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11 November 2020
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90th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Teleconference, 12-13 November 2020

Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Outcome of the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020



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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP

11 November 2020
Original: English

1st Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Medium-Term Strategy

Teleconference, 10-11 November 2020

Agenda Item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

Outcome of the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS

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Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

- The meeting was attended by eight members of the MTS Steering Committee (Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey), the Secretariat, and the Heads of the MAP Components as observers.
- The Steering Committee elected the members of the Bureau as officers of the Meeting, keeping the same functions that they hold as Bureau officers.
- The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in document UNEP/MED WG.486/1. No additional issues were added to Agenda Item 5 “*Any Other Matters*”.

Agenda Item 2: Evaluation of the 2016-2021 MTS

- The Committee expressed satisfaction with the progress so far and the initial findings of the evaluation.
- The members of the Committee agreed that the final outcome of the evaluation would be a very useful input for the preparation of the new MTS. The members of the Committee noted that the MTS should provide guidance and be an umbrella under which the biannual PoWs should be prepared, noting at the same time that if the MTS is too detailed it may restrict the preparation of PoWs. They agreed that the MTS is an overall framework, providing the link between the PoWs and an overall consistency.
- The Committee asked that the next steps of the evaluation proceed as planned, taking into account the comments presented during the meeting. The next steps, including an analysis of the deliverables under the PoWs 2016-2017, 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 against the major strategic outcomes and main outputs of the MTS, interviews with CPs, partners as well as with the Secretariat and MAP Components, should also aim to provide further insight and clarifications regarding the initial evaluation findings. This process should be concluded in time for consideration of its final outcome by the MAP Focal Points meeting.
- The Committee agreed to mobilize stakeholders at national level in providing feedback for the evaluation.

Agenda Item 3: Methodology and Process for the Preparation of the 2022-2027 MTS

- The Committee welcomed the early start of the process and its inclusive nature, its preparation as a collective effort of the Secretariat and MAP components, making use of MAP's and other actors' relevant lessons learned and best practices, and agreed with the next steps of the process for the preparation of the new MTS, as presented by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 4: Review of the Main Elements of the 2022-2027 MTS**(a) Approach and Structure, (b) Vision and Goals, (c) Areas of Work (including Objectives, Outcomes and Potential Main Products)**

- The Committee expressed its overall satisfaction with the work done so far and with the document UNEP/MED WG.486/3 “Draft Structure and Main Elements of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027”, noting that the MAP-Barcelona Convention can be a model for other Regional Seas.
- The Committee agreed with the overall structure proposed for the MTS and with the schematic approach on the main areas of work (7 programmes: 4 thematic, 1 foundational and 2 enabling). The Committee also agreed with the overall Table of Contents and the approach taken for the presentation of each Programme, with an introduction, a presentation of the MAP objectives -including the ecological objectives - each Programme is contributing to, the Programme's strategic outcomes, and finally targets and indicators to be further developed.
- The Committee agreed with the proposed vision (option 1), goals and objectives of the MTS with minor adjustments.

- The Committee agreed that the document should be strategic and concise, and formulated in a way so that it can form a tool for awareness, visibility and resource mobilization beyond the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (donors, other partners, private sectors, and other stakeholders).
- The Committee provided specific comments on the different sections of document UNEP/MED WG.486/3, that were reflected on the text using comments and track changes, as presented in Annex I to the present document. The Committee acknowledged that the indicative draft products presented in UNEP/MED WG.486/Inf.4 provided additional information to better understand the rationale for each Programme's objectives and outcomes, and accordingly asked that the products presented in document UNEP/MED WG.486/Inf.4 are streamlined and that their indicative nature is retained.
- The Committee undertook a general discussion on the other MTS chapters to be developed addressing implementation, monitoring and evaluation and provided further insight on implementation modalities, partnership and funding as well as on possible indicators.
- In conclusion, the Committee provided overall agreement with document UNEP/MED WG.486/3 and asked the Secretariat to submit the outcome of this meeting to the 90th Bureau meeting and to continue refining it taking into account the comments provided.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Matters

Agenda Item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

Annex I
UNEP/MED WG.486/3 with comments and track changes



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UNEP/MED WG.486/3



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1st Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Medium-Term Strategy

