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Fifth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)
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Agenda item 6. Briefing on the progress in the elaboration of the document "State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2019" (SoED 2019)

Progress in the elaboration of the document "State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2019" (SoED 2019)

For environmental and economy reasons, this document is printed in a limited number and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Background

The 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention provides for the elaboration of assessments, notably on the state of the environment, and interactions between environment and development. The preparation of the Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2019 (SoED 2019) is part of this framework.

The SoED 2019 aims at presenting a comprehensive and updated assessment of the environmental status, trends and main sustainability issues related to the environment and development in the Mediterranean region, in the context of the mandate of the MAP - Barcelona Convention system.

The SoED 2019 is prepared as a collective effort of Contracting Parties, Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), MAP Components and other partners with particular expertise on the Mediterranean. Under the overall supervision of the MAP Coordinating Unit, Plan Bleu is responsible of the SoED 2019 elaboration process with the support of all MAP Components.

Progress in the elaboration process

Consultation on the SoED 2019 proposed structure, content and preparation process was initiated early in the 2018-2019 biennium, with extensive discussions amongst MAP components at the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) meeting in Sophia Antipolis, France (5 and 6 February 2018) and an extensive meeting gathering the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and MAP Components (26-28 February 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark). Those early consultations led to a proposed Table of Content and Concept Note, shared for consultation with Plan Bleu Focal Points and Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) members in March 2018.

Comments were received from Focal Points and MCSD members in April and May 2018. Those comments led to simplifications and clarifications in the table of content, including with more explicit references to marine and coastal zones and MAP Mid-Term Strategy. Some diverging views led Plan Bleu to engage in a new consultation process with Regional Activity Centers (RACs), as chapter co-leads. A revised version of the SoED 2019 concept note and table of content was finalized under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit and shared with Plan Bleu Focal Points and MCSD Members in June 2018 (see appendices 1 and 2).

At the level of each chapter, a team of two co-leaders, one of them being a Plan Bleu staff member, the other one being a representative of one of the MAP components or an external partner, has been set up. The co-leaders have further developed each chapter's storyline and identified authors, contributors and reviewers. In view of finalizing the SoED 2019 chapters, work now focuses on (i) collecting, completing, compiling and harmonizing contributions and (ii) conducting first consultations / discussions on a chapter basis which may involve Thematic Focal Points of the MAP components and aim at ensuring consistency, identifying gaps and potential illustrations (e.g. case studies, examples, data,

maps...). At this stage, the SoED 2019 brings together more than 70 authors and more than 30 additional reviewers who have agreed to contribute to the SoED 2019.

The Steering Committee of the SoED 2019 has met twice, in October 2018 and in January 2019, and is providing guidance for the elaboration of Chapter 9 “Synthesis and Conclusions” and the Summary for Decision-Makers of the SoED 2019.

A full draft SoED 2019 is expected to be submitted for consultation to its Scientific Committee, Plan Bleu Focal Points and MCSD members in April 2019, prior of being consulted upon by the MAP Focal Points and, finally the COP 21 (see calendar in appendix 3).

A draft of the SoED 2019’s Chapter 3 “Biodiversity Sustainability” is currently being prepared under the lead of Plan Bleu and SPA/RAC and in collaboration with partners including among others IUCN Mediterranean, FAO, European Topic Centre UMA and Tour du Valat. First draft elements to feed into this Chapter will be shared for consultation with the participants to the Fifth Meeting of the National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO), which will take place in Marseilles, France on 13-14 January 2019.

Appendix 1: Concept Note of the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in Mediterranean (SoED 2019)

1. Mandate

Since the end of the 1970's, Mediterranean riparian countries have emphasized the importance of information on environmental and development issues in support of decision making and have pledged to collaborate in this direction. These issues have been reaffirmed recently by the 21 countries party to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and the European Union. For example, the 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention provides for the elaboration of assessments, notably on the state of the environment, and interactions between environment and development. The preparation of the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean is part of this framework.

2. Objectives, Context and Guiding Principles

The SoED 2019 aims at presenting a comprehensive and updated assessment of the environmental status, trends and main sustainability issues related to the environment and development in the Mediterranean region, in the context of the mandate of the MAP - Barcelona Convention system.

The SoED 2019 will be a collective effort of Contracting Parties, Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), MAP Components and other partners with particular expertise on the Mediterranean. Under the overall supervision of the MAP Coordinating Unit, Plan Bleu is responsible of the SoED 2019 elaboration process with the support of all MAP Components.

Many changes have occurred regarding the status of the environment and development and related policies after the publication of the Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (2009) and the Report on the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment (2012). Environmental and socio-economic evolutions have modified the region and are expected to have a significant impact in the next decades. This is the case for instance for climate change, which is starting to show its effects, and for the profound changes that the Mediterranean region has undergone in recent years, or the transition towards a green and blue economy. At the global level, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. At the regional level, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 was adopted in 2016 as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. It is thus crucial to provide decision-makers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean with up-to-date assessments.

