

FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAMME 5: GOVERNANCE

General introduction

100. Programme 5 corresponds to the 6th MSSD objective and constitutes a prerequisite for the operation and effectiveness of the entire MTS. It also reflects commitments set through the Governance and Compliance Committee decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties - including COP 20 Decisions IG.23/2 and IG.23/3 and COP 21 Decisions IG.24/1 and IG.24/2 - as well as key decisions related to strengthening partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and resource mobilization (including Decision IG.19/6 adopted at COP16 and Decision IG.24/2 adopted at COP21, related to MAP Partners, and Decisions IG.23/5 adopted at COP 20 and IG. 24/2 adopted at COP 21 regarding the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy and its refined appendix). Also relevant are decisions regarding the ecosystem approach (COP 17 Decision IG.20/4 and COP 18 Decision IG.21/3) and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable (MCS - COP 19 Decision IG.22/17).

101. The MTS aims at creating the necessary conditions for the organs and bodies of the MAP system and its Secretariat to efficiently deliver their key mandates as stipulated in Articles 17 and 18 of the Barcelona Convention and the other relevant Articles of the Protocols, as well as to strengthen collaboration with major actors, programmes and initiatives working in and for the Mediterranean region. The MTS is compliant with the MAP legal system, i.e., the Barcelona Convention, Protocols that have entered or are about to enter into force, legally binding Regional Plans and Action Plans, as well as Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions. Ensuring enforcement and an integrated and efficiently coordinated support to the Contracting Parties for their implementation and for achieving compliance remains a high priority of the MTS.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

102. Programme 5 contributes to several SDG targets including SDG 14 and SDG 17 “*partnerships for the goals*”, as well as overall with UNEA decisions and resolutions. It is also in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS “*Environmental Governance*” programme.

103. UNEP/MAP has established partnerships at the global, regional and national level as previously described. As well as aligning priorities, UNEP/MAP is engaged in key decision-making meetings to ensure synergies in governance and planning, including with UNEP Regional Seas strategic directions and UNEA Resolutions, CBD and the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, UfM, GFCM, IMO, BRS Conventions and EU’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive amongst others. Promoting synergies ensures greater impact in supporting Mediterranean countries integrate and streamline global and regional agreed objectives and targets at the national level. This is also of particular importance with regards to priorities with those of major donors (see, COP 21 Decision IG.23/5 Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy) such as the GEF 7 Strategy.

Programme 5 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water with its Targets

Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17

Noting that Programme 5 also contributes to the SDG targets mentioned under the other Programmes.

Objectives

104. Programme 5 includes the following strategic objectives:
1. To ensure and strengthen appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, and enhance access to information, participation and engagement of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process;
 2. To strengthen the application of the ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities with the view to achieving or maintaining good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal region;
 3. To strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, the adopted Strategies and Action Plans, as well as Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions;
 4. To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among international and regional partners and organizations active in the Mediterranean region;
 5. To mobilize external resources for the efficient delivery of the MTS; and
 6. To promote effective science policy interface mechanisms at regional and national level.

Outcomes

105. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 5.1. Effective Implementation and Enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, including Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels.

106. Strengthening environmental governance in the Mediterranean region by enhancing Contracting Parties' capacity for implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols is instrumental in achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) in the context of sustainable development, including the ratification of its Protocols. Despite good progress in this area, implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols remain a key challenge for all Contracting Parties. By supporting Contracting Parties to strengthen their legal frameworks and institutional capacity in implementing and enforcing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, ownership will be increased, and the environmental rule of law will be reinforced in the Mediterranean region enabling the achievement of GES in the overall context of Agenda 2030. Support to Contracting Parties in the form of country-driven and result-oriented activities will include capacity building action to enhance implementation and enforcement by inter alia sharing of knowledge, best practices and information through relevant platforms, providing technical assistance for updating or developing the legislative or policy measures implementing the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions and the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development, conducting regional trainings, and developing guidance tools such as technical guidelines or model legislation. This will be framed in the continued and sustained enhancement of the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee, inter alia by supporting and enhancing national reporting, as well as reporting on monitoring and by strengthening synergies with MAP components as well as with civil society.

Outcome 5.2. Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensured, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches.