Teleconference, 10-11 November 2020

Agenda Item 3: Methodology and Process for the Preparation of the 2022-2027 MTS

Agenda Item 4: Review of the Main Elements of the 2022-2027 MTS

Draft Structure and Main Elements of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020

Note by the Secretariat

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention), with Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) “*Request[ed] the Secretariat to prepare the UNEP/MAP 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy in close cooperation with MAP components and with the full involvement of the Contracting Parties, under the guidance of the Bureau and through a dedicated steering committee that will be composed by the Bureau complemented by a limited group of interested Contracting Parties (3 additional persons, one nominated by each sub-group, to ensure a balanced geographical representation), and to submit a first draft to an open ended working group, for final submission to the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22).*”

In implementing the above mentioned COP Decision, the process and timeline for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 were presented to the 89th Meeting of the Bureau (Rome, Italy, 22-23 April 2020) and were disseminated to all Contracting Parties following approval by the Bureau. In line with this timeline the 40th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP-Rome, Italy, 30-31 January 2020), discussed the development of the new MTS, its format, structure and related timeline, followed by the completion of a questionnaire regarding the MTS structure by all ECP members. The 41st Meeting of the ECP (Teleconference, 19-20 May 2020) agreed on a bottom up approach with the mapping of main products and grouping them under key building blocks of priorities, with a focus on a more flexible, integrated and innovative approach. The 42nd Meeting of the ECP (Teleconference, 8-9 July 2020) presented and reviewed the main products and deliverables prepared and their initial grouping into a number of main building blocks. This exercise, with the mapping of strategies of relevant organizations at the regional and global level, giving special emphasis to the process of preparation of the draft UNEP Global Medium-Term Strategy 2021- 2025 and good examples of similar strategies, provided the information towards the development of a draft MTS 2022-2027 structure, which was reviewed and discussing during the 43rd Meeting of the ECP (Teleconference, 28-29 September 2020). The process followed for its preparation was inclusive and its outcome a result of a collective effort of the entire Secretariat and MAP component teams.

This document presents a proposed draft structure of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027. The text of the background and rationale are initial drafts for further development. The programmes and main areas of work proposed build upon those of the current MTS 2016-2021 and are inspired by the structure of the draft UNEP MTS 2021- 2025, the latter taking into account the specificities of the Mediterranean and the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention. Efforts were made to complement recent or under development strategies such as the European Green Deal, the post 2020 FAO/GFCM Mid-Term Strategy and the post 2020 IUCN Mediterranean Programme, the priorities of the UfM on Environment and Climate Change as well as on Blue Economy, etc. Under each programme/main area of work, an initial proposal on objectives and outcomes is presented that is related to key draft products/deliverables. The list of main products/deliverables is of an indicative nature at this stage and is therefore presented in an information document.

Following the meetings of the MTS Steering Committee and the Bureau in November 2020, that are expected to provide inputs and guidance on the proposed main structure and elements, further work will be conducted to refine the structure, building blocks/programmes, objectives, outcomes as well as the key deliverables/main products with the view to submitting to the next Steering Committee and MAP Focal Points meetings a more refined and advanced version for their consideration.

UNEP/MAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

2022-2027

DRAFT STRUCTURE
September 2020

[A Medium-Term Strategy contributing to the Decade of Action for the SDGs]

To be developed. To include text on the MTS's contribution to the UN Decade of Action and SDGs

Commented [VH1]: Overall consensus that alignment of SDGs in MTS is very important, in line with other important strategies taking this approach, and that this should try and not be only general but to elaborate some of the key goals, targets and indicators and importantly the interlinkages between them. Mediterranean may even go beyond the SDG targets (see OECD report). Another suggestion to develop a roadmap on SDGs. -Comment on whether specific SDGs should be mentioned and whether to include other global processes.

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Introduction

UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols – 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union – have progressively erected a uniquely comprehensive institutional, legal, and implementing framework integrating essential building blocks for sustainability in the Mediterranean. With the Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols, its administrative structure encompassing the Secretariat, MEDPOL and six Regional Activity Centres and most importantly its twenty-two Contracting Parties, this UN Regional Sea Programme builds on a meaningful experience to define its future goals and work in an impactful and integrated way.