By applying an integrated, systemic and holistic approach, the SoED 2019 will increase awareness and understanding of the environmental and development status and trends in the Mediterranean, their driving forces, impacts and responses, facilitating the measurement of progress towards sustainable development. It will provide an up-to-date foundation for improved decision-making at all levels and enhance the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, the achievement of the SDGs, and the implementation of the MSSD. The SoED 2019 will be prepared in consistency and synergy with previous reports and other relevant MAP initiatives, such as the Roadmap for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status report (MED 2017 QSR), the foresight exercise MED2050 currently being launched, etc., while incorporating new developments.

The SoED 2019 will synthesize disparate data into meaningful and relevant information, and communicate the results to decision-makers. It will address the following key questions: **What are the state, the evolution and the trends of the environment and development in the Mediterranean region? What are their driving forces and root causes? What are the current and required policy and societal responses to the situation?** The SoED 2019 will also identify priority areas for action, based on available scientific data and reliable information.

The SoED 2019 will cover the Mediterranean region including the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone as defined by the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol), i.e. *“the geomorphologic area either side of the seashore in which the interaction between the marine and land parts occurs in the form of complex ecological and resource systems made up of biotic and abiotic components coexisting and interacting with human communities and relevant socio-economic activities”*. The Protocol's definition of the coastal zone furthermore calls for a systemic analysis including the human communities and socio-economic activities, and the SoED 2019 will address development issues in this sense.

Following the above, a series of directions will guide the SoED 2019 elaboration process:

- (i) Following a **systemic and integrated analysis** putting on the same level the three pillars of sustainable development (environmental, economic and social);
- (ii) Considering the **marine environment and land-sea interactions** as priority areas for analysis;
- (iii) Identifying **climate change related vulnerabilities and risks** on the marine and coastal zone (specific requirement of the MTS Key Strategic Output 1.4.1);
- (iv) Incorporating a **multiscale approach**, with analysis of the Mediterranean region as a whole and also addressing the sub-regional level, while maintaining a readable and easily accessible structure for the report;
- (v) Focussing on **responses** (either political, regulatory, economic, technical or technological) to address the identified issues, while following the **DPSIR** (Driving forces-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses) approach;
- (vi) The report will draw upon several **available sources of information**: UN system data in priority, complemented by state of knowledge reports and research articles, national reports and data bases, project reports; while also highlighting **knowledge gaps**, in particular on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production.

The governance of the project presented below incorporates comments provided by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, MAP and Plan Bleu Focal Points, MCSD Members, and MAP Components. It outlines the draft table of contents

comprising 8 chapters (in addition to an introduction and a conclusion) consistent and in line with the MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025, the 2030 Agenda and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

Each chapter will be introduced by a cross-section contextualizing the chapter content in a broader perspective, mentioning the global and regional context (in particular articulation with MTS Themes, MSSD Objective, and relevant SDGs) and highlighting the interrelationships between the sections of the chapters through a systemic analysis. Each thematic sub-chapter will be presented in a way to allow for an easy readability and quick accessibility of the specific information the reader is looking for. Each chapter will then be ended with a cross-section highlighting the political, institutional, legal, economic or technical responses identified.

The conclusion will present priorities for action in the next ten years. These conclusions will be based on sound scientific analysis and exchanges with experts and decision-makers involved in the report elaboration process. In addition, a summary for decision-makers will be issued, consolidating main results and recommendations of the report. Internet thematic fact sheets will also be made available.

3. Governance of the project and review process

Under the overall supervision of the **UN Environment/ MAP Coordinating Unit, Plan Bleu** is responsible of the SoED 2019 elaboration process with the contribution of all **MAP Components**.

Core Team. The report organization in thematic chapters allows for coordinated parallel preparation processes. Each chapter will be prepared under the coordination of two co-leads with Plan Bleu participating in the lead of each chapter to ensure consistency. MAP Coordinating Unit and Components co-lead the chapters according to their mandate:

- The Regional Activity Center on Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) to co-lead the preparation of Chapter 3 on Biodiversity;
- The Regional Activity Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) to co-lead Chapter 4 on Economic sectors, their pressures and potential for transition towards a green, blue and circular economy, including sustainable consumption and production;
- The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) to participate in the preparation of Chapter 4 (section on marine transport);
- The Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC) to co-lead Chapter 5 Integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;
- MEDPOL to co-lead Chapter 7 and also contribute to Chapter 4, as pollution is the main trigger of environmental impacts on human health;
- UNP/MAP Coordinating Unit to co-lead Chapter 8 on Governance.
- The Regional Activity Center for information and communication (InfoRAC) will provide a transversal support on information and communication.

