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Agenda Item 3: Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period May – October 2020

Agenda Item 4: Specific Issues

MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation – Workplan and Timeline, Methodology, Sources of Information and List of Stakeholders to be consulted

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020

MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation

Workplan and Timeline, Methodology, Sources of Information and List of Stakeholders to be consulted

July 2020

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I. BACKGROUND AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development**¹ (MSSD) 2016-2025 was adopted through Decision IG.22/2 by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The Strategy provides an integrative policy framework for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The **Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean** (SCP Action Plan) was also adopted at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/5), as a forward-looking framework, to complement and work in synergy with existing national and regional policy frameworks, and to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The SCP Action Plan is an integral part of the MSSD Objective 5 “Transition towards a Green and Blue Economy”, which identifies the promotion of and support to green businesses as key in the transition towards a more circular economy.

In terms of follow-up, a **Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard** consisting of a living list of indicators was established by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to ensure the monitoring of the MSSD implementation. In 2018-2019, under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee, Plan Bleu finalized the update of this dashboard, with a revised list of 28 indicators – most of which corresponding or being linked to SDG indicators or SEIS II/Horizon 2020 indicators. In addition, a list of 25 SCP indicators was developed by SCP/RAC in cooperation with Plan Bleu, to monitor the progress of the implementation of SCP in the Mediterranean region, and presented at COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). At COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), through Decision IG.24/3, the Contracting Parties took note of the updated list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and requested the Secretariat to populate the indicators. They recognized the living nature of this list of indicators and the need to keep it under review under. They also requested the integration of the list of SCP indicators in the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.

The 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*”. In addition, Decision IG.22/05 on the SCP Action Plan requested the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit in coordination with SCP/RAC to undertake in 2020 an indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan.

During the 2020-2021, one of the key milestones for the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system will be the preparation of the UNEP/MAP **Medium Term Strategy** (MTS) 2022-2027. This important process must benefit from the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations. The MSSD and SCP Action Plan 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.

COP 21 approved the “Roadmap of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)” and the “Roadmap of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)”, as set out in Annexes II and III of Decision IG.24/3, and requested the Secretariat to undertake those evaluations in 2020-2021 for submission of the results to COP 22. The mid-term evaluations provide an opportunity to make the MSSD and SCP Action Plan implementation, at their respective second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.

¹ https://planbleu.org/sites/default/files/publications/mssd_2016-2025_final.pdf

II. WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE

1. Objectives, Principles and Context

The MSSD mid-term evaluation should inform on (i) the **state of the sustainability** in the Mediterranean (collecting evidence and carrying out a desktop analysis), considering both socio-economic and environmental components, and (ii) the **achieved progress and remaining gaps** regarding the strategy's implementation, providing answers to the following questions: *Where do we stand with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the MSSD in the Mediterranean, at the regional and national levels? What are the successes and challenges/gaps? (iii) What are the opportunities and what should be done towards full implementation of the MSSD?*

The MSSD mid-term evaluation is an opportunity to make the MSSD implementation, at its second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities. Regarding the gap analysis, between **Performance** (*where we stand*) and **Potential** (*where we want to be/go*), the **Paths** for “going there” (*how, ways forward*) are crucial. The effectiveness of the MSSD itself should be assessed at a later stage during the MSSD Review process in 2024-2025.

Following a forward-looking approach, and considering the need to reorient actions in the future for the best implementation of the MSSD, the mid-term evaluation will also address the Coronavirus crisis' impacts and possible responses in terms of risks and opportunities for the green and blue economies, establishing links with MED 2050 Foresight Study.

The MSSD mid-term evaluation should 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 and partners.

The MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations should inform the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027 (e.g. in identifying priority issues and emerging challenges), the three processes being expected to go in parallel following a transversal approach. The mid-term evaluations represent also a good opportunity to further align those policy instruments with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Beyond the fact that the mid-term evaluation of the SCP Action Plan will feed the mid-term evaluation of the MSSD under its Objective 5 “Transition towards a green and blue economy”, highlighting main developments related to SCP in the four key economic sectors covered by the action plan, the two evaluations will follow a converging approach, with a common launch, consolidated results, and strong coordination along the way.