As indicated by COP21, the timing of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 presents a unique opportunity to align with global processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and actions towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. It is also an opportunity to align with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2021- 2025, to be approved at UNEA-5 in February 2021. Critical consideration for the development of the MTS is also given to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework currently under negotiation, the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), relevant UNEA resolutions, the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements of relevance to the Mediterranean region, and several key global initiatives.

The design of the new MTS 2022-2027 integrates key recommendations from the evaluation of MTS 2016-2021; the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation; and the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, as well as the main results and recommendations of the 2017 MED QSR and 2019 SoED. The Naples Ministerial Declaration, adopted at COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) brought a broader political impetus in support of UNEP/MAP, and showcased the political commitment for specific action in achieving good environmental status and shoring up sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. The MTS design integrates the consultation process to evaluate the implementation of the current SAP BIO, as well as the processes for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO and of the Strategy to combat Pollution from Ships 2022-2030.

The implementation of the MTS will be based on partnerships and coordination with national, regional and global actors, including *in primis* the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as IMO, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, CBD, FAO/GFCM, IMO, WHO, UNESCO, UfM, ACCOBAMS, EEA, OECD, and UNEP/MAP non-governmental Partners and external donors.

At the European level, of great importance in the Mediterranean context is the “European Green Deal” which provides a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. The European Commission has 6 priorities for 2019-2024, which include “A European Green Deal - Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent”.

Furthermore, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) adopted on 17 June 2008 and its implementation framework remains extremely important for the implementation of the

UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria. The work of the European Environment Agency in providing sound, independent information on the environment, such as in the 2020 *Joint Report EEA-UNEP/MAP*, is of relevance to the future work of UNEP/MAP, especially regarding the knowledge base.

During the last two years, UNEP/MAP has negotiated and benefited a major Programme funded by GEF (MEDProgramme 42 million USD) and three projects funded from the EC (8 million USD) which have been instrumental for taking up ambitious objectives in several areas of MAP mandate and will be reflected in the MTS. These will provide valuable contribution to the implementation of the MTS and achievement of its objectives.

Background

UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention (signed in 1976 and amended in 1995), with its related seven Protocols is the only regional multilateral legal framework setting the obligations “to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest extent possible eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area” and “to protect and enhance the marine environment in that area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development”. The MAP regulatory framework was subject to continuous update and expansion, remaining unique and fully relevant. The seven Protocols to the Barcelona Convention have expanded its application to coastal area and river watershed; strengthen the commitments of the region to more ambitious objectives for ensuring integrated coastal zone management; phasing out pollution from land and based sources; ensuring litter free Mediterranean sea and coast and sustainable offshore activities; promote specially protected areas; and take measures to conserve marine biodiversity, enhancing the alignment with global targets.

The 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Naples, Italy on 2-5 December 2019 provided the political commitment through its Naples Ministerial Declaration and outlined the principles and timeline for the new MTS 2022-2027. The Contracting Parties, through the Naples Ministerial Declaration agreed “on the four priority areas for actions and commitments identified at COP 21 to be part of the 2022- 2027 Medium-Term Strategy of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and to foster its governance and enforcement mechanisms”.

Commented [VH2]: Suggestion to add reference to sub-regional agreements

Extract from the COP 21 Report (UNEP/MED IG.24/22)**The new MTS is based on the following principles and requirements:**

- The new MTS needs to be aligned with the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the relevant UNEA resolutions and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Mediterranean region;

The new MTS will build on the following elements, among others:

- the uniqueness of the MAP system's mandate in the region;
 - the comparative advantages that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has in its three dimensions (institutional, regulatory, implementation);
 - the experience, achievements, major processes and lessons learned of the past four decades and in particular of the most recent biennia;
 - the needs, policies and commitments of the Contracting Parties, at national, sub- regional and regional level;
 - the vision, key considerations, evaluation of the current MTS as well as lessons learned from its implementation;
 - the increasingly more accurate assessment work being undertaken on the Mediterranean;
 - the analysis of significant environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region will face in the coming years;
 - the analysis of emerging issues that are of particular relevance to the region;
 - the new paradigm required to achieve Agenda 2030, in which work on environment and sustainable development issues is not conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked;
 - the implementation and enforcement of the comprehensive body of instruments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the increasing interest demonstrated by actors in the Mediterranean and beyond in partnering with the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the opportunities presented in the region in terms of access to financial resources, to knowledge, and to stakeholders' involvement; and
 - the advantages provided by being part of a global inter-governmental mechanism such as UNEP and the UN.
- Focus, integration and diversification of responses and approaches will drive the development of the MTS in order to reflect the diversity of the region
 - The evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS need to take into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (including the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation, the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, the 2017 MED QSR, the 2019 SoED and the MED 2050 foresight study preparation);
 - The process needs to be conducted under the leadership of the Bureau; preparation of the new MTS needs to be Contracting Party-driven, to involve the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), and to ensure stakeholder participation to the widest extent possible."

International Context

To be developed including:

- United Nations Environment Assembly
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals
- Convention on Biodiversity and Post 2020 framework
- UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement
- International Maritime Organization
- BRS Convention (in particular Basel and Stockholm)
- AHEG on Marine Litter (UNEA)
- UNEP post-COVID19 Strategy
- GEF
- Other key global strategies, MEAs and processes

Regional Context

UNEP/MAP works and delivers in a region characterised by a variety of multilateral and bilateral collaboration platforms and partnerships. Being the most comprehensive and longest-standing one for the Mediterranean on matters related to environmental sustainability, UNEP/MAP has inspired strong cooperation within the region, with important regional actors and initiatives through its official partnership policies. This outreach experience is a great asset with potential for replication for the effective implementation of the MTS 2022-2027 for maximizing synergies, efficient use of resources and enhancing impacts on the ground for the benefit of Mediterranean people for achieving the SDGs, which is a common platform for all actors in the region. Key developments and strategic documents relevant to the region include:

- The first **UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change** which was adopted in Athens on 13 May 2014, and has since been implemented and evaluated. Work is ongoing towards a 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, in 2020/2021. An online stakeholder's consultation was conducted in this respect in 2020, entitled "Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy for the Mediterranean Sea basin".
- **FAO/GFCM**. The current Mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries will be followed by a new strategy, which is in the process of development. UNEP/MAP and GFCM work in close partnership towards bringing together biodiversity, pollution and fisheries in terms of shared data and information and joint reporting and assessments, in particular, for the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria and the publication of the first Quality Assessment Report (2017 MED QSR). The overall objective of the mid-term strategy is to improve, by 2020, the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, by achieving five targets and related outputs and activities.
- **ACCOBAMS**. The ACCOBAMS Strategy (Period 2014 - 2025) with the overall objective to "Improve conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2023"
- **The IUCN Mediterranean Programme** 2017-2020 was developed in line with the global IUCN Program and to complement the UNEP/MAP 2016-2021 MTS. Three programme areas are elaborated with results, 2020 Targets, indicators and contribution to IUCN global results, SDGs and MSSD targets and Aichi targets: 1) Valuing and conserving nature; 2) Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources and 3) Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development.

- **The MedPAN network** 2019-2023 strategy outlines MedPAN's Theory of Change including vision, mission and results chain with the vision of "A healthy marine and coastal ecosystem, under decreasing threats and with an appropriate protection, both in the Mediterranean and in the Global Seas that provides sustainable goods and services for the well-being of the present and future societies."
- **The WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative's** Conservation Strategy 2018-2022 with the vision "By 2030, the Mediterranean has healthy marine and coastal ecosystems of 'Good Environmental Status' that produce streams of benefits, maintain vibrant economies and which are recognized by the region's communities as highly valuable for human wellbeing."

This list is not exhaustive, and other regional processes will also be considered, including the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), the MedFund and the work of UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE and ESCWA), other Regional Seas, such as OSPAR and the Black Sea, and several NGOs and professional associations/organisations which are very active in the Mediterranean.

