



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.560/Inf.4



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

15 May 2023  
Original: English  
Français

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

Marseille, France, 14-16 June 2023

### Update on Flagship Initiatives and activities toward the implementation of the MSSD

#### Note by the Secretariat

The present document provides a detailed update on Flagship Initiatives and activities toward the implementation of the MSSD by MCSD Members, stakeholders and the Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

As indicated in the Note by the Secretariat in the 20<sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting Progress Report, several major COP 22 Decisions reflecting the outcome of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (Videoconference, 7–9 June 2021) have been reached. Since June 2021, every effort has been made to ensure the effective implementation of these decisions and activities by MCSD Members and other partners, including progress on implementing the MSSD Flagship Initiatives.

The contribution of the MCSD Members was crucial for the delivery of activities planned by the decisions mentioned above and Amendments to the existing Protocols, with substantive resources provided by the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 (Decision IG.25/19). The present document outlines the progress of those activities and other specific issues. At the same time, significant actions undertaken by MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Components are included in Annex II, and the progress of the Flagship Initiatives is highlighted in Info Document 5.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD also welcomed the presentations of the activities undertaken by MCSD Members and Observers, partners and the Secretariat under the MSSD Flagship Initiatives, noting with appreciation the advanced status of implementation of those initiatives, and acknowledged the efforts provided by MCSD Members and Observers, partners and the Secretariat in support to the promotion of the MSSD Flagship Initiatives, encouraging them to pursue such communication and capitalisation actions. The status of implementation of crucial MSSD Flagship Initiatives was also presented during the 24<sup>th</sup> MCSD Steering Committee meeting that was held in Athens Dec 2022.

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2023



## Updates of Flagship Initiatives

1. The status of implementation of crucial MSSD Flagship Initiatives was presented during the 24th MCSD Steering Committee meeting that was held in Athens-Greece on 14-15 Dec 2022, namely:
  - i. Istanbul Environment-Friendly City Award: Mr Ilias Mavroeidis, Secretariat, updated the forum on the most recent developments and information on the launch of the call for applicant cities, which for the first time will be done through an online application form;
  - ii. WeMed Green Business Award: Mr Ilias Mavroeidis, Secretariat, presented the call for applications and the information on the presentation of the award;
  - iii. Environmental Governance – Encourage the Accession to and Implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention): Prof. Michael Scoullou, GWP-Med, updated the meeting on the most recent developments on this issue;
  - iv. Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Action Plan towards 2030: Prof. Michael Scoullou, GWP-Med, updated the meeting on the most recent developments, including the high-level event organised at the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, 5 – 7 October 2022);
  - v. Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change: Mr Antoine Lafitte, Plan Bleu/RAC, updated the meeting on the most recent developments, including the three thematic reports, and on the next steps, including the planned stakeholder consultations.
2. In the ensuing discussion, the MCSD Steering Committee members congratulated the Secretariat and the relevant MCSD Steering Committee members on the progress achieved. They referred to specific issues, as highlighted below.
3. Concerning the Istanbul Environment-Friendly City Award, the meeting discussed ways to improve the Award's publicity and the need to simplify the application process further to encourage more cities to apply. They added that it should be seen not as a competition but as an incentive to improve city sustainability.
4. The Istanbul Environment-Friendly City Award 'Call for Application' was made public this year by MedCities for the first time. The application deadline was extended until June 2023 to allow active participation and outreach. UNEP/MAP Secretariats/Governance unit indicated the need for follow-up action on the cities already awarded under the Istanbul Environment-Friendly City Award and suggest to discuss this idea further to ensure long-lasting impact and sustainability and as a knowledge-sharing tool with the newcomers under this initiative.
5. On the WeMed Green Business Award, the meeting thanked MedWaves-SCP/RAC for their work and highlighted the importance of the award and the Action Plan on SCP for raising awareness in the region. They discussed the importance of the circular economy and the contribution of the SWITCHMED project in promoting SCP and implementing the MSSD. At the same time, one representative noted the need for the project to cover the West Balkans and Türkiye.
6. On Environmental Governance and the Aarhus Convention, the intention to encourage Contracting Parties, not EU-Member States, to join the Aarhus Convention was highlighted.
7. On the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Action Plan towards 2030, it was highlighted that this is the first such strategy at a regional level and that further funding would be welcomed. The representative of Plan Bleu/RAC noted a pressing need for data to populate the relevant Indicator 28 of the MSSD and asked for the support of the MCSD Steering committee members.

8. The links with ocean literacy and education for climate change were also highlighted by participants as the importance of enabling youth. The meeting also stressed the need to increase the awareness of Ministries of Education on environment and sustainability. The participants welcomed the proposal to have a session/event on education and youth at the next MCSD meeting to discuss achievements, opportunities and challenges.

9. Following the discussion, an informative video by the Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum was presented, showing the participation of teachers, managers, and students in educational activities related to sustainable development.

10. The meeting about the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change welcomed the ongoing work on the three thematic reports. It noted that the process for the selection of side events in the MedPavilion of COP 27 of UNFCCC, coordinated by UfMS, could have been done more efficiently and transparently since the proposed side events of important partners were not included in the final programme.

11. The following conclusions and decisions were agreed upon during the 24th Steering Committee Meeting:

- i. The MCSD Steering Committee expressed its appreciation for the launch of a simplified application procedure for the fourth edition of the Istanbul Environment-Friendly City Award (IEFCA) (2022-2023). It highlighted the importance of making the IEFCA application more appealing to Southern Mediterranean countries and small municipalities. It further underlines the need for MCSD Members and other Partners to support interested applicants in preparing and submitting their applications. The MCSD Steering Committee also stressed the importance of considering the capacities of different applicant cities and the progress achieved, including specific best practices, during the evaluation phase.
- ii. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the successful delivery of the second edition of the WeMed Green Business Award, which had a thematic scope related to textiles.
- iii. The MCSD Steering Committee appreciated the progress on the MSSD Flagship Initiatives on Environmental Governance. Regarding the flagship initiative to facilitate accession to the Aarhus Convention, the MCSD Steering Committee noted the importance of sharing best practices between Mediterranean countries.
- iv. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the plan of publishing three thematic reports led by MedECC and asked the Secretariat to provide more information on these reports during the 20th MCSD Meeting. The MCSD Steering Committee also invited the Members of the MCSD to contribute to these special reports as individuals.
- v. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the endorsement of the updated Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), presented by GWP-MED. It highlighted the need to mobilise resources for its full implementation. In this context, the MCSD Steering Committee also strongly encouraged the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to further integrate elements on education for sustainable development in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025 and invited MCSD members to contribute and actively participate in the implementation of the ESD Action Plan.
- vi. The MCSD Steering Committee encouraged its members having relevant information and best practices, to share them with the Secretariat (Plan Bleu/RAC) to support the updating process of the MSSD indicator 28 “Number of countries that have National Strategies/Action Plans on Education for Sustainable Development in place”.
- vii. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the idea of including in the 20th MCSD Meeting the topic of education for sustainable development with the involvement of youth and stakeholders with

concrete best practices to share, to which the Ministries of Education may also be invited, and explore innovative ways to promote this issue, e.g. through social media, influencers etc.

12. The table presented in Annex I presents the implementation status of the 11 MSSD Flagship Initiatives – in green: launched/ongoing; in yellow: under development/to be launched; in orange: not yet established.

#### **Update activities toward the implementation of the MSSD**

13. The table reproduced in Annex II provides an overview of activities implemented by MCSD Members, stakeholders and the Barcelona Convention Secretariat toward the implementation of the MSSD.