The MCSD, through its Steering Committee, will have a leading role for the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee will be updated and consulted regularly on the activities undertaken and the results achieved, including draft deliverables, with an efficient communication along the way.

The MSSD mid-term evaluation should be an open, participatory process and the result of collective efforts, combining both internal and external expertise. The “self-assessment” component of the MSSD mid-term evaluation should be based on UNEP/MAP bodies' and partners' consultations, through questionnaires, interviews and possible workshops (if resources are available), mobilizing relevant communication channels within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system.

The MSSD mid-term evaluation may focus in priority on flagship initiatives', strategic directions' and regional actions' implementation, as well as on the level of achievements of the targets. The national dimension will be mainly based on best available practices and success stories, as a source of inspiration for other countries – keeping in mind the role of the MCSD in terms for experience sharing and peer learning. The national level would not be only through best available processes and practices, but also for the gap analysis in order to identify obstacles in implementing and monitoring the MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean countries.

The final report of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will ensure that the MCSD and its Steering Committee, as well as the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat are informed with key findings on the status of the MSSD implementation, including achievements and lessons learned, plus recommendations to focus on identified gaps in the remaining period (2022-2025) and on possible directions for future related developments within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system.

The results of the MSSD mid-term evaluation are expected to be submitted in 2021 to the 19th Meeting of the MCSD, the Meeting of MAP Focal Points and COP 22, in a consolidated manner and following an integrated approach with the results of the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation.

2. Overall and Specific Tasks

The **overall task for the MSSD mid-term evaluation is the following**: Collect and review evidence and materials on the MSSD and SDGs implementation in the Mediterranean, at regional and national levels, and deliver the report and summary for decision-makers of the MSSD mid-term evaluation, taking into account its complementarity with the SCP Action Plan and MTS processes.

The **specific tasks** to be undertaken will be based on the following phases and sub-tasks:

a. Phase I: Prepare and support the launch of the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation

1. Develop the organizational set-up and prepare a work plan
2. Develop a relevant methodology for the MSSD mid-term evaluation, and design a relevant consultation process
3. Identify relevant sources of information and a list of stakeholders to be consulted
4. Collect evidence and materials on SDGs and MSSD implementation in the Mediterranean (successes, good practices, and challenges) (i) within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, incl. best practices/experiences and obstacles/gaps, at regional and national levels, and (ii) beyond (literature review)
5. Undertake a gap analysis of the MSSD/SDGs implementation in the Mediterranean
6. Review the collected evidence and materials, and prepare a consultation document that may consist of the first annotated table of contents of the MSSD mid-term evaluation report, taking also into account the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

b. Phase II: Conduct the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee and the supervision of the Secretariat

7. Support the launch and manage the consultation process (e.g. questionnaires, interviews, teleconferences) based on the consultation document, and review comments and inputs received from that process, addressing in particular MSSD regional actions and flagship initiatives, as well as national case studies.
8. Prepare the final report and its summary for decision-makers, including recommendations for further review of the MSSD, taking into account relevant SDGs and the strategic directions of draft MTS 2022-2027.

c. Phase III: Finalize the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation towards submission for approval

9. Support the review of the draft reports by relevant UNEP/MAP bodies towards discussion at the 19th Meeting of the MCSD
10. Support and moderate a specific session at the 19th Meeting of the MCSD

11. Review final reports: (i) Detailed final report on the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation; (ii) summary for decision-makers (synthesis report), integrating the results of the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations

3. Outputs and Deliverables

The following outputs and deliverables are foreseen:

1. **Work plan and timetable** are prepared and agreed
2. **Methodology** for the MSSD mid-term evaluation is developed, and consultation process is designed
3. **Relevant sources of information and a list of stakeholders** to be consulted are identified
4. **State of play report**, incl. synthesis table and literature review, based on collected evidence on the SDGs and MSSD implementation at regional and national levels
5. **Gap analysis** on the MSSD/SDGs implementation in the Mediterranean is carried out
6. **Consultation document** is drafted, incl. results of the gap analysis on the MSSD implementation and recommendations for necessary actions to fill the gaps
7. **Stakeholder consultation** exercises are launched and managed
8. **Results of the stakeholder consultation fed a detailed report** and its summary for decision-makers on the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation
9. **Draft report(s)** are reviewed by relevant UNEP/MAP bodies, second draft report(s) are delivered
10. **Second draft report(s)**, integrating the results of the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations are discussed at the 19th Meeting of the MCSD
11. **Final reports** are delivered in view of their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting (September 2021) and then to COP 22 (December 2021)