Situation Analysis or State of the Mediterranean Environment

To be developed based on main findings and recommendations of most recent reports:

- 2019 SoED, 2017 MED QSR and 2020 Joint Report EEA-UNEP/MAP, MAR1
- *The 2016 Status of MPAs in the Mediterranean (2019)*
- Others

Rationale and Vision

The vision of the MTS 2022-2027 is the following:

A healthy, clean, sustainable and [climate] resilient Mediterranean Sea and Coast with productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, where the 2030 Agenda/SDGs are achieved through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

This vision considers:

- The previous 2016-2021 MTS Vision “A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations”;
- The Vision of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap “A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations”;
- The 2016-2025 MSSD Vision: “A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems”; and
- Vision on SCP Regional Plan adopted by COP 19 (Athens 2016): “By 2027 a prosperous Mediterranean region is established, with non-pollutant, circular, socially inclusive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, preserving natural resources and energy, ensuring the well-being of societies and contributing to clean environment and healthy ecosystems that provide goods and services for present and future generations.”

This also considers

- (a) The UNEP 2050 vision of: “Planetary sustainability for people, prosperity and equity, where, Net zero carbon emissions and resilience towards climate change are achieved, humanity prospers in harmony with nature and pollution is prevented and controlled, while ensuring good environmental quality and improved health and well-being for all”;
- (b) The CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework vision // The 2050 Vision for Biodiversity “Living in harmony with nature” (CBD); and
- (c) The European Green Deal Vision.

[Alternative proposal for the Vision, built on UNEP’s 2050 vision: “A sustainable Mediterranean for people, prosperity and equity, where resilience towards climate change is achieved, humanity prospers in harmony with nature, and pollution is prevented and controlled, while ensuring good environmental quality for the marine and coastal environment and improved health and well-being for all.”]

Goals and Objectives

The MTS 2022-2027 aims at contributing to the long-term goals and objectives of the Barcelona Convention including Article 4, General Obligations:

- “(1)... to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development” and
- “(2)... to pursue the protection of the marine environment and the natural resources of the Mediterranean Sea Area as an integral part of the development process, meeting the needs of present and future generations in an equitable manner”.

The **Long-Term Goals** to which the MTS 2022-2027 is contributing are *the achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, sustainable development through the SDGs, and living in harmony with nature.*

The MTS 2022-2027 **Overall Objectives** are:

- Drive transformational change in enhancing the impact of the delivery as one of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and its contribution to the region;
- Ensure that the relevant SDGs and their targets, the post-2020 global biodiversity goals and targets, and the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast are achieved, through concrete actions to effectively manage and reduce threats and enhance marine and coastal resources; [\[and living in harmony with the nature\]](#);
- Contribute to strengthening Mediterranean Solidarity and Peoples’ Prosperity; and
- Contribute to the Building Back Better approach of the “UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19” by supporting new, sustainable, business models, enabling a just transition to a nature-based [solutions](#) and circular economy.

MTS 2022-2027 Concept and Principles

The MTS 2022-2027 has been structured in a way to be: ***integrated and coherent across the system; consistent; inclusive; adaptive and flexible; attentive to regional and national needs; collaborative, based on participation and partnerships; knowledge generating and sharing; result-based, and resource-efficient.***

Inspired by the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS, the concept of the MTS 2022-2027 is structured through Programmes. In developing the main areas of work, the MTS 2022-2027 builds on the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, obligations and commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, needs of the Contracting Parties, the best practices gathered during over 40 years of working in the Mediterranean with Contracting Parties, as well as the need to maximize synergies for working together with partners and contributing to the achievement of the global agenda and targets.

To be further developed once structure is agreed.

Main Areas of Work

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The MTS 2022-2027 contains 7 Programmes - 4 of which are Thematic, 1 Foundational, and 2 Enabling - which in their entirety would allow the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the Contracting Parties to commit to ambitious priorities and move forward for the full and effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Programme: 1. ~~For~~ a pollution and litter free Mediterranean Sea and Coast embracing circular economy

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 1 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the Pollution control related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention:

1. To eliminate to the extent possible, prevent, reduce, monitor and control selected/regulated pollutant inputs, oil discharges and spills;
2. To prevent, reduce, monitor and control marine litter generation and its impact on the coastal and marine environment;
3. To effectively implement the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031); Regional Plans adopted in the framework of LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention; Offshore Action Plan; and
4. To consolidate the development and implementation of national programmes for circular economy businesses, addressing main sources of pollution, including plastics and promote SCP in key economic sectors and lifestyles which are upstream drivers of chemicals and plastic pollution

