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91st 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, 7-8 July 2021

Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues

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A. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. Tables 1 and 2 reflect the status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as checked on 19 May 2021 against the link provided for this purpose by the Government of Spain, in its capacity as the Depository of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/PoliticaExteriorCooperacion/Tratados/Nuevo/Paginas/mediterraneo.aspx>.

Table 1: Summary of Status of Ratification

22 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Convention, 1995;
15 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Dumping Protocol, 1995;
17 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the LBS Protocol, 1996;
8 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore Protocol, 1994;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 1995;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
12 Contracting Parties have ratified the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

Table 2: Ratification of Barcelona Convention and Protocols by individual Contracting Parties

Contracting Parties																							
	Albania	Algeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Cyprus	European Union	Egypt	France	Greece	Israel	Italy	Lebanon	Libya	Malta	Monaco	Montenegro	Morocco	Slovenia	Spain	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey	
Barcelona Convention																							
and Amendments																							
Dumping Protocol																							
and Amendments																							
Emergency Protocol																							
Prevention and Emergency Protocol																							
LBS Protocol																							
and Amendments																							
SPA Protocol																							
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol																							
Offshore Protocol																							
Hazardous Wastes Protocol																							
ICZM Protocol																							

Instrument of ratification, adhesion approval or accession deposited and Convention or Protocol entered into force	
No instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited	
Instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited but Protocol has not entered into force yet	

2. The latest submission is dated 19 October 2020 and corresponds to the deposit of the instrument of ratification by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Amendments to the Barcelona Convention, which entered into force for Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18 November 2020. With the

deposit of the said instrument, the universal ratification of the 1995 Amendments to the Barcelona Convention has been achieved by the 22 Contracting Parties.

3. To further promote the ratification of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, in particular the ratification of the Dumping Protocol which requires a single additional ratification to enter into force, online bilateral meetings with Contracting Parties have been used, seeking national opportunities for outstanding ratifications, to the extent possible taking into account limitations posed due to the measures to contain COVID-19. In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a meeting was also organized by MEDPOL on sharing best practices for implementation, compliance and enforcement of the Dumping Protocol (Teleconference, 2 March 2021), as a means of promoting the ratification of the Dumping Protocol through information and expertise exchange. With a view to determining possible means of overcoming perceived obstacles to ratification and implementation issues, work is ongoing in preparation for the general status of progress in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to identify the difficulties reported by the Contracting Parties and propose targeted assistance through capacity development activities in the UNEP Programme of Work for 2022-2023, subject to Contracting Parties agreement and availability of resources.

4. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and urges the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to make efforts for their ratifications. To this aim the Bureau also invites these Contracting Parties to liaise with the Secretariat as appropriate to facilitate coordination towards