4. Timeline

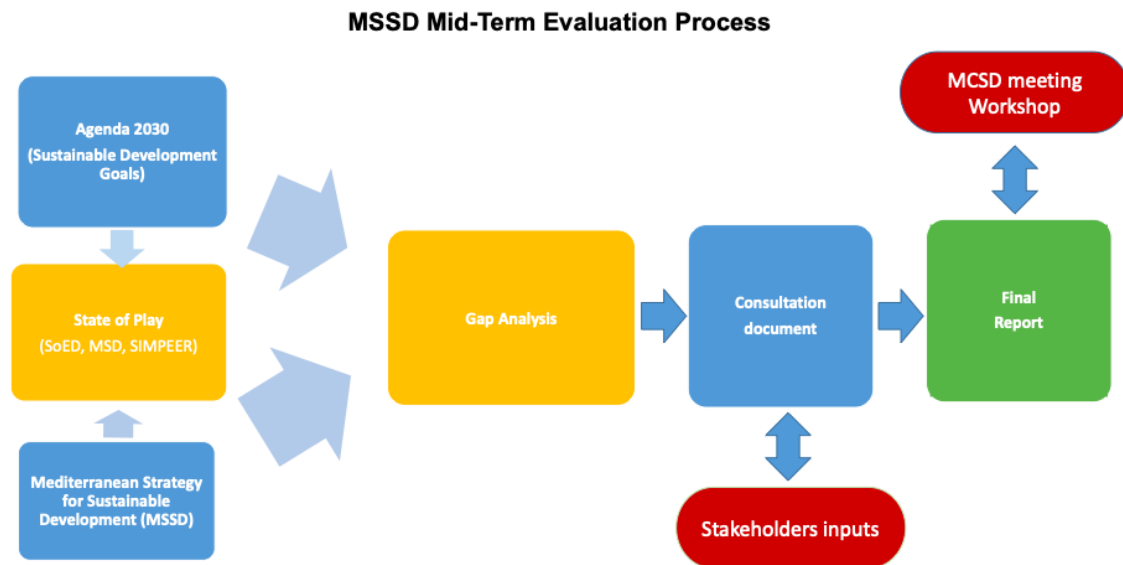
The expected outputs and deliverables are foreseen according to the following planning, to be coordinated with the SCP Regional Action Plan mid-term evaluation, in particular for the consultation phase, as well adjusted to the date of the MCSD Meeting planned in May or June 2021:

#	Outputs / Months	M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12	M 13	M 14	M 15	M 16	M 17	M 18
Months (2020-2021)		JU NE	JU LY	AU G.	SE PT.	OC T.	NO V.	DE C.	JA N.	FE B.	M AR	AP R.	M AY	JU NE	JU LY	AU G.	SE PT.	OC T.	NO V.
Phase I: Preparation of the MSSD mid-term evaluation																			
1	Work plan and timetable	█																	
2	Methodology, consultation approach	█	█																
3	Collection of evidence, list of stakeholders	█	█																
4	State of play report (synthesis table, literature review)		█	█															
5	Gap analysis		█	█															
6	Consultation document			█	█														
Phase II: Development of the MSSD mid-term evaluation																			
7	Stakeholder consultation				█	█	█	█											
8	Drafting of the reports							█	█										
Phase III: Finalization of the MSSD mid-term evaluation																			
9	Review of draft reports, second draft reports									█	█	█							
10	MCSD Meeting												█	█					
11	Final reports													█	█	█			

III. METHODOLOGY FOR THE MSSD MID-TERM EVALUATION

The **overall evaluation process** will include different steps as described in the **Work Plan** above:

- **Desktop analysis:** review of existing literature and data sources to draft a State of Play and Consultation report, including Gap analysis.
- **Consultation with stakeholders:** discussion with relevant stakeholders to integrate their perspective through a comprehensive, inclusive and interactive consultation process
- **Drafting of the final report(s):** integration of all inputs received and finalization of the report



The MSSD mid-term evaluation will combine different methodologies to develop both a qualitative and quantitative assessment through a desktop analysis, literature review, content extraction, and consultation process.

