progress report on Plan Bleu's activities 2016-2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED-ESCWET, Economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands in the context of climate change in the Mediterranean <p>Supporting the transition to a green and blue economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project - "Towards an Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean" • Supporting "a blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean" (green economy in a blue world) • ActionMed (Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes and Coordinated Programmes of Measures) • Programme MED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ InnoBlueGrowth, Horizontal Communication and Capitalization project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level ○ BleuTourMed - Sustainable maritime and coastal tourism in the Mediterranean region ○ PANACeA: A regional initiative of streamlining management efforts in Protected Areas for enhanced protection in the Mediterranean Sea 	16:00 – 18:00

Day 2

	<p>Progress report on Plan Bleu's activities 2016-2017</p> <p>Providing socio-economic insights for the appropriate management of Mediterranean resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimising the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change • Implementation of public-private partnerships for the management of protected areas in the Mediterranean 	9:00 – 10 :00
Item 5	<p>Proposed programme of work of Plan Bleu for 2018-2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the proposed activities 2018-2019 <p>Observing the environment and development to enlighten decision makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoED 2019 – Towards a new report on environment and development in the Mediterranean <p>Shaping possible futures for sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED 2050 – Towards new foresight for the Mediterranean 	10:00 – 11:00
	Coffee-Break	11:00 – 11:30
	<p>Proposed programme of work of Plan Bleu for 2018-2019</p> <p>Monitoring the implementation of Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) for National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD) • Towards Regional Strategic Framework on sustainable tourism. • Indicators / Dashboard for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 <p>Integrating climate change as a priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards implementation of one of the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives? (MedECC) 	11:30 – 13:00
	Lunch	13:00 – 14:30
	<p>Proposed programme of work of Plan Bleu for 2018-2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by ecosystems located at the land-sea interface in terms of climate change • Develop vulnerability and impact indicators of climate change on biodiversity and natural resources, also addressing socio-economic trends • Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP) <p>Supporting the transition to a green and blue economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Economy: Implementing the SDG 14 in the Mediterranean by promoting the Blue Economy in the MSSD framework 	14:30 – 16:00
	Coffee-Break	16:00 – 16:30
Item 6	Other business	16:30 – 17:00
Item 7	Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations	17:00 – 18:00
	Closure of the meeting	18:00

Annex 3: Recommendations

Programme of Work 2018-2019:

- Send the revised PoW to the National Focal Points by email asking them to provide their comments by the 12 May (reinsert the activity on the environment economic tools, green taxation in the PoW);
- The National Focal Points have to provide their priorities on the PoW activities if needed by 12 May;
- Share with the National Focal Points the indicators assessment by MCSD SC members. Send this assessment to the National Focal Points by email asking them to provide their comments for validation by 12 May,
- Working documents and presentations are on line on the Plan Bleu web site.

The NFPs have to be regularly informed on and involved in the activities/projects and considered as the main contacts for the projects/activities implemented in the countries:

- Capitalisation of the projects needs to be improved:
 - In including some sustainability criteria in the ToRs and in the projects selection;
 - In including the results, partners,... in a shared-database and targeting also the local end users in the communication and in the activities.
- Capacity building needs to be better integrated in the activities and projects.
- In the PoW document, there is a need for an introduction on the links between all the strategic documents (MTS, MSSD,...) and with a rationale for the activities.

State of the Environment and Development Report 2019 (Act 1.4.1.1)

- Use a framework and a table of content as in the existing reports (international, regional and national);
- This framework could be a result of a benchmarking of the existing reports;
- Think about SoED 2019 report. Analyse what was good or to be improved in the previous report, what type of information we would need / include in the report;
- Avoid to use the MSSD objectives as a ToC for the SoED 2019;
- Provide a new proposal for feedback by the next meetings of the MCSD and MCSD SC.

MED 2050 (Act 1.4.1.2):

- Share the MED 2050 roadmap specifying the added value and objectives;
- Propose a participatory process for building a shared vision based on national visions and exercises;
- Use as much as possible the lessons learned and inputs from existing exercises and reports;
- Consensus needs to be found among the National Focal Points on the scale aspects and methodology;
- Additional external resources should be mobilized on MED2050.

Strengthen and sustain the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) (Act 1.3.1.1):

- Activity is well acknowledged by the National Focal Points;
- Provide to the National Focal Points the methodology developed during the 2016-2017 Pilot test;
- Encourage other countries to participate in the next phase;
- Identify some candidate countries for the next phase (2018-2019);
- Implement the methodology for three or four volunteer countries in the following groups (South, East, Europe and Balkans).

Implement, sustain, and strengthen the mechanism to assist Barcelona Convention with scientific institutions (MEDECC) (Act 1.4.4.1):

- Provide to the National Focal Points the list of the members of the scientific network;
- Improve the Science and Policy Interface by including the decisions-makers in the governance structure (Steering committee, End-Users committee...);
- Assessment report of existing and available knowledge (science based evidence) followed by an action plan for reducing the gaps between scientists and decision-makers plus other stakeholders;
- Language aspects need to be improved and extended to French and Arabic.

Improve, populate and update the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard (MSSD dashboard) (Act 1.4.2.1):

- Consider better all the SDGs, including SDG14;
- The list of indicators will be presented to the next meeting of the MCSD with the comments of the National Focal Points.

Regional Strategic Framework for Sustainable Tourism (Act 1.1.3.1):

- Sustainable Tourism is not a priority issue comparatively to the current MAP issues but it is relevant to work on this issue in mobilising external resources;
- Could be tackled in the ICZM Protocol & regional framework and SCP Action Plans;
- Regional Strategic Framework is not adapted to the objectives; guidelines are more appropriate for sharing best available practices in the Mediterranean;
- Need to review the existing global, MSSD or other guidelines on sustainable tourism and assess the needs for any adjustment relevant to the Mediterranean;
- Focus on nautical activities, pleasure boating including cruises.

Economic valuation of ecosystem services in term of climate change (Act 7.2.3.1):

- Activities on innovative solutions adapted to the local issues are supported and encouraged by National Focal Points;
- Need to integrate more the capacity building and training aspects;
- Share the experiences and best practices (web platform);
- Could be extended to climate change mitigation issues.

Develop vulnerability and impact indicators of Climate Change on biodiversity and natural resources (Act 7.4.1.1):

- Even if biodiversity is a part of SPA/RAC mandate and experience, Plan Bleu could develop this set of indicators in relation with the SCP/RAC and relevant partners;
- Plan Bleu is legitimate and competent for working and leading the indicators related activities on the major Mediterranean issues and strategic frameworks and documents (it could be the case for the SCP/AP indicators).