## **Annex I**

### **Update on the implementation status of the 11 MSSD Flagship Initiatives**





MSSD Flagship Initiative	Leader, main partners	Comments
1.1.10. Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute (Monaco), SPA/RAC, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, MedPAN, WWF Med, IUCN Med, <i>Conservatoire du Littoral</i> (France), the Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative	
2.3.5. Promote the “Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies	IUCN (the Green List) through its Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation: <a href="https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas">https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas</a>	<p>The IUCN Green List programme in the Euro Mediterranean area is making significant progress in promoting sustainability and conservation efforts in the region. In Italy, five candidates were submitted to the IUCN committee, and now, Italy is taking the lead in recruiting a new national Green List Expert Assessment Group with the support of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and the Italian Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Spain is continuing its process of assessing former candidate parks, and the Expert Assessment Group for Spain is fully operational. France has been implementing the Green List since 2013 and currently has 23 listed sites and 3 ongoing applications. Two Mediterranean marine protected areas, the Cerbere-Banyuls National Nature Reserve and the Blue Coast Marine Park near Marseille have been Green listed (for respectively 10 and 5 years now) and will renew their application in 2023.</p> <p>In the North African region, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria have created a regional Expert Assessment Group that is fully operational and in the process of assessing candidacies.</p> <p>Important efforts are ongoing to consolidate the programme through fundraising. For instance, a GEF project in Algeria for MPAs and an Interreg Euro-MED project on Green List for MPAs submitted (response at end of this year) will allow for enlarging the operations to Croatia and Greece.</p> <p>An important global initiative for Green List has been financed worldwide, and the consolidation of the Green List Mediterranean programme through IUCN Med is expected this year. Specific attention will be given to the broader 30x30 commitments and the use of Green List as a solution.</p>
3.1.9. Promote the “Environment Friendly City” Award approved by COP18 (Istanbul Declaration, 2013)	UNEP/MAP through the voluntary contributions from Turkey, as per Decision IG.22/19 adopted at COP 19.	<a href="https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/istanbul-environment-friendly-city-award">https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/istanbul-environment-friendly-city-award</a>
3.2.5. Create a sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean, with a view to planning cities that will work for everyone, in order to make them inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Med Cities through MedUrban Tools:  <a href="http://medurbantools.com/">http://medurbantools.com/</a>	
3.4.5. Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions,	Regional assessment and online repository launched in 2021 by MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD and UfMS through the EU funded WES Regional Project:	The flagship has been completed: see Best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean ( <a href="https://bestpractices-waste-med.net/">https://bestpractices-waste-med.net/</a> )

<p>that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction</p>	<p><a href="http://www.wes-med.eu">www.wes-med.eu</a></p>	<p>This website or ‘repository’ was the result of a regional assessment, and aims to promote waste reduction and circular economy across the waste management chain in the Mediterranean region. The cases included were selected out of many from different countries of the region via a stakeholder consultation to identify best practices. They are of varying scale and type from which a lot can be learned and that could inspire more actions to substantially reduce waste generation by 2030 through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p>
<p>4.1.9. Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism, including the social and behavioral sciences, endorsed by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options MedECC: <a href="https://www.medecc.org/">https://www.medecc.org/</a></p>	<p>MedECC, UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu, UfMS, Gov. of the Principality of Monaco, French Ministry for Ecological Transition, <i>Generalitat de Catalunya</i> (Spain), ADEME (France), Aix-Marseille University (France) and its Labex OT-MED, French National Institute of Research for Sustainable Development (IRD), MISTRALS Research Programme, Aix-Marseille Provence Metropole (France), etc.</p>	<p>3 special thematic reports related to specific challenges identified in the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) under drafting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Special Report on coastal risks</li> <li>● Climate – water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus</li> <li>● Environmental change, conflicts, and human migration.</li> </ul>
<p>5.4.5. Create and promote a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation</p>	<p>SCP/RAC through Decision IG.24/3 adopted at COP 21 with the support of the SwitchMed Programme.</p>	
<p>5.6.5. Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels</p>	<p><i>Not yet launched</i></p>	<p><i>This orphan MSSD flagship initiative to be discussed at 20 MCSD Meetings in view of launching relevant activities: for instance: having an experience sharing discussion or peer learning session on sustainable public procurement: preparatory work/consultation on Q1 2023; volunteer MCSD Members representing CPs in a roundtable to share their experience at the 20th MCSD Meeting.</i></p>
<p>6.2.3. Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters;</p>	<p>Activities launched in 2020 by MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD and MEPIELAN through the EU LIFE Programme and further strengthened in 2021 through the EU-funded Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Neighborhood South Region project: <a href="http://www.wes-med.eu">www.wes-med.eu</a></p>	<p>MSSD indicator 27 “Number of countries that have clear mechanisms in place for ensuring public participation and guarantying public access to environmental information” updated in 2023. <i>A side event of the EfE Nicosia Conf aimed at presenting and discussion the Med Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention, prepared by MEPIELAN, in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD and the Secretariat. Med Parliamentarians and their networks as potential support.</i></p>
<p>6.3.5. Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.</p>	<p>A first set of activities launched in 2021 by Panteion University of Athens/MEPIELAN, in cooperation with the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat</p>	

<p>6.5.5. Establish a publicly accessible Mediterranean integrated information system through a triumvirate of national governments, international institutions and the private sector to collate and transparently display information on the state of the environment</p>	<p>Plan Bleu through the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the Regional Observatory on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean</p> <p><a href="http://obs.planbleu.org/en/">http://obs.planbleu.org/en/</a></p> <p><u>Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard updated in March 2023.</u></p> <p><u>Interactive maps of the MSSD's indicators (and more) are accessible through the Regional Observatory on the</u></p> <p><u>WESR:Mediterranean frontpage.</u></p>	
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## **Annex II**

### **Update on activities toward the implementation of the MSSD**



Annex II: Significant initiatives undertaken by MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Components in 2021-2023, updated by MCSD Secretariat through feedback received from MCSD Members online in April 2023.

#	MCSD Member	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic Scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
1	ANIMA Investment Network	THE NEXT SOCIETY	In 2020, THE NEXT SOCIETY action plan impact consisted in 1.5 million EUR funds raised by the start-ups supported, 15 start-ups awarded international prizes, 15 new partnership deals achieved by research-based entrepreneurs, 45 Cluster to Cluster promising business partnerships declared, 5 universities in Lebanon equipped with novel research valorisation programmes and, finally, a new accelerator for start-up internationalisation fully designed in Egypt. Most of the startups, clusters and other innovation players supported by THE NEXT SOCIETY do contribute to the SMDD by developing innovative products and services supporting more sustainable patterns in the Mediterranean Region.	5	Regional		2017	On-going	European Union (90%), implementing partners (10%)	<a href="https://www.thenextsociety.co/about#partners">https://www.thenextsociety.co/about#partners</a>	<a href="https://www.thenextsociety.co/">https://www.thenextsociety.co/</a>
2	Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)	State of the Arab Environment	State of the Arab Environment is a series of reports meant to inspire policy changes based on scientific facts and options. AFED 14 <sup>th</sup> report to be released in June 2023 will be on Impact of Pandemic and War on Arab Environment. The 13 <sup>th</sup> report was on Health and the Environment. The 2020 report was on Education for Sustainable Development. Recommendations of AFED reports have been adopted in many Arab countries.	All (1-6)	Regional	Policy & legislation	2007	On-going	Institutional Members a Board of Trustees	International and regional organizations, development funds, academia, civil society, private sector	<a href="http://www.afedonline.org">www.afedonline.org</a>
2	Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)	AFED EcoSchool	AFED EcoSchool is a comprehensive educational program managed by AFED, last product was a teaching manual on environment and sustainable development published in 2020. It has been used online by many ministries in various Arab countries to integrate environment and sustainable development in curricula. The online version has been widely used by schools as teaching material.	6	Regional	Education & Training program		On-going	Institutional Members a Board of Trustees	International and regional organizations, development funds, academia, civil society, private sector	<a href="http://www.afed-ecoschool.org">www.afed-ecoschool.org</a>
2	Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)	Public Awareness on Sustainable Development	Public Awareness on Sustainable Development Regional/global (News portal) <a href="http://www.afedmag.com">www.afedmag.com</a> Arabic and English, specialized SD and Environment pages jointly with Arabic print media, such as <a href="http://www.aawsat.com">www.aawsat.com</a>	6	Regional	Education & Training program	2019	On-going	AFED budget and Asharq Al-Awsat Newspaper	Asharq Al-Awsat Newspaper <a href="http://www.aawsat.com">www.aawsat.com</a>	<a href="http://www.afed-ecoschool.org">www.afed-ecoschool.org</a>