1. Literature Review and Desktop Analysis

The evaluation will be mainly the result of a **desktop analysis** based on a broad source of knowledge, raw materials and evidence from recognized regional and national institutions and experts. In particular, we will use and review **reliable information and data sources** from:

- UNEP/MAP publications, reports and data sheets;
- UN, governmental and other IGOs publications;
- Academic and grey literature.

This desktop analysis based on publicly available data and evidence will be the basis for engaging discussions and consultations with stakeholders to refine and validate its conclusions.

a. Implementation Assessment

A detailed evaluation of the **implementation status** of the MSSD Strategic Directions, Regional Actions and Flagships Initiatives will be undertaken against the relevant time frame, targets and implementing partners. It will give quantitative and qualitative information on the level of implementation of the MSSD, potential gaps and opportunities.

b. Content Analysis

A **text mining** software (based on Artificial Intelligence) will also be used to extract and assess the frequency and relevance of meaningful contents of the MSSD by highlighting main ideas, key works and basic concepts. It will bring background information to contextualize and prioritize the MSSD Objectives, Strategic Directions, Regional/National Actions and Flagships Initiatives.

2. Stakeholder Consultation

a. Stakeholders Mapping

A preparatory mapping of existing stakeholders of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system will result on setting-up of **three stakeholder groups** (tier 1, tier 2, tier 3) that will be approached and consulted through different level of engagement. Tier 1 will be consulted through semi-structured interviews. Tier 2 will be invited to participate in thematic webinars. Tier 3 will be asked to fill-in a short online survey.

b. Stakeholder Consultation

Based on the desktop analysis, a brief (10 pages max.) and user-friendly **consultation document** will be drafted and disseminated to inform identified stakeholders on the progress and gaps regarding the MSSD and SDGs, identifying key questions and issues.

A **consultation process** will be organized to collect feedback, perceptions and proposals from relevant stakeholders through semi-structured individual and/or collective interviews (tier 1), up to 3 thematic webinars (tier 2) as well as online surveys (tiers 1, 2 and 3). A brief and simple **questionnaire** will be build with a limited list of open-ended, multiple-choices, picture and closed questions to be able to have extensive and workable outcomes.

- **Tier 1 – Individual interviews:** semi-structured interviews will be organized to collect directly the inputs from UNEP/MAP Components/Regional Activity Centres, giving priority to Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, based on their comments on the consultation document and transversal issues identified. The tentative themes foreseen are the following ones:
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Relevance and efficiency of mechanisms to supervise and review the implementation of the MSSD;
 - **Progress and Implementation:** State of progress and implementation at regional and national level;
 - **COVID-19 and Sustainability agenda:** Impact of COVID-19 towards the implementation of MSSD and SDGs.
- **Tier 2 – Organization of up to 3 thematic webinars:** series of thematic webinars, around transversal issues described in the consultation document. With around 10 participants each, selected on a voluntary basis with a geographical and thematic balance, the webinars will be organized to collect, in a structured, collective and constructive manner, inputs from MCSD Members and Observers. The tentative themes foreseen are the following ones:
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Relevance and efficiency of mechanisms to supervise and review the implementation of the MSSD;
 - **Progress and Implementation:** State of progress and implementation at regional and national level;
 - **COVID-19 and Sustainability agenda:** Impact of COVID-19 towards the implementation of MSSD and SDGs.

- **Tiers 1, 2 and 3 – Dissemination of an online survey:** All identified stakeholders will be consulted by sharing the main outcomes of the consultation document through a brief and concise **online survey** where they will have to answer to a series of questions regarding their perception on the level of implementation of the MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean region and countries, as well as the process of monitoring and follow-up. They will also be asked to share any relevant proposals and recommendations to improve the implementation of those initiatives.

3. Drafting of Final Report

The expected **final report** will (i) provide evidence on the progress made and achievements in terms of MSSD and SDGs implementation; and, (ii) result in the identification of gaps/shortcomings and (iii) opportunities on which to put the emphasis in the second phase of implementation. It will use basic **infographics** to illustrate in an attractive and understandable way its main conclusions and recommendations.

IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

We have identified and reviewed reliable source of information and data from recognized intergovernmental and national institutions, academia and think-tanks, and in particular the ones described below.