107. The smooth functioning of a multi-level governance mechanism is fundamental for achieving complex and ambitious goals and for achieving the GES and the sustainable development of the region. Such a mechanism should be strengthened in a systemic manner to ensure effectiveness at all levels, from the regional cooperation at the governance bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system to cross-sectorally organised institutional coordination of the various administrative authorities at national level. The delivery of the work of the governance bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system should be done in a coherent manner, ensuring “delivery as one”, inter alia through smooth and effective organization of meetings and timely dissemination of high-quality documentation. To this aim, efforts should be made to better streamline and ensure effective and timely interaction between the MAP policy making bodies (i.e. COP, Bureau, MAP Focal Points, Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, MCSD, Compliance Committee) and the governance mechanisms established to support and promote the scientific and technical work in the MAP system (Components/Thematic Focal Points, CORMONs, ad hoc technical Working Groups, etc.). There is also a need to ensure appropriate governance schemes allowing adequate and timely participation and contribution in transparent decision-making of all actors and stakeholders concerned. At the same time, digital approaches and modern tools can help the system shift our traditional ways of work while maintaining or even enhancing the level of efficiency and reducing the environmental footprint of our operations. These methods, some of which were tested or used more widely during the Covid-19 pandemic, should be further explored and promoted, in line with the UNEP-led process of modernizing global environmental governance. Adequate resources should be ensured to the Secretariat and MAP Components to deliver the mandate set by the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the relevant COP Decisions. Also, independent performance reviews of the MAP components will be undertaken on a periodic basis, building on the lessons learned of the recent performance reviews conducted in the framework of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

Outcome 5.3. Policy coherence and complementarity ensured among relevant work at global, regional and national levels and among MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s policy and regulatory instruments.

108. Outcome 5.3 aims to ensure coherence and synergies between the MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s policies and regulatory instruments and global processes on sustainable development and the protection of the environment, including the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the forthcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the CBD. Those synergies, including through the integration of innovative reporting mechanisms linking the global, regional and national levels, as well as through the advancement of peer learning mechanisms between Contracting Parties, will ensure coherence and complementarity between global and regional objectives and targets, while considering Mediterranean innovation and specificities. The promotion of multi-stakeholder governance schemes, of cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, and of participation and engagement of relevant stakeholders will strengthen the capacity of the Contracting Parties and partners to comply with and enforce the MAP policies towards the achievement of the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal region and the achievement of Agenda 2030. This will be supported by strengthening synergies with compliance mechanisms of other MEAs, in line also with outcome 5.1, as well as by the functioning of effective science-policy interface mechanisms at regional and national level, in line with outcome 5.4.

Outcome 5.4. Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface.

109. Enhancing partnerships in the implementation of actions and supporting transfer of ocean knowledge for the science-based management of the Mediterranean Sea is a crucial process for the successful implementation of the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system. The partnerships, aligned with the existing legal framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, will create a solid partnership to strengthen implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), support to MEDECC as a voluntary science policy interface platform of Mediterranean climate scientists well as integration of policy and management responses of UNEP/MAP with the requirements of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. By reaching out to science and establishing long-term collaborations with credible and reliable scientific institutions, with proven scientific knowledge and experience both at national and regional/sub-regional levels, the transfer and use of unprecedented achievements in science and technology will be ensured. In order to ensure an ambitious transformation towards optimal partnerships, it is necessary to (i) mobilize scientific assemblages to support the objectives of partnerships created to support effective science-policy interface; (ii) connect many existing initiatives, efforts, actors, resources and tools for marine science in the Mediterranean and beyond; (iii) strengthen synergies; (iv) support learning to work together; and (v) coordinate the resources for strengthened impact and avoid duplication and fragmentation.

Outcome 5.5. Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

110. Identifying, promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation at global and regional level is vital in strengthening public institutional capacities for the enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Leveraging global and regional platforms and networks for sharing experience, knowledge and best practices in enforcement and management will increase the effective and coordinated implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, supporting in turn the adoption of harmonized enforcement strategies in the Mediterranean region. In so doing, within the framework of the 2022-2027 MTS, it would be a priority fostering synergies, mutual supportiveness, experience sharing and lesson-learning and efficient utilization of available resources and expertise through inter alia training, development of materials and platforms in partnership with relevant MEAs or other institutions. The strengthening of public institution capacities is crucial for increasing ownership, for supporting environmental rule of law and for ensuring effective implementation at the national and local level.