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3	AVITEM	Changement climatique en Méditerranée : résilience urbaine et solutions innovantes (projet Ksar Tafilelt)	Construction d'une réflexion sur la base des savoir-faire traditionnels de cités réputées pour leur résilience. Le travail avec l'éco-cité du Ksar Tafilelt (Ghardaïa, Algérie) se construit sur une approche durable et systémique au regard de la rareté croissante des ressources (eau, alimentation, terres, énergie) mais aussi de son empreinte écologique (assainissement, déchets, transports, pollution). Elle met en place une approche innovante, transversale et pluridisciplinaire, s'appuie sur une gouvernance déterminée, à taille humaine et facilement reproductible sur l'ensemble des territoires urbains de la région et se structure sur une base financière axée sur la solidarité, autorisant à la fois la souplesse, la transparence et la pluralité des acteurs et permettant de créer un véritable effet d'appartenance autour du projet urbain collectif. Pour récapituler ces savoirs et ce savoir-faire, publication mi-2020, d'un « Manuel des bonnes pratiques de développement durable dans un environnement contraint » qui récapitule les principaux axes de durabilité identifiés et mis en pratique. Une seconde démarche se conjugue en 2021 avec une approche laissant place à la modernité et l'innovation, sur trois chantiers traitant respectivement de l'eau, de l'énergie et des déchets, avec pour objectif, d'accroître l'autonomie et la résilience urbaines en termes de ressources sur la base de démarches et de protocoles innovants.	3	Regional		2020	On-going	Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de l'Europe, France, et AVITEM	Autorités locales, aménageurs, chercheurs, experts, startups et grand public	<a href="http://www.avitem.org">www.avitem.org</a>
4	Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)	The Rabat Declaration (2019) "Launching a new Decade of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean"	More than 180 Mediterranean stakeholders, from high-level Moroccan officials, representatives of UNEP/MAP, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the League of Arab States (LAS), Parliamentarians, Members of COMPSUD, COMJESD (Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development), to Media, Scientists and other representatives of Civil Society from Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey, met at the premises of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of December 2019. The result was the Rabat Declaration which aimed to provide a new stimulus and an inspiring vision to address the challenges of the new decade towards 2030 and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.	6	Regional	Other	2019	On-going	EU LIFE Programme, Moroccan Government (Ministry for Energy, Mines and Environment), Moroccan Parliament, in kind contributions	COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE with contributions from GWP-Med, MedWet, and the International Water Management Institute	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/3d5hh55s">https://tinyurl.com/3d5hh55s</a>



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5	Eco-union	Blue Tourism – Towards a Sustainable Coastal and Maritime tourism in the Mediterranean	Blue Tourism is a global project to improve the benefits of coastal and maritime tourism around major Regional Seas such as the Mediterranean, Western Indian Ocean and the Caribbean. It comprises regional sector reviews, as well as scalable national initiatives to improve maritime governance and environmental management in the coastal and maritime sector. Objectives: Assess environmental, economic and social impacts of the coastal and maritime tourism; Support best practices for managing negative externalities and foster sustainable development; Review enabling condition for integrated management of coastal and maritime tourism; Formulate and implement concrete actions to insure a sustainable blue tourism at global and regional level.	1, 5	International	Policy & legislation	2021	On going	French Environment Fund (FFEM)	IDDDRI, ECO-UNION, IUCN-Med, CANARI, CORDIO, GSTC	<a href="https://www.ecounion.eu/portfolio/blue-tourism/">https://www.ecounion.eu/portfolio/blue-tourism/</a>  website: <a href="https://bluetourisminitiative.org/">https://bluetourisminitiative.org/</a>
6	Egypt	Saft Torab (village) ... The New Start	The initiative has been launched to incentivize small villages residents to volunteer in the Campaign an effort to ameliorate the environmental conditions of their village.	2	Local	Education & Training program	2021	On-going	Governmental and NGOs	NGOs and local authorities	Facebook account
7	Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)	Education for Sustainable Development	Key objective: Exchange of experience between the Ministry of Education in Cyprus (Cyprus Pedagogical Institute) and the ESDF, aiming to strengthen the network of educators, building on the ESDF partnerships with relevant ministries, universities, schools, governorates and concerned local authorities, in addition to implementing/creating education for sustainable development (ESD) models in targeted schools in Greater Cairo governorates.  Achievements – Capacity Building and Training Materials: Educational materials on ESD received from the Ministry of Education and Culture in Cyprus have been translated into Arabic, within the capacity building plan for environmental education officials in selected schools. The ESDF Board of Trustees has formed a special working group who prepared training material, building on the Cypriot material, but adapted to the Egyptian context. Those Guidelines were accredited by the Egyptian Ministry of Education as an official training material that teachers / educators can use at schools to achieve ESD. Capacity Building Trainings were held targeting educators and officials of the Ministry of Education on those guidelines. Participants gained sufficient knowledge and skills related to ESD.  Coordination among main partners: Regular coordination meetings were held with education officials, in addition to a meeting held with the Minister of Environment to ensure	6	National	Education & Training program	2018	On-going	Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture, Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)	Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture, Egyptian Ministry of Education, Egyptian Ministry of Environment	



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			<p>which included simple daily practices that could positively contribute to confront those challenges, through energy and water conservation, increasing green areas, recycling of wastes, etc.</p> <p>Additionally, ESDF has shared its experience on Education for Sustainable Development with similar national for a established in other Arab countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen to maximize the benefits and replicate the experience when possible.</p>								
8	Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP Med)	Water – Energy – Food – Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus Programme in the Mediterranean	<p>Assist Mediterranean countries to enhance natural resources utilization efficiency, environmental security and climate resilience, by balancing competing uses and promoting shared benefits by applying integrated Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approaches, through fostering shareable policy tools, action planning and investment prioritisation supported by technical assessment and multi-stakeholder processes as well as through demonstrating tangible and scalable local WEFE technical solutions combined with employability/entrepreneurship capacitation, and through promoting gender mainstreaming. Activities are implemented at Mediterranean (knowledge development and capacitation), Western Balkans (national and transboundary WEFE Nexus assessment, action planning and investment prioritization) and MENA countries (national and transboundary WEFE Nexus assessment, action planning and investment prioritization as well as local demo technical solutions and job creation capacitation in a cross-country experience sharing context). Actions contribute to the national priorities of the beneficiary countries, the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Water Agenda 2030 of the Union for the Mediterranean, and donors' regional strategies.</p>	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Regional	Other	2018	On-going	GEF through the UNEP/MAP Med Programme and IW:LEARN, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the German Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU) in the Western Balkans, and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and	GWP-Med (overall technical coordination and management), beneficiary governments, UNEP/MAP, UfM, UNECE as well as partners like OSS, WWF-North Africa and more per action line.	<a href="http://www.gwpmed.org">www.gwpmed.org</a>

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									the MAVA Foundation in MENA.		
9	Greece	Radical Reduction on Single Use Plastics	The harmonization of the Greek legislation with the EU Directive 2019/904 on Single Use Plastics has been completed with the recent endorsement of law 4736/2020, aiming at urgently addressing the increase in plastic waste generation and the leakage of plastic waste into the environment. This law sets measures and targets at national level in line with the overall objectives of the EU's waste policy in order to drastically reduce the consumption of certain types of highly environmental damaging single use plastic products, as other more sustainable alternatives exist, namely: cups for beverages including their covers and lids; Food containers, i.e. receptacles such as boxes, with or without a cover used to contain food which: (a) is intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away; (b) is typically consumed from the receptacle; and, (c) is ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating. Greece is committed to promote more sustainable materials and to reduce: by 2024 the consumption of the abovementioned plastic products at least by 30% compared to 2022; by 2026 the consumption of the abovementioned plastic products at least by 60% compared to 2022.	1, 2, 5	National	Policy & legislation	2021	On-going	Not prescribed	Public administration, consumers, citizens, business associations	<a href="http://ypen.gov.gr">ypen.gov.gr</a>
9	Greece	New National Circular Economy Action Plan	Under the coordination of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece has just completed the elaboration of a new National Circular Economy Action Plan. The new Action Plan supports the needed shift towards a sustainable development model by boosting competition and protecting the environment. It ensures that the regulatory framework is streamlined and made fit for a sustainable future; that new opportunities from the transition are maximized; that existing gaps preventing a faster transition are adequately addressed. The new National Circular Economy Action Plan, which has been set in public consultation on 30 March 2021, is based on the new EU Circular Economy Action Plan, while also incorporating the views of the National Council for Circular Economy made up by the involved professional associations, and of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Circular Economy. The Plan includes a set of concrete actions to be implemented over the period 2021-2025, through increased cross-sectoral arrangements. It focuses on production, consumption, waste management as well as on horizontal issues related to	5, 6	National	Policy & legislation	2021	On-going	NSRF of Greece 2021-2027; EU RRF; various national sources e.g. revenues from levies and taxes for waste disposal in landfills, revenues from the tax	Public administration i.e. related Line Ministries and government bodies, involved professional associations,	<a href="http://ypen.gov.gr">ypen.gov.gr</a>