1. UNEP/MAP publications, data sheets and reports

- **The Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard²** consists of a living list of 28 indicators, most of which corresponding or being linked to SDG indicators or SEIS II/Horizon 2020 indicators, established and updated by the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to ensure the monitoring of the MSSD implementation. It has been updated in May 2019.

Clusters of Indicators per MSSD Objective	Number of indicators / Objective	Indicators distribution / Objective
General indicators	5	18%
1 - Sea and coast	3	11%
2 - Rural & Resources	9	32%
3 - Cities	3	11%
4 - Climate change	2	7%
5 – Green/blue economy	1	4%
6 - Governance	5	18%
	28	

- **Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED)³**. The SoED aims at presenting a comprehensive and updated assessment of the interactions between environment and development in the Mediterranean. This assessment report analyses socio-economic drivers and impacts of environmental degradation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems. By applying an integrated and systemic approach, the SoED is expected to increase awareness and understanding of environmental status and trends in the Mediterranean, their driving forces and impacts, facilitating the measurement of progress towards sustainable development, providing an up-to-date foundation for improved decision-making at all levels, and enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the MSSD. The SoED Summary for Decision-Makers and Key Messages have been approved by COP21 in December 2019 and is planned to be published and disseminated in July 2020 (UNEP publication). It contains updated (qualitative and quantitative) data and trends covering MSSD actions, indicators and targets.
- **Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)**. SIMPEER supports volunteer Contracting Parties towards the transposition, implementation and monitoring of the MSSD and SDGs at the regional and national level. It is contributing to the preparation and follow-up of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented by Contracting Parties at the UN High-Level Policy Forum (HLPF), which aim at facilitating the exchange of national experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to mobilizing multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for accelerating the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation. SIMPEER is helping the Contracting Parties to identify common obstacles in the implementation of their national strategies on sustainable development, as the existent silos

² <http://obs.planbleu.org/en/>

³ <https://planbleu.org/en/activites/report-state-environment-and-development-mediterranean>

between the various ministerial departments involved, and find possible solutions as the establishment of a unique governance framework at national level and an effective coordination mechanism to implement the 2030 Agenda. Reports of the country missions are available for the following countries: France, Montenegro, and Morocco in 2016-2017 and Albania, Egypt and Tunisia in 2018-2019. Those reports contain qualitative assessments of the sustainability strategies and policies of targeted countries. A draft synthesis report being finalized by Plan Bleu is also available (May 2020).

- **MSSD Flagship Initiatives – factsheets and concept notes:** Those factsheets and concept notes contain a description of the 11 MSSD Flagship Initiatives, planning, owner(s), references and links. 8 summary factsheets are available [online](#) and 4 four concept notes have been discussed in June 2019 during the 18th Meeting of the MCSD ([UNEP/MED WG.469/7](#)).
- **MCSD Documents** such as working documents (e.g. progress reports, reports on specific issues), reports of meeting, and presentations:
 - The **MSSD Implementation Reporting Tool** (updated in March 2019, [UNEP/MED WG.469/3 - Annex II](#)) tracks the development and implementation of 14 MSSD Flagships Initiatives and Targets (out of 19 in total), with detailed explanation about its situation, owners and references.
 - **Consultation on Implementing SDGs and the MSSD at the National Level** (updated in June 2020). It tracks the implementation of the 2030 Agenda / SDGs at national level, with information from VNRs and SIMPEER provided by 14 out of 21 Mediterranean countries.

2. UN, governmental and other IGOs publications, data sheets and reports

- **Sustainable Development Goals Report – 2019⁴ and 2020⁵**, published by UN DESA. They review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, using the latest available data to track global progress of the 17 goals with infographics, and presents an analysis of selected indicators for each goal. They highlight challenges and identify areas that need urgent collective attention to realize the 2030 Agenda. They contain a compilation of data related to the SDGs implementation at global and regional level.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report
2019



The Sustainable Development Goals Report
2020



- **“Measuring Progress – Towards achieving the environmental dimension of the SDGs” Report⁶**, published by UNEP in 2019. This report is a derivative product of the sixth GEO6 report (UNEP 2019)⁷ and provides an overview of the current state of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development based on the SDG indicators - including the availability of statistical and spatial data,

⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/>

⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/#sdg-goals>

⁶ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27627/MeaProg2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁷ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>

analytical methods and visualisations - and identifies knowledge and information gaps in terms of assessing progress towards the environmental dimension of the SDGs. It contains a detailed analysis of the state of implementation of environmentally related SDGs at global and regional level (Europe and Northern America, Northern Africa and Western Asia)⁸.



- Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)⁹:** As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These VNRs are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. An online review platform¹⁰ is dedicated to compiling information from countries participating in the VNRs.

Voluntary National Review of 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation in Mediterranean countries

Country	Year of VNR		Country	Year of VNR
Albania	2018		Lebanon	2018
Algeria	2019		Libya	2020
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2019		Malta	2018
Croatia	2019		Monaco	2017
Cyprus	2017		Montenegro	2016
Egypt	2016, 2018		Morocco	2016, 2020
France	2016		Slovenia	2017, 2020
Greece	2018		Spain	2018
Italy	2017		Tunisia	2019
Israel	2019		Turkey	2016, 2019

Source: United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, Voluntary National Reviews Database, accessed October 2019

⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>

⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

¹⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

- **Arab Sustainable Development Report – 2020**, published by UN ESCWA in April 2020¹¹. The report offers a situation analysis of the 17 SDGs in the Arab region and captures the challenges facing Arab countries. As such, it supports the efforts of governments and stakeholders by assessing gaps, highlighting obstacles, and identifying critical entry points. Analysis of the official SDG indicators, where data is available, offers a regional snapshot of uneven and worrying rates of achievement. In many key indicators, the region will not reach the SDG targets by 2030, and lags behind other regions on the global stage. In line with the global diagnosis on SDG achievement, the authors observe, the region has yet to usher in a transformative shift in development. However, the report finds an increasing recognition among both governments and peoples that more needs to be done to protect the environment, address climate change, and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.



3. Grey Literature

Citizen science, participatory knowledge production, and transdisciplinary are considered, putting all knowledge sources on an equal footing. The following reports and publications will be mobilized:

- **“2019 Sustainable Development Report – Mediterranean Countries Edition”**¹², published in 2019 by the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Med). It contains an updated SDGs dashboard and trend analysis offering a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the progress in Mediterranean countries. It also proposes 6 transformation frameworks to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in the Region.
- **Sustainable Development in a Changing Arab Climate**, a report published in 2017 by AFED think-tank¹³. It contains a qualitative analysis of the challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of SDGs in Arab countries.
- **The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean**, a report published by eco-union in 2016¹⁴. It contains a strategic assessment of key stakeholders, challenges and recommendations to implement SDGs in the Mediterranean.

¹¹ <https://asdr.unescwa.org/>

¹² <http://www.sdsn-mediterranean.unisi.it/2019/10/15/sustainable-development-report-2019-mediterranean-countries-edition/>

¹³ Saab, Najib and Abdul-Karim Sadik, eds (2016), Sustainable Development in a Changing Arab Climate. How Can Arab Countries Achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Beirut, Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/resource/sustainable-development-changing-arab-climate>

¹⁴ <http://www.ecounion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SDGs-in-the-MED-v18-10-17-2020.pdf>

- [Mediterra 2016. Chapter 8 – The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in the Mediterranean.](#) International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2016.
- IDDRI Research project “[Strengthening SDG appropriation by States and the EU](#)” and in particular the note [Assessment and conditions for success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

4. Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks

The following monitoring and evaluation frameworks, templates and examples have been identified as a source of inspiration, information and guidelines for the mid-term evaluation:

- [Synthesis report and recommendations regarding the mid-term assessment of the Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean \(H2020, 2014\)](#). At the 2006 Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment, participating countries committed to substantially reduce the pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020 by launching the H2020 Initiative. In 2013, at the halfway point of the Initiative, a number of assessments, studies and reports have been conducted to feed into this overall Mid-Term Review covering the period 2007-2013. These studies are the result of the joint collaboration of the EEA, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS), the EIB and UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL.
- [Effective evaluation for the Sustainable Development Goals \(IEED, 2016\)](#). Evaluation processes plays a key role in national and global review systems for the Sustainable Development Goals. IIED and EVALSDGs have published a series of briefings about evaluation designed to help promote effective conduct and use of evaluation in SDGs implementation, follow-up and review.
- [UN Environmental Evaluation Tools & Template](#). This section provides guidance to staff and consultants on how to use and apply a range of evaluation tools/templates. These tools and templates are useful to support the evaluation process and many are required as part of UN Environment's standard evaluation deliverables, such as the Inception Report and Evaluation Report.