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters;
2. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;
3. Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments;
4. Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems; and
5. New and emerging land-based pollution related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

Outcomes

- A holistic and response/measures to phase out pollution and stop degradation (litter, chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution) implemented at national and regional level for a sustainable Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystem;
- Systemic approaches for Circular Economy as well as Sustainable Consumption and Production incorporated into key sectors of activity which are main sources of pollution; and
- One Health approach developed, including the link between human health and pollution, [including prevention](#), and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commented [VH3]: Suggestion to consider reflecting also the importance of waste management in the text (in the products). Clarification requested on the use of One Health and what is envisaged in terms of actions to support this. Also noted that this builds on long-history of cooperation with WHO. Also noted that COVID-19 impact is relevant to other sectors and programmes.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Programme 2: ~~For~~ Healthy ~~Mediterranean~~ Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

General introduction

To be further developed.

Objectives

Programme 2 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the SPA and Biodiversity, and ICZM Protocols:

1. To protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmentally sound way areas of particular natural or cultural value notably by the establishment of specially protected areas;
2. To protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna; and
3. To ensure preservation of the integrity of coastal ecosystems, landscapes and geomorphology.

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced: the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions;
2. Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
3. Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock;
4. Alterations to components of marine food webs caused by resource extraction or human induced environmental changes do not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability; and
5. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved;
6. [Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;](#)

Outcomes

- Ecosystem resilience improved through restoration of those with best regeneration potential;
- Comprehensive, coherent Mediterranean network of well managed MPAs and OECMs in place, expanded and effective;
- Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats in favourable status of conservation; and
- Non-indigenous species introduction minimized and introduction pathways under control.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

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Commented [VH4]: Suggestion to also integrate links with ICZM in the MTS outcomes (in line with the Ecological Objectives mentioned)

Programme 3: [Towards/For] a Climate Resilient Mediterranean

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 3 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the ICZM Protocol and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas endorsed by COP 19:

1. To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change by promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts; and
2. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems to maintain their contribution to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems; and
2. New and emerging land and sea interactions and processes related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

Outcomes

- Nature-based solutions implemented to prevent or reduce the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Technical solutions implemented as a prevention of or a response to the degradation caused by climate change, adapted to different types of coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Legal, policy and institutional framework strengthened at the regional and national level to efficiently address climate change related challenges (flooding, erosion, land degradation, pollution, disasters etc.);
- Better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impacts on environment and development;
- Impact of Circular Economy on Climate Change Mitigation is analysed and demonstrated;
- [Increased resilience to climatic variability and change, and enhanced water security of coastal populations through improved sustainability of services provided by coastal aquifers and by groundwater related coastal habitats].

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

**Programme 4: Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including by the promotion of circular and blue economy ~~Option 4:~~
Promoting Circular and Blue Economy [for [efficient use of] Sustainable**

Commented [VH5]: Overall agreement on the need to have a stronger but realistic component on climate change than the current MTS which is in line with the work of Regional Seas and other regional/global institutions, also gives visibility to work already being undertaken by MAP and considers potential for additional donor funding.

Commented [VH6]: Supported by the GEF Program and importance of water security in the Mediterranean noted

Use of [coastal and] Marine Resources] [Towards a Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources including Circular and Blue Economy]

Alternative title/Option 2: Programme: 4. [For] Sustainable [and Efficient] Use of Coastal and Marine Resources

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 4 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the objectives of the ICZM Protocol and its Common Regional Framework adopted by COP 21, and the objectives of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean adopted by COP 19:

1. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent or reduce their degradation;
2. To facilitate the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development;
3. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly with regard to water use;
4. To achieve coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone;
5. Implementation of SCP tools in order to prevent or reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine areas; and
6. To provide innovative services and products and strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations, contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems;
2. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved; and
3. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;
4. New and emerging land and sea interactions and processes and related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate

Outcomes

- Sustainability of coastal and marine resources achieved through the synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches, including the adequate consideration of LSI;
- Sustainable Blue and Green Economy Tools and approaches in the context of SD and MSSD streamlined in key economic sectors for the region (Marine Renewable Energy, Aquaculture, Tourism, Offshore Activities, Textile, Food, Construction);
- Innovative environmental management and economic instruments implemented for the protection and efficient use of coastal and marine resources;
- To develop a circular economy within global value chains enabling a more conducive policy framework for sustainable economic development; and
- Measures defined within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem.