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			governance and administration. It also includes provisions for the monitoring of its implementation across key performance indicators.						imposed on the use of single use plastic bags; other international sources; private funds in line with the EU Taxonomy		
10	Israel	Food Waste and Rescue in Israel, The Economic Social and Environmental Impact, 2021.	This is the third report which includes the environmental impact of food waste, on top of the social and economic impact.	2, 3, 4, 5	National	Policy & legislation	2022	On-going			<a href="https://foodwastereport.leket.org/en/">https://foodwastereport.leket.org/en/</a>
10	Israel	The National Climate Change Preparedness and Energy Efficiency Plan for Local Authorities.	As a result of a competitive process, 12 local authorities were selected for a pilot program to prepare their individualised climate change plans based on a Guidance Manual and tailor-made assistance and expertise provided by a number of government ministries and other bodies. These initial pilots are due to be completed by the end of 2021. The initiative built upon the EU Clima Med project.  In 2022, the Ministry of Environmental Protection published a new call for proposals to support local authorities in preparing adaptation plans.	2, 3, 4, 5	National	Policy & legislation	2020	On-going			
10	Israel	DeserTech International Climate Change Innovation Center	Drawing on its experience in coping with resource scarcity in an arid and semi-arid climate, Israel has launched an international innovation center, focused on adaptation and resilience to climate change: DeserTech.  As an initial step, we began operating an innovation community, bringing together stakeholders from different sectors.		International	R&D  Policy  Training	2019	On-going	Government, Philanthropy	Israel Innovation Institute, Merage Foundation, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva Municipality, Soroka Medical Center	<a href="https://www.desertech.org.il/">https://www.desertech.org.il/</a>

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1 1	MedPAN	Network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas managers	To provide technical and strategic support to MPA managers directly at local level and through coordinated actions at Med level, with solutions and experience sharing, capacity-building and harmonised knowledge on MPAs. The strength of MedPAN lies in its ability to make the link between experiences on the ground and decision-making processes. Main achievements: MAPAMED database (with SPA/RAC) on Mediterranean MPAs and OECMs ; MedPAN database on Mediterranean MPAs management, Mediterranean MPA Forum and Roadmap process (with SPA/RAC), thematic working groups (fisheries, mobile species, financing), regular and operational MPA training programme, support to national and sub-regional existing and emerging networks of MPA managers, joint strategy with other networks of MPA managers at transatlantic scale, support to The MedFund, Production of key communication and technical tools to support MPA management and promotion	1, 5, 6	Regional	Other	2008	On-going	MAVA Foundation, European Commission (Interreg-Med), FFEM, GEF, Foundation Prince Albert II of Monaco, OFB, City of Marseille	SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, WWF Med, The MedFund, PIM, Conservatoire du Littoral, OFB, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, AdriaPAN, French Forum for MPAs, networks of MPA managers at transatlantic scale, MPA managers in the Mediterranean, NGOs and public institutions acting at all levels to support MPAs, scientific community working on MPAs	<a href="http://medpan.org">http://medpan.org</a>
1 2	MEPIELAN CENTRE-Panteion University	Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention	Implementation of the MSSD Flagship Initiative 6.2.3 “Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention”, in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE	6	Regional	International and National Law and Governance	2018	On-going	EU Life Programme, EU funded WES Regional Project	MIO/ECSDE	
1 2	MEPIELAN CENTRE-Panteion University	Mainstreaming the Public Trust Approach in the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system	Implementation of the MSSD Flagship Initiative 6.3.5 “Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to the implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements”, in cooperation with UNE/MAP.	6	Regional	International and National Law and Governance	2021	On-going			
1 3	MIO-ECSDE	Sustaining Intercultural Dialogue through deeper Understanding of Mediterranean Food (SIDUMEF)	The project aims to raise citizens’ awareness and, particularly of youth, on the links of Mediterranean diet and food, food sustainable production and consumption and the related to Mediterranean diet “intangible” cultural heritage. To this end, the project will co-create online educational resources (a handbook resource and a MOOC) on Mediterranean Food as a vehicle for the promotion of sustainability and intercultural dialogue. Ultimately, SIDUMEF aspires to improve the “perceptions of the other” by exploring the variations among food “cultures” and our common responsibilities when it comes	2, 4, 5	Regional	Educational & Training program	2020	On-going	Anna Lindh Foundation Grant & Partners Resources	MIO-ECSDE, Festambiente (Legambiente), Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE), Palestine Wildlife Society (PWLS), Club Marocain pour l’environnement et	<a href="https://medies.net/project/sustaining-intercultural-dialogue-through-deeper-understanding-of-mediterranean-food-sidumed">https://medies.net/project/sustaining-intercultural-dialogue-through-deeper-understanding-of-mediterranean-food-sidumed</a>

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			to address the current challenges of sustainable consumption and production of food.							le Développement (CMED)	
1 3- 2	MIO-ECSDE	HYDRIA Virtual Museum - <i>Linking Ancient Wisdom to Modern Needs</i>	HYDRIA Virtual Museum, is an online multi-resource platform aiming to unfold and showcase a representative part of the diverse Mediterranean Water Management Heritage through representative cases. Transforming peoples' attitudes and management patterns to more sustainable ones is a key long-term goal of HYDRIA. As a virtual platform, functioning in English, Arabic and Greek, it has digitized <b>36 cases from countries of the Mediterranean</b> on characteristic hydraulic heritage: monuments, works, sites, crafts of the distant and more recent past. It has been awarded as a good practice of promoting a new "water culture" towards sustainability, by the Anna Lindh Foundation and UNESCO. HYDRIA participates in the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMUNET). Though HYDRIA was initially launched in 2010, 2021 – 2022 was a landmark period because the online platform was "transformed" into a modern, more appealing one, increasing its functionality and accessibility. The included animations were re-designed, while a video about HYDRIA was produced and shown in many international and regional events (latest one being the 2023 UN Water Conference in NY).	2,3,6	Regional	Educational & Training program	2021	On-going	Ministry of Education of Cyprus, Ministry of Environment of Greece / Green Fund, EU LIFE Programme, Creative Europe Programme	MEdIES	<a href="https://hydriaproject.info/">https://hydriaproject.info/</a>
1 3- 3	MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES	The Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)	MIO-ECSDE and the UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean provides the Technical Secretariat to the Mediterranean Committee on ESD, through MEDIES, with the support of the Cypriot Government. The revision of the Action Plan started in early 2021 and included targeted communication and exchange with competent stakeholders and a series of actions to collect and compile the necessary evidence and feedback. Between June and September 2022 MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES facilitated the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (MCESD) in the preparation of the revised texts that were shared with the Ministries of Education of the Mediterranean countries and the IGOs participating in the MCESD, to receive comments and feedback. The finalized text was adopted during	All	Regional	Educational & Training program	2022	Ongoing	MIO-ECSDE, Cypriot Government	UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean, Cypriot Government	The revised Action Plan (in English and French) can be found <a href="#">here</a> .

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			a High-Level Event of Mediterranean Education and Environment Ministers that took place within the 9th EFE Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus (5-7 October 2022) (read more directly below)								
1 3- 4	MIO-ECSDE	High-Level Event of Education and Environment Ministers on the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and its Action Plan towards 2030	The High-Level Event took place on the 6th of October in the framework of the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus. The event offered the opportunity to 55 participants – among them Ministers and High-Level officials, academia as well as representatives of IGOs and NGOs – to share, reflect and harvest insights regarding their activities, in line with the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD. The revised Action Plan towards 2030 was also unanimously adopted. The Event approved a Statement referring to what was agreed during the meeting, the adoption of the Action Plan towards 2030, and the Mediterranean Committee on ESD that will be guided by a new Bureau consisting of the Ministries of Education of Cyprus (Chair), Greece, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine and UNEP/MAP, UNESCO, UNECE, UfM and LAS. The event was officially opened by HE the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth of Cyprus and Chairman of the MCESD, Mr. Prodromos Prodromou, while it was addressed by the MCESD representatives, and namely, Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the UfM, Ms Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva, Ms Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, and Dr. Farraj Alajami, Minister Plenipotentiary/Director of Education and Scientific Research Department, LAS. All of them reaffirmed their commitment to promote ESD in the region as a most safe tool and effective investment for the development and the promotion of sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs.	All	Regional	Education al & Training program	2022	Completed	Cypriot Governme nt	Cyprus UfM UNEP/MAP UNESCO UNECE LAS	Read more <a href="#">here</a>
1 3- 5	MIO-ECSDE	Policy Paper on the Mediterranean's Wind Energy Transition	To assist its NGO members and the other networks of stakeholders it facilitates in their advocacy, policy formulation and implementation efforts at regional, national and local level regarding the wind energy transition within and close to protected areas through concrete recommendations, MIO-ECSDE finalized in 2022 its policy paper on the Mediterranean's wind energy transition and the opportunities and risks it may entail for the region's protected environment. Through this paper, MIO-ECSDE aims to stimulate discussion on how the transition to wind energy and nature conservation	2,4	Regional	Education al & Training program	2022	Ongoing	EU LIFE Programm e	MIO-ECSDE members and partners contributed	You can find the full policy paper and the 2-page summary of the policy paper in <a href="#">English</a> and in <a href="#">French</a> .