In addition, international organizations and other partners active in the Mediterranean will co-lead specialized chapters:

- The Center for Mediterranean Integration – through its World Bank component – to co-lead Chapter 1 on socio-economic issues;
- MedECC (expert network of 380 scientists on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean whose supervisor is also responsible for the coordination of the next IPCC cross-chapter on the Mediterranean) to co-lead Chapter 2 on Climate Change;
- The *Centre international des hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes* (CIHEAM) to co-lead Chapter 6 on food and water security.

Finally, the European Environmental Agency (EEA) is invited to participate in this Core Team to link with assessment reports in preparation under EEA leadership or shared coordination in the framework of the Barcelona Convention (H2020) and beyond, with a similar timing.

The Core Team will play an operational role, supporting the preparation of a well-structured report, building on the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy and MAP Programme of Work.

This **Core Team** will be assisted by **Chapter Working Groups** (one per chapter) composed of experts from all MAP Components, as well as a range of institutional and technical partners (MAP Partners, MCSD Members, international and regional organizations, experts and scientists), who can be authors, contributors or peer-reviewers in their field of expertise in line with the respective chapter. The Core Team will convene virtual chapter working group meetings with the authors and contributors, as needed, and coordinate contributions.

The **MCSD Members** and **Plan Bleu Thematic Focal Points** have been invited to participate in chapter working groups or suggest relevant contributors, they have been consulted on the SoED 2019 table of contents, they will be informed about the progress of the elaboration process, and they will review the draft report.

The **Steering Committee**, counting among its members representatives of the riparian countries, will be associated to the preparation of the SoED 2019, in particular on Chapter 9 “Synthesis and conclusions” and Summary for decision-makers. The Steering Committee will be consulted on a first outline of the Chapter 9 and the Summary for decision-makers and closely follow-up and support the elaboration of this chapter.

The review process of the SoED 2019 will be further supported by a **Scientific Committee**, which will provide support in ensuring overall scientific coherence by reviewing the draft report. It will count around 10 members with a balance between representatives from Northern, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and as much as possible between genders. The members of the Scientific Committee will be experts with a broad scope of expertise on environment and development. The Steering Committee will be associated to the identification of the Scientific Committee members to ensure a balanced representation of expertise and countries.

Appendix 2: Draft Table of Content (as of 20 December, 2018)

Preface

Acknowledgements

Methodology

Introduction.

The Mediterranean: a unique region for its geography, history, culture and resources

The key features of the Mediterranean

SoED 2019 objective: Assessing the state of the environment and development in the Mediterranean in the context of the MAP - Barcelona Convention and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Chapter 1: Socio-demographic, political and institutional drivers and trends

- 1.1. Transversal introduction: the Mediterranean region in a global environment
- 1.2. Mediterranean identity
- 1.3. Geopolitical context
- 1.4. Demographic context
- 1.5. Socio-economic drivers and trends

Chapter 2: Climate change

- 2.1. Transversal introduction
- 2.2. Climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and risks
- 2.3. Responses: climate change mitigation policies
- 2.4. Responses: adaptation to climate change

Chapter 3: Biodiversity sustainability

- 3.1. Transversal introduction
- 3.2. Coastal ecosystems and biodiversity
- 3.3. Marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- 3.4. Responses and priorities for action

Chapter 4: Economic sectors, their pressures and potential for a sustainable transition towards a green, blue and circular economy

- 4.1. Transversal introduction
- 4.2. Agriculture
- 4.3. Fisheries and aquaculture
- 4.4. Energy
- 4.5. Tourism
- 4.6. Transport
- 4.7. Industries and mining of non-living resources
- 4.8. Pollution
- 4.9. Waste
- 4.10. Marine litter
- 4.11. Responses and priorities for action

Chapter 5: Integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning

- 5.1. Transversal introduction
- 5.2. Coastal zones and land-sea interactions
- 5.3. Urban areas, coastal cities, and urban/rural interactions
- 5.4. Marine areas and sea-land interactions
- 5.5. Responses and priorities for action

Chapter 6: Food and water security

- 6.1. Transversal introduction
- 6.2. Water resources
- 6.3. Agriculture, fisheries, and food security
- 6.4. Pressures and impacts on food and water security
- 6.5. Responses and priorities for action

Chapter 7: Health risks and environment

- 7.1. Introduction
- 7.2. Drinking water quality
- 7.3. Food safety and nutrition
- 7.4. Environmental degradation as a vector for disease
- 7.5. Air quality and urban quality of life
- 7.6. Exposure to natural and technological risks and nuisance
- 7.7. Responses and priorities for action

Chapter 8: Environmental governance in the context of the MAP - Barcelona Convention, 2030 Agenda and SDGs

- 8.1. The environmental governance in the Mediterranean
- 8.2. Policy mixes and regulatory frameworks
- 8.3. Cross-border issues, cooperation and partnerships
- 8.4. Inclusive governance and perception of sustainability issues
- 8.5. Science-Policy Interfaces
- 8.6. Education, research and capacity building
- 8.7. Responses and priorities for action

Synthesis and Conclusions

Appendix 3: Updated calendar for the SoED 2019 elaboration and consultation process