Commented [VH7]: Reference can be made to the Offshore Protocol.

Commented [ES8]: Addition: Sustainable Tourism

Commented [TH9]: Added following discussion with PAP/RAC

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Commented [ES10]: Wording is taken from ICZM Protocol

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Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Foundational Programme 5: Governance

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

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 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 and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans;
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 efficient delivery of the MTS; and
6. To promote effective science policy interface mechanisms at regional and national level.

Outcomes

- Effective Implementation and Enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels;
- Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensured, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches;
- 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;
- Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface; and
- Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Enabling Programme 6: ~~Together~~ Together For ~~[towards]~~ a shared vision of the Mediterranean ~~{sea and coast}~~

Commented [VH11]: Importance of legal indicators and their effectiveness noted (more related to products in Inf 4). Inf.4 references to MSP need further discussion. Ensure MTS evaluation results are incorporated. Partnerships should also stress global partnerships. Welcomes strengthened Compliance Committee and ensure clear definition of responsibility (i.e. what is under Compliance Committee and what comes under CU or RACs)

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 6 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the IMAP Decision adopted by COP 19 and the Assessment Studies Decision adopted by COP 21:

1. Strengthened and harmonized implementation of marine and coastal monitoring (and assessments) in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions of its Protocols and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria;
2. Achieve and/or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments; and
3. A fully operational data management Info System based on consolidated and quality-control assured monitoring datasets to support integrated assessments.

Outcomes

- Environment and Development Observation and IMAP monitoring provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES;
- Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making; and
- Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national levels, with associated capacity-building.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Enabling Programme 7: ~~Strengthened action for~~ ~~For~~ ~~Towards a strong and united~~ ~~Efficient/~~ ~~Strengthened/~~ ~~Stronger~~ advocacy, [education,] awareness, education and communication of the Mediterranean sea and coast [Towards/For a stronger advocacy, awareness, education and communication, also through digital transformation][including by promoting digital transformation]

~~Alternative title: Boosting impact: advocacy, communication, [Med] [ocean] literacy and digital transformation~~

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 7 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the MAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) and the Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021:

1. Strengthen MAP's status as an authoritative voice on the environment in the Mediterranean and Advocate the MTS vision to policymakers, including through a regular flow of information about

Commented [ES12]: Further information provided on Mediterranean Platform on Biodiversity
Need to stress that all Ecological Objectives are relevant to this Component
Noted that coastal observation system scope should be clearer in the outcomes to also include the MSSD indicators

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existing and emerging environmental issues pertaining to the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast;

2. Secure the commitment of key stakeholders in support of MAP priorities, including by promoting [science-policy interface](#), citizen science and through communication campaigns, and encourage them to act as advocates, directly and indirectly;
3. Strengthen MAP system communication and dissemination capabilities, including through a stronger brand and enhanced digital platforms, and Improve the quality and dissemination of information materials. Encourage participation among researchers or partner bodies; and
4. Adopt Communicating as One and embark on digital transformation (guided by UNEP digital transformation policy) permeating the delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy across the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

Programme Outcomes

- Stakeholders and policy makers properly informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and aware of the environmental priority issues;
- Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns; and
- Towards a digital transformation: use of digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Implementation

Implementation Modalities

To be developed.

Partnerships and Funding

To be developed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To be developed.

Commented [VH13]: The MTS should be considered a tool for resource mobilization and strengthening coordination with partners. To stress the unique mandate of UNEP/MAP There is a need for active support throughout MAP system including Contracting Partners to reinforce, ensure coherence and coordination with partners Indicators need to consider both programmatic indicators to monitor the MTS as well as incorporation of key MAP indicators and links to other regional and global indicators.