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			can be addressed “wisely” and in a participatory way in pursuit of finding the maximum consensus for a common sustainable solution and draw attention to policy-makers whether the aggregated effects of wind energy development are sufficiently considered, so as not to exceed the carrying capacity of ecosystems or disrupt the components of a just and equitable energy transition. The position paper outlines the potential challenges and solutions related to a broad spectrum of environmental and social impacts of wind energy technologies and concludes with some key recommendations to ensure that the aggregated effects of wind energy development are sufficiently considered, so as not to impact ecosystems negatively, or disrupt the components of a just and equitable energy transition.								
1 3- 6	COMPSUD	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and COMPSUD	<p>The 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP22) to the Barcelona Convention that took place in Antalya, Turkey from 7-10 December 2021 approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and COMPSUD for their cooperation (set out in Annex II to <b>Decision IG.25/3</b>). The MoU was formally signed in a ceremony in Athens on 12 April 2022. In addition, COMPSUD was invited to remain a member of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCS D) also for the biennium 2022-2023 (set out in Annex V to this Decision).</p> <p>COMPSUD also maintains close relations with the Chairman of the UfM Parliamentary Assembly’s Committee on Energy, Environment, and Water, as well as with the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).</p>	6, and all	Regional	International and National Law and Governance	2022	Ongoing		UNEP/MAP	
1 3- 7	MIO-ECSDE	Plastic Busters MPAs	Plastic Busters MPAs, a UfM labelled Interreg Med project, aimed at shedding light on the impacts of marine litter in coastal and pelagic protected areas and consolidating Mediterranean efforts against marine litter. The project entailed actions that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and surveillance to prevention and mitigation. It concluded in June 2022, delivering a first-of-its-kind comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the presence and effects of marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs; marine litter monitoring and assessment tools and approaches; showcases and guidelines of best practice measures, particularly focused on slashing single-use plastics in Mediterranean MPAs, and so much more. MIO-ECSDE was the operational leader of the	1,5	Regional		2018	Completed	EU	ISPRA UNISI OEC Regional Government of the Balearic Islands NMPZ PNAT IEO-COB HCMR IFREMER	<p><a href="https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu">https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu</a>.</p> <p>The Plastic Busters MPAs closing conference in Athens on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 (read more at <a href="https://shorturl.at/aptH0">https://shorturl.at/aptH0</a>)</p> <p>Two e-learning modules (<a href="https://envirolearning.net">https://envirolearning.net</a>):</p>

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			<p>communication, the studying and the capitalization components of the project.</p> <p>Some of the highlights:</p> <p>The Plastic Busters MPAs closing conference in Athens on the 12th and 13th of April 2022 (read more at <a href="https://shorturl.at/apth0">https://shorturl.at/apth0</a>)</p> <p>Two e-learning modules (<a href="https://envirolearning.net">https://envirolearning.net</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plastic Busters MPAs module on how to monitor the presence and effects of marine litter.</li> <li>o Plastic Busters MPAs module on how to operationalize marine litter prevention &amp; mitigation measures.</li> </ul> <p>- A step-by-step guide for operationalizing marine litter prevention and mitigation measures (<a href="https://mio-ecsd.org/resources">https://mio-ecsd.org/resources</a>)</p> <p>- A joint plan for action entitled “Fast-tracking a collective Mediterranean response for litter-free coastal and marine protected areas: the Plastic Busters MPAs priority actions”. The collective experience of the Plastic Busters MPAs project has been crystalized in a set of priority actions that need to be implemented in order to effectively address the issue of marine litter in Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas towards achieving their conservation goals.</p> <p>- A toolkit on “Monitoring the presence and effects of marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs: the Plastic Busters MPAs protocols”.</p> <p>- A Report on the results and findings of the piloted harmonized marine litter monitoring approach in Mediterranean MPAs.</p> <p>- A Report on the results and findings of the piloted marine litter monitoring approach to assess the impacts of marine litter on biota”.</p>							<p>MedWaves</p> <p>Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Special Secretariat for Water</p> <p>Albanian Ministry of Environment-Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas</p> <p>Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection of Croatia</p> <p>University of Split, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plastic Busters MPAs module on how to monitor the presence and effects of marine litter.</li> <li>o Plastic Busters MPAs module on how to operationalize marine litter prevention &amp; mitigation measures.</li> </ul> <p>A step-by-step guide for operationalizing marine litter prevention and mitigation measures (<a href="https://mio-ecsd.org/resources">https://mio-ecsd.org/resources</a>)</p>
14	Morocco / Maroc	Elaboration du Plan National du Littoral	<p>Conformément aux dispositions de la Loi 81-12 relative au littoral, le Plan National du Littoral (PNL) a été adopté par décret.</p> <p>Le PNL est décliné en 6 axes et 20 objectifs stratégiques :</p> <p>Axe stratégique 1 : asseoir une gouvernance du littoral</p> <p>Le premier axe stratégique du PNL a pour but d’instaurer une bonne gouvernance du littoral permettant de garantir</p>	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	National	Policy & legislation	2020	On-going	Budget de l’Etat	Les membres de la Commission Nationale du Littoral	







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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ L'élaboration du Plan National Stratégique d'Adaptation 2021-2030 ;</li> <li>▪ L'élaboration de onze plans Climat Territoriaux ;</li> <li>▪ L'élaboration d'une Stratégie Nationale de Développement Bas Carbone à l'horizon 2050 ;</li> <li>▪ La conception d'une plateforme en ligne d'un système MRV (Monitoring, Reporting et Vérification) dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la Contribution Nationale Déterminée NDC ;</li> <li>▪ La mobilisation des ressources financières et techniques à travers le Fonds Vert pour le Climat (FVC) et d'autres fonds pour renforcer les capacités des acteurs aux niveaux national et régional (communes, secteur privé, ...) dans le domaine de la proposition de projets bancables ;</li> <li>▪ Renforcement de la coopération Sud-Sud notamment avec les pays d'Afrique.</li> </ul> <p>Dans le cadre de sa Stratégie Nationale de Développement Bas Carbone à l'horizon 2050, le Maroc a identifié 7 orientations stratégiques à savoir :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accélérer le développement des Energies Renouvelables (ER) en vue d'une électricité décarbonée (objectif indicatif de 80% à 2050);</li> <li>2. Hausser l'électrification des usages dans les secteurs de l'industrie, du bâtiment et du transport, et évaluer le potentiel de développement de l'hydrogène vert pour décarboner l'industrie et le fret routier ;</li> <li>3. Généraliser l'efficacité énergétique et l'efficacité dans l'utilisation des ressources naturelles dans tous les secteurs ;</li> <li>4. Stimuler l'économie circulaire et la réduction et valorisation des déchets ;</li> <li>5. Développer l'agriculture et les écosystèmes forestiers durables et résilients ;</li> <li>6. Mettre en place des plans de transports et de logistique favorisant la multi-modalité ;</li> <li>7. Promouvoir une nouvelle génération de villes sobres et « intelligentes » par le recours aux technologies de la transition numérique</li> </ol>								
15	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	1. Supporting the science-policy interface for a green renaissance in the Mediterranean	This virtual event aimed to strengthening synergies and collaborations between parliamentarians and scientists in addressing the immediate and long-term challenges related to climate change and environmental degradation in the Mediterranean Basin. The event included a review of the two recently published scientific reports: SoED and MedECC MAR1.	4, 6	Regional	Policy & legislation	2020	Achieved	UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, MedECC		