5. Other Data Sources

- [Sustainable Development Indicators \(Eurostat\)](#). This publication is the fourth of Eurostat's regular reports monitoring progress towards the SDGs in the EU. The analysis in this publication builds on the EU SDG indicator set, developed in cooperation with a large number of stakeholders. The indicator set comprises around 100 indicators and is structured along the 17 SDGs. For each SDG, it focuses on aspects which are relevant from an EU perspective. The monitoring report provides a statistical presentation of trends relating to the SDGs in the EU over the past five years ('short-term') and, when sufficient data are available, over the past 15 years ('long-term'). The indicator trends are described on the basis of a set of specific quantitative rules.
- [State and Outlook of the European environment \(EEA\)](#). The European environment – state and outlook 2020 is published by the EEA every five years as mandated in its regulation. SOER 2020 is the 6th SOER published by the EEA since 1995. It offers solid, science-based insights on how we must respond to the huge and complex challenges we face, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and air and water pollution.
- [KnowSDGs \(JRC\)](#). The KnowSDGs (Knowledge base for the Sustainable Development Goals) platform provides tools and organises knowledge on policies, indicators, methods and data to support the evidence-based implementation of the SDGs. This web platform gives interactive and easy-to-use access to data and information related to the SDGs.
- [ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism](#). The EU-funded Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) - ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism, jointly implemented by EEA and UNEP/MAP is a 4-

year project to ensure coherence and harmonisation of environmental reporting at the regional level in support of more efficient policymaking. The specific objective is to improve the availability of and access to relevant environmental information for the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policymaking in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Southern region.

- **[Sustainable Development Dashboard \(SDSN\)](#)**. The Sustainable Development Dashboard 2020 presents the SDG Index and Dashboards for all UN Member States and frames the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of six broad transformations. It was prepared by teams of independent experts of SDSN and the Bertelsmann Stiftung.
- **[Open SDG Data Hub \(UN\)](#)**. The Open SDG Data Hub promotes the exploration, analysis, and use of authoritative SDG data sources for evidence-based decision-making and advocacy. Its goal is to enable data providers, managers and users to discover, understand, and communicate patterns and interrelationships in the wealth of SDG data and statistics that are now available. It explores Geospatially Referenced Data by Goal.

6. Academic literature

We have undertaken a research through Google scholar using the following key words: *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development*, *Sustainable Development Goals Mediterranean*, *2030 Agenda Mediterranean*. We have identified and selected the following relevant papers that include a transversal and regional analysis of sustainable development in the Mediterranean:

- George, C. and Kirkpatrick, C., ‘Assessing National Sustainable Development Strategies: Strengthening the Links to Operational Policy’, 2006, Natural Resources Forum, vol. 30, no. 2, pp. 146-156. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1477-8947.2006.00167.x>
- Casini, Margherita & Bastianoni, Simone & Gagliardi, Francesca & Gigliotti, Massimo & Riccaboni, Angelo & Betti, Gianni. (2019). [Sustainable Development Goals Indicators: A Methodological Proposal for a Multidimensional Fuzzy Index in the Mediterranean Area](#). Sustainability. 11. 1198. 10.3390/su11041198.
- El Bilali, Hamid & Cardone, Gianluigi & Ottomano Palmisano, Giovanni & Bottalico, Francesco & Capone, Roberto. (2019). [Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean: institutional and governance arrangements](#).
- Patrick Holden (2016). The Mediterranean and the Global Sustainable Development Goals, Mediterranean Politics, 21:2, 292-299, DOI: [10.1080/13629395.2015.1125286](https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2015.1125286)
- Tarsitano, Elvira & Calvano, Gabriella & Cavalcanti, Elisabetta. (2019). [The Mediterranean Way, a model to achieve the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). Journal of Sustainable Development. 12. 108. 10.5539/jsd.v12n1p108.

V. LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS TO BE CONSULTED

The MSSD mid-term evaluation should be participatory and involve all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, an **identification and classification of relevant stakeholders** will be carried out.

The preparatory mapping will result on setting-up of up to **three stakeholders groups** (tier 1, tier 2, tier 3) that will be approached and consulted through different level of engagement. Tier 1 will be consulted through semi-structured interviews. Tier 2 will be invited to participate in thematic webinars. Tiers 1,2 and 3 will be asked to fill in a short on-line survey (see Deliverable 2 on Methodology).

The classification of stakeholders is foreseen to be the following:

- Tier 1: UNEP/MAP Components/Regional Activity Centres
- Tier 2: MCSD Members (40) and Observers
- Tier 3: UNEP/MAP Partners (53)

Others relevant stakeholders identified during the review of the literature will be included in the stakeholder mapping and invited to participate in the consultation process through an integration in Tier 2 or Tier 3, according to the following criteria:

- Geographical focus: regional, sub-regional, national;
- Sector: academia, NGO, IGO, private sector/businesses, etc.;
- Issues covered, according to the six MSSD Objectives;
- Level of interest/activity: participation in UNEP/MAP consultation processes, date of relevant publications, etc.

A tentative list of stakeholders of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system is detailed below.

- **UNEP/MAP Components/Regional Activity Centres (RACs)**
 - The Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)
 - Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC)
 - Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)
 - Specially Protected Areas/Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
 - The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
 - Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC)
 - Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)
- **MCSD Members (40 members) and Observers**

22 Contracting Parties representatives and 18 Non-Contracting Party Members, as below:

- **The Local Authorities Group:** the Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables (AVITEM), the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian cities (FAIC), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG);
- **The Socio-Economic Stakeholders Group:** ANIMA Investment Network, the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), and the Economic and Social Council of Greece (ESCG);
- **The Non-Governmental Organizations Group:** eco-union, the Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF), and the Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN);

- **The Scientific Community Group:** the Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Economiques (FEMISE), the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Med-SDSN), and the Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN);
- **The Intergovernmental Organizations Group:** the Arab Forum for the Environment and Development (AFED), the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS); and,
- **Parliamentarians:** the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM).
- **MAP/NGO Partners (53 members)**
 - **COP 19: list of new MAP Partners**
 1. Aegean Energy Agency (AEA)
 2. Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
 3. Arab Office for Youth & Environment (AOYE)
 4. Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development (SUNCE)
 5. Association of Continuity of Generations (ACG)
 6. Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)
 7. Global Balance Association
 8. Institut de Prospective Economique du Monde Méditerranéen (IPEMED)
 9. Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)
 10. Slovenian Marine Mammal Society (MORIGENOS)
 11. Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA)
 - **COP 20: List of new MAP Partners**
 12. International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight to Poverty in the Mediterranean-Black Sea (FISPMED)
 13. Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement
 14. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) through the Università di Siena (UNISI)
 15. Plastics Europe AISBL
 16. Youth Love Egypt
 - **COP 21: List of renewed MAP Partners**
 17. EcoPeace Middle East
 18. Environmental Center for Administration and Technology (ECAT Tirana)
 19. Fondazione IMC-Centro Marino Internazionale ONLUS
 20. Global Footprint Network (GFN)
 21. Greenpeace International
 22. Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)
 23. International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)
 24. International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law (CIDCE)
 25. Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST)
 26. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)
 27. Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN)
 28. Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MEDPAN)
 29. Oceana
 30. Syrian Environment Protection Agency (SEPS)
 31. The ARAVA Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)
 32. Tour du Valat Foundation

33. Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
 34. WWF Mediterranean (WWF Med)
 - **COP 21: List of new MAP Partners**
 35. Asociación ONDINE
 36. BirdLife Malta (BLM)
 37. Center for Energy, Environment and Resources (CENER21)
 38. Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on accidental water pollution (CEDRE)
 39. Eco-Union
 40. Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)
 41. Surfrider España
 42. French Water Academy
 43. Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD)
 44. The Mediterranean network of cities (Med Cities)
 45. Secretariat MedWet (MedWet)
 46. The Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (AVITEM)
 47. Palestine Wildlife Society
 48. International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC)
 49. Innovation & Development Association (INNODEV)
 50. MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network (MedSOS)
 51. OceanCare
 52. The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP)
 53. UniVerde Foundation
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