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1-5-2	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	2. On the way to COP 26, series of initiatives for parliamentarians	Parliamentarian contribution to a number of initiatives organised by strategic partners, including OECD, WB, IMF, Global Commission on Adaptation, in preparation to COP26. Organisation of a high-level virtual event in collaboration with UNFCCC, the Italian Presidency of the G20 and other key partners for preparation of PAM delegates to COP26 and COP22.	6	International	Policy & legislation	2020	On-going			
1-5-3	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	3. Strengthening partnerships towards a sustainable future in the Mediterranean	Development of platforms for the strengthening of science-policy interface mechanisms for a sustainable future across the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions. Reinforcement of PAM partnerships with UN Agencies, international and multilateral organisations, IFIs, academia and private sector working in the field of climate change, green and blue economy, energy, climate finance and natural resource governance. Close collaboration with members of the PAM academic platform for the publication of policy papers with recommendations for parliamentarians in the field of energy security and energy transition, climate-related security risks, climate change, food security, and transition towards climate neutrality.	All (1-6)	International	Policy & legislation	2020	On-going			
1-6	SDSN Mediterranean	Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Report 2020	The Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean – Transformations to achieve the SDGs. It focuses on 24 Mediterranean countries hosting a population of over 520 million people to show the current level of achievement of the SDGs in the Mediterranean region. The 2020 Report, Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, presents the SDG Index and Dashboards for the 24 countries of the Mediterranean area, a complex environment, shared by three continents, seriously affected by global warming, being the most vulnerable to climate change in the world, after the Arctic (section 1). The scores, meant as general measures of the distance to SDG targets, have been reported per country and assessed in the four aggregated regions (values weighted by population) and in the all Mediterranean area (section 2). As a result, given a general score of 73.5 of the Mediterranean area (meaning that SDG targets are achieved by 73.5%), the SDG index shows better performance in Europe West (78.5) and lower values in Europe East (74.8), North Africa (70.2) and Middle East (70.2). Nevertheless, the spillover index looks inversely proportional to the SDG index, since better performing countries tend to negatively impact on other countries (e.g. financial, trade, environmental issues), often compromising their efforts for improvements.	All (1-6)	Regional	R&D	2020	Achieved	Internal resources	Santa Chiara Lab – University of Siena, Italy; UN-Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).  For Dissemination: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat	<a href="https://sdsn-mediterranean2.wp.unisi.it/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2020/11/MED_SDG2020-def_compressed.pdf">https://sdsn-mediterranean2.wp.unisi.it/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2020/11/MED_SDG2020-def_compressed.pdf</a>

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17	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)	Local4Action Hubs	The Local4Action Hubs are spaces held within UCLG meetings aimed at showcasing and promoting the #LocalizingSDGs agenda.	2, 3, 4, 6	International	Policy & legislation	2020	On-going			
18	Cyprus (Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth)	Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)	<p>The Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development is a “new generation” instrument, which could serve in an integrated way all major international commitments of the countries of the region related to formal and non-formal ESD as well as informal ESD/awareness raising in a way easy to be followed by national administrations, contributing to the reduction of unnecessary overlaps, repetitions and related costs.</p> <p>It is stressed that the Action Plan is directly related, on the one hand, to the two major relevant regional Mediterranean processes, namely: the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, under the UfM, and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) (2016-2025) of the Barcelona Convention, coordinated by UNEP/MAP, and on the other, on the promotion and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the UNESCO ESD for 2030, and the UNECE ESD Strategy and the Framework for its implementation 2021-2030 while it takes due consideration of the objectives of the EU Green Deal and integrates the other relevant provisions deriving from international conventions and important international developments.</p> <p>The Action Plan directly derives from and reflects the “Framework of Implementation” of the MSESD (articles 42-70) and as a consequence, it elaborates and interprets the Framework’s components in a more detailed and concrete way suggesting an indicative roadmap, in order to assist towards:</p> <p>A. Enhancing the enabling conditions for the proper implementation of the MSESD.</p> <p>B. Proposing a set of identified common regional programmes/projects of institutional/non-thematic nature.</p> <p>C. Highlighting priority thematic issues for region-wide programmes.</p> <p>D. Proposing indicators of progress and monitoring.</p>						The Strategy) and from resources from the Med. Members States		



19	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Policy debate on Framing the Environmental Security – Public Health Nexus	The aim of the initiative was to explore the interlinks between environmental degradation and public health, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event served as a forum for interdisciplinary knowledge-sharing and intended to promote policy convergence around the need to better protect the environment to safeguard citizens' health, reverse climate change, promote socio-economic development, and enhance global security.	4, 5, 6	International	Parliamentary Web Dialogue	2021	Achieved	Italian Society of Environmental Medicine, WHO, Quality of Life, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Stanford Prevention Centre	<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2021/science-informs-policy-making-at-osce-parliamentary-assembly-webinar-on-pollution-and-public-health">https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2021/science-informs-policy-making-at-osce-parliamentary-assembly-webinar-on-pollution-and-public-health</a>
19-2	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	A Parliamentary Plea for Resolute Climate Action	In view of COP26, the Officers of the 2nd Committee published a concise PA contribution to inspire national leaders to address the climate crisis resolutely, coherently, and co-operatively, in line with the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement. The Plea emphasizes that the international community should urgently redirect co-operative efforts towards shaping a more sustainable, carbon-neutral development model in which environmental, economic, social and public health factors are duly factored in.	4, 5, 6	International	Policy & legislation	2021	Achieved		<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/officers-of-the-assembly/4288-parliamentary-plea-for-resolute-climate-action-8-november-2021/file">https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/officers-of-the-assembly/4288-parliamentary-plea-for-resolute-climate-action-8-november-2021/file</a>
19-3	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	The Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting	The aim of the Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting was to discuss the environmental, economic, social and security repercussions of the climate crisis, as well as effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. Representing the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Pere Joan Pons emphasized the role of parliamentarians in shaping national legislation and mobilizing adequate resources to implement the Paris Agreement.	4, 5, 6	International	Parliamentary Meeting	2021	Achieved	The Italian Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)	<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2021/osce-pa-s-pons-at-pre-cop26-meeting-parliamentarians-are-guardians-of-paris-agreement-no-global-security-without-climate-security">https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2021/osce-pa-s-pons-at-pre-cop26-meeting-parliamentarians-are-guardians-of-paris-agreement-no-global-security-without-climate-security</a>
19-4	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Policy debate on the Clean Energy Revolution and its Implications for the OSCE region	The goal of the event was to assess current energy trends, consider the latest technological developments, and explore potential geopolitical, socio-economic, and environmental implications of the energy transition. It confirmed the centrality of decarbonized energy policies for European	4, 5, 6	Regional	Parliamentary Web Dialogue	2022	Achieved	Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology	<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/general-committees/economic-affairs-science-technology-and-environment/4344-osce-pa-web-dialogue-on-the-clean">https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/general-committees/economic-affairs-science-technology-and-environment/4344-osce-pa-web-dialogue-on-the-clean</a>

			security and reinforced the Assembly's determination to engage in this domain, which bridges economic and environmental security aspects.							<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/2022-02-04/file">energy-revolution-highlights-2022-02-04/file</a>
19-5	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Policy debate on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the OSCE region: a parliamentary perspective	The webinar was held as a part of the OSCE PA's Call for Action – Helsinki +50 process. The speakers raised concerns about climate change and related challenges such as threats to water supplies and energy security, as well as discussed how parliaments and the OSCE can further the sustainability efforts.	4, 5, 6	Regional	Webinar	2022	Achieved	WHO, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe, the CIS	<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/2022/osce-pa-webinar-focuses-on-implementation-of-sustainable-development-goals">https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/2022/osce-pa-webinar-focuses-on-implementation-of-sustainable-development-goals</a>
19-6	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Coordination of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme	The meeting of the Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment with the UNEP/MAP focused on discussing the ways to strengthen strategic partnerships to better address growing environmental and development related challenges in the Mediterranean region. Among the priorities identified were co-operation on water issues, biodiversity protection, and environmental pollution, including curbing plastic waste.	1, 2, 3	Regional	Parliamentary meeting	2022	Achieved	UNEP/MAP, the Hellenic Parliament	<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/2022/environmental-challenges-and-energy-security-in-the-mediterranean-region-in-focus-during-osce-pa-s-pons-s-meetings-in-athens">https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/2022/environmental-challenges-and-energy-security-in-the-mediterranean-region-in-focus-during-osce-pa-s-pons-s-meetings-in-athens</a>
19-7	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Birmingham Declaration - Resolution of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> General Committee	The resolution consolidates all the activities and recommendations of the OSCE PA related to economic and environmental security in the Mediterranean region and in other OSCE participating States. It emphasizes a determination to accelerate the clean energy transition, ensure sustainable resource management, food and water security, greener economy, as well as addressing environmental degradation, pollution, climate change, and SDGs as a priority.	All (1-6)	Regional	Policy & legislation	2022	Achieved		<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/annual-sessions/2022-birmingham/declaration-28/4409-birmingham-declaration-eng/file">https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/annual-sessions/2022-birmingham/declaration-28/4409-birmingham-declaration-eng/file</a>
19-8	The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	A Special Debate on "Affordable, secure, clean, and sustainable energy in the OSCE region: prospects and challenges"	As a part of the 22nd OSCE PA Winter Meeting, a special debate stressed the importance of renewable energy in energy transition, as well as a need of other low carbon technologies like nuclear.	3	Regional	Parliamentary meeting	2023	Achieved	IAEA, NYU's Tandon School of Engineering	<a href="https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/press-2023/speakers-at-osce-pa-winter-meeting-opening-session-call-for-unified-response-to-russia-s-war-against-ukraine">https://www.oscepa.org/en/new-s-a-media/press-releases/press-2023/speakers-at-osce-pa-winter-meeting-opening-session-call-for-unified-response-to-russia-s-war-against-ukraine</a>

Annex II: Significant initiatives undertaken by UNEP/MAP Components in 2021-2023, as reported through a short online survey (April 2023)

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
PAP/RAC	Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through MSP (GEF Adriatic)	The overall objective of the initiative is to restore the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea through implementation of the ecosystem approach and improve sub-regional management capacity through MSP as a viable marine management tool. In doing so, the aim is to integrate horizontally management tools through ecosystem approach (MSP, ICZM, MPAs, etc.) and to provide technical assistance to Albania and Montenegro to strengthen their respective management capacity. Achievements till the end of the project: Integrated monitoring programmes for Albania and Montenegro; Towards integrated GES assessment for Albania and Montenegro (with thematic GES assessments), with recommended measures; Two marine surveys in Albania and Montenegro; National data bases for Albania and Montenegro, harmonised with IMAP INFO system; Cumulative impact assessment for Montenegro, based on IMAP; Draft MSP for Montenegro; national and sub-regional capacity building programmes on monitoring, GES, data bases and data standards and MSP.	1, 5, 6	Sub-regional, national	Research and development	2017	Closed in June 2021	GEF – 1,520,490 EUR	UNEP/MAP with SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC; Ministry of Tourism and Environment and National Agency for Protected Areas (Albania); and Ministry for Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism (Montenegro) as national partners and beneficiaries	<a href="https://www.unep.org/unespmap/what-we-do/projects/GEF-Adriatic-project">https://www.unep.org/unespmap/what-we-do/projects/GEF-Adriatic-project</a>
PAP/RAC	Coastal Area management Programme (CAMP)	CAMPs are seen as the ICZM Protocol implementation projects at the local level. Their <u>objectives</u> are: to develop strategies and procedures for a sustainable development in project areas; to identify and apply relevant methodologies and tools; to contribute to the capacity building at local, national and regional levels; and to secure a wider use in the region of the results achieved. In 2021-2023, two national CAMPs (in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Israel), and the first transboundary CAMP between Albania and	All (1-6)	National	Research and development; capacity building	2020	On-going	MTF – 750,000 EUR	National and regional authorities of the CAMP hosting countries; other UNEP/MAP Components	<a href="https://iczmplatform.org/projects">https://iczmplatform.org/projects</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		Italy for the Otranto area have been implemented.								
PAP/RAC	GEF MedProgramme: Child Project 2.1 and SCCF project	Within the on-going GEF MedProgramme, support is provided to Lebanon for the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy, and to Montenegro and Morocco for the preparation of coastal plans for two coastal regions (Boka Kotorska and Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima respectively). All these instruments will contain a series of measures for an improved coastal management including those related to land policy, adaptation to climate change, and governance mechanisms for sustainable coastal development.	All (1-6)	National	Policy and legislation	2020	On-going	GEF MedProgramme and SCCF – 1,200,000 EUR	National and regional authorities of the hosting countries; Plan Bleu; IHP-UNESCO; GWP Med	
PAP/RAC	AdriAdapt	The project aims at improving local capacities to adapt to climate change in the Adriatic region by creating an information platform that provides access to guidance, data and tools that will help local authorities to take adequate policy measures and develop plans to increase resilience in urban and coastal context.	All (1-6)	Sub-regional	Policy and Legislation	2019	Closed in June 2021	InterReg Ital – Croatia (EU) – 2,223,870 EUR	Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC), PAP/RAC, IUAV of University of Venice, Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ), Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy of Emilia Romagna (ARPAE), Unione dei comuni Vale del Savio, DOOR, cities of Vodice, Cervia, Udine, County of Šibenik-Knin	<a href="https://adriadapt.eu/">https://adriadapt.eu/</a> ; <a href="https://www.italy-croatia.eu/adriadapt">https://www.italy-croatia.eu/adriadapt</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
PAP/RAC	CREATE the coastal future of Adriatic communities	CREATE is a cluster project - it aims to capitalise on outcomes, networking and activities provided by numerous completed and ongoing Interreg Italy-Croatia projects. It will provide coastal authorities and stakeholders with an easily accessible systematic overview of the knowledge produced around the topic "Adaptation to climate changes: governance and capacity building". Events, networking activities and dissemination initiatives are at the core of the project, to accelerate systemic transformations towards sustainability and resilience, also enriching the available knowledge with the involvement of projects from the other thematic areas as well. It supports the transfer of good practices by proposing top achievements for replication, analysing factors of success, providing recommendations for harmonising procedures and data standards, and bridging knowledge gaps.	All (1-6)	Sub-regional	Capacity building; transfer of knowledge and good practices	2022	On-going	EU Interreg Italy-Croatia	Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar – Zagreb, Croatia, IUAV UNIVERSITY OF VENICE - Italy, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR) - Italy, Abruzzo Region - Italy, PAP/RAC, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries – Split, Croatia, County of Split-Dalmatia - Croatia	<a href="https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/create">https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/create</a>
REMPEC	Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan	The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) aims at contributing to the implementation of overarching and thematic Mediterranean strategies, particularly the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) (2016-2025), the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)'s Mid-Term Strategy (2022-2027), the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and its roadmap for implementation, the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027) and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean adopted in the Framework of Article 15 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention. It also strives to contribute to global and other	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Regional	Policy and Legislation	2022	ongoing	Resources requirements to be assessed in 2021 – UNEP/MAP, IMO ITCP, EU Funding, industry, other donors and contributions	The implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) shall be governed through the comprehensive and integrated institutional, legal, and implementing framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, particularly the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in collaboration with relevant national, regional, and international	<a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/our-work/strategies-and-actions-plans/regional-strategy">https://www.rempec.org/en/our-work/strategies-and-actions-plans/regional-strategy</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		regional goals and strategies, notably, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the revised Strategic Plan of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the six-year period 2018-2023, the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, the Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from ships, disaster resilience, prevention, preparedness and response in line with the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the European Green Deal, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) 5-Year Strategy (2020-2024), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, and the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Aichi Targets (specifically target 9 on invasive alien species), and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.							organisations, institutions, agencies and stakeholders. NGOs are invited to apply for accreditation as UNEP/MAP partners to become involved in the implementation of the said strategy.	
REMPEC	Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027)	The Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027) aims at: establishing a framework for a regional harmonised approach in the Mediterranean on ships' ballast water control and management which is consistent with the requirements and standards of the BWM Convention, as outlined in its Article 13.3; initiating some preliminary activities related to the management of ships' biofouling in the Mediterranean region; and contributing to the achievement of GES with respect to NIS as defined in IMAP.	1,2, and 6	Regional	Policy and Legislation	2022	On-going	Resources requirements to be assessed in 2023 – UNEP/MAP, IMO's ITCP, EU funding, industry, other donors and contributions	SPA/RAC, IMO, GEF, UNDP, EBRD	<a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/ourwork/strategies-and-actions-plans/ballast-water-strategy">https://www.rempec.org/en/ourwork/strategies-and-actions-plans/ballast-water-strategy</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
REMPEC	Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan	<p>The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan aims at defining measures, which, if applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within its jurisdiction, will ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting-up a governance framework to support the implementation of the Action Plan and the adoption, enforcement and monitoring of regional standards, procedures and rules;</li> <li>- Defining commonly agreed regional offshore standards and guidelines to be integrated and used at national level; and</li> <li>- Developing in conformity with EcAp and its relevant indicators a regional commonly agreed reporting and monitoring system for the Action Plan.</li> </ul>	1, 2, 5, 6	Regional	Policy and Legislation	2016	On-going	1,500,000 EUR	IOGP	<a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/about-us/strategies-and-actions-plans/mediterranean-offshore-action-plan">https://www.rempec.org/en/about-us/strategies-and-actions-plans/mediterranean-offshore-action-plan</a>
SPA/RAC	Post-2020 SAPBIO	<p>The Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAP BIO) provides a logical framework for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, within the context of sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, as a renovated environmental governance tool for the further implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). It is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, harmonized with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework through the optic of the Mediterranean context.</p> <p>The Post-2020 SAPBIO was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during their 22nd Meeting (COP 22; Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021). As a follow-up step for the adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, SPA/RAC launched a</p>	1, 6	Regional, National, Local	Policy and Legislation	2022	Inception	MTF, EXT	Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee members	<a href="http://www.spa-rac.org">www.spa-rac.org</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		<p>process aimed at elaborating a Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030. The objective of this RMS is, on one hand, to ensure financial support that has a switch value to allow a sequence of actions for a realistic operational implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and, on the other hand, to provide a description of the kind of support, such as capacity-building, technical, scientific, legal, or institutional assistance, needed by the Contracting Parties for their efforts in implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO.</p> <p>The elaboration process of the RMS is a participative process involving all the relevant actors within organizations, institutions and experts of marine conservation in the Mediterranean. The undertaken steps in the framework of the elaboration of the RMS are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The elaboration of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy document in close consultation with the relevant actors;</li> <li>- The elaboration of a project portfolio made of four full projects concepts based on the Very High priority actions within the 42 Actions of the Post 2020 SAPBIO;</li> <li>- The mapping of the potential donors and funding agencies from the public and private sectors and identification of their match with the project concepts;</li> <li>- Organisation of the 4th Meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee in order to have their comments and suggestions on the draft documents and have their feedback about any ongoing project/initiative they deem important to consider in the elaboration of the RMS, considering that the latter is aimed</li> </ul>								



UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		<p>to be a regional strategy in full harmony with the existing initiatives of relevance to the Post-2020 SAPBIO goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation with the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents during their 9th Meeting (Barcelona, Spain, 24 February 2023);</li> <li>- Consultation with potential donors during a Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean held in Paris, France, on 16 March 2023.</li> </ul> <p>After the Donor Conference, bilateral meetings are being organized with the attending donors in order to better discuss the projects' components that are of interest to their respective organizations and to adapt the project portfolio accordingly.</p>								
SPA/RAC	Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean	<p>During their COP 21, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat (through SPA/RAC) to elaborate an ambitious and transformational post-2020 strategy for marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the CBD and other regional and global processes, and in consultation with relevant global and regional organizations, for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their COP 22.</p> <p>The Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean was developed under the coordination of SPA/RAC, the technical guidance of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM), and in consultation with the Contracting Parties and the relevant regional and international organizations active in the Mediterranean. It</p>	1, 6	Regional, National, Local	Policy and Legislation	2022	Inception	National budgets, The MedFund, bilateral and international donors; MTF, external funds, other regional and international organizations. As an indication,	National authorities in charge of MPAs and marine conservation, AGEM, relevant international and regional organizations, NGOs, private sector	<a href="http://www.spa-rac.org">www.spa-rac.org</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		<p>was adopted by the Barcelona Convention COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021).</p> <p>The Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs is built around 5 Strategic Pillars: (i) Governance, (ii) MCPA network expansion, (iii) OECMs, (iv) Management effectiveness, and (v) Government and stakeholder action and support. Under each pillar, a clear strategic outcome (5 Strategic Outcomes), with corresponding outputs (20 Outputs in total) and proposed key actions (at national and international levels) have been identified (126 Actions).</p> <p>The Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs aims to achieve the 2 following 2030 Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity; and</li> <li>- By 2030, the number and coverage of marine and coastal protected areas with enhanced protection levels is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems.</li> </ul> <p>COP 22 called upon the Contracting Parties to take effective measures to implement the Post-2020 Regional Strategy, thus enhancing the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) in the Mediterranean region; and requested SPA/RAC, in coordination with other regional and international organizations, to support the Contracting Parties with technical and, where</p>								

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		<p>possible, financial assistance to undertake the activities indicated in the Post-2020 Regional Strategy with the aim to effectively achieve its strategic outcomes and targets.</p> <p>SPA/RAC is giving capital importance to a realistic operational implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO supported by the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs. To this end, during the 2022-2023 biennial period, SPA/RAC launched a process aimed at the elaboration of a Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030.</p> <p>This process is being implemented with the guidance and involvement of the Contracting Parties and relevant regional and international organizations (See Post-2020 SAPBIO above).</p>								
SCP/RAC	Switchers Support Programme	<p>The Switchers Support Programme, created by SCP/RAC, works to create an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurs and small and medium sized enterprises in the Mediterranean pursuing SCP and Circular Economy business models. The Programme provides entrepreneurs, business support organisations and local communities with business development services, networking opportunities and access to finance services.</p> <p>During 2020, the Switchers Support Programme achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of 5 local networks of Business Support Organisations in Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco, engaging 70 organizations,</li> <li>• The development of sustainable business expert networks, training 166 professionals in 6 countries. 50% of targeted professionals are women,</li> </ul>	5	Regional, Sub-regional, National		2018	On-going		DG NEAR, ENI CBC MED, Catalan Cooperation, Catalan Waste Agency, MTF	<a href="https://www.theswitchers.org/">https://www.theswitchers.org/</a>

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The launch of the GIMED business support training and incubation programme in Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt and Italy,</li> <li>• The development of TheSwitchers.org platform, a online and free-to-use tool to enable interactions among entrepreneurs, business providers, trainers, mentors and financial institutions willing to develop novel business models in the field of Green and Circular Economy.</li> </ul> <p>Likewise, the Switchers Community, a community of inspiring green entrepreneurs and changemakers, reached 400+ members in 2020 providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great exposure for eco innovative business ideas via online, easy-to-use web platform which increases visibility and exposure for green entrepreneur products and services.</li> <li>• Outstanding networking opportunities. It builds strong and far reaching networks that allow foster visibility and attractiveness of green and circular business models, as well as engagement and commitment among local stakeholders</li> <li>• Benefit from peer to peer support and knowledge exchange by joining SCP/RAC interactive Switchers group</li> <li>• 100 funding opportunities, shared among the community</li> <li>• 5 international events hosting Switchers</li> </ul> <p>The Switchers Support Programme also includes the SwitchersFund, which serves as convening platform for private funders including foundations, private donors, ready to invest impact investors, to identify projects in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>After having engaged more than 100 investors and harvested more than 3 M€ in funding for Green Entrepreneurs since its establishment in 2017 the Switchers Fund underwent an important reorganization in 2020. The Switchers Fund has been equipped with a new brand</p>								

UNEP/MAP Component	Name of the initiative	Short description: key objectives and achievements	MSSD Objectives	Geographic scope	Type of initiative	Launch year	Progress	Funding sources	Partners	Website
		<p>strategy which will be deployed for the next 2021-2023 implementing period, relying on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The development of the Sustainable Finance Med Observatory</li> <li>2. The establishment of Sustainable Finance National Working Groups</li> <li>3. The engagement of national and regional investors, thanks to an extensive action of awareness raising, training and match making in 10 Mediterranean countries.</li> </ol> <p>Finally regarding policy support, following the request of the Barcelona Convention Contracting parties (COP21 Decision IG. 24/13), in 2020 SCP/RAC worked on the development of a set of regional measures to support green and circular businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compiling country factsheets, 4 sub-Regional Baseline Assessment on the enabling environment for green and circular businesses in the Region, 43 policy recommendations,</li> <li>- Identifying and analysing international Best Practices to nurture the process and boost policy learning,</li> <li>- Implementing a Regional Online Consultation, coupled with key informative documents to enable bottom-up policy making processes</li> </ul> <p>(<a href="https://switchmed.eu/policy/regional-stakeholder-consultation/">https://switchmed.eu/policy/regional-stakeholder-consultation/</a>)</p>								
Plan Bleu	Update of the MSSD Dashboard	<p>The compendium of the 28 "indicator factsheets" of the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard is updated every 2 years as a monitoring tool to follow up the MSSD implementation at regional level. It has been updated during the biennium 2020-2021 and covers the 6 topics of the MSSD 2016-2025. It supports the Contracting Parties to report on SDGs implementation at national level. The Regional Observatory's website has been redesigned.</p>	All (1-6)	Regional	Policy and Legislation	2020	Achieved (cont'd)	MTF: 10.000 USD	2 GIS experts and 1 website designer	<a href="https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/">https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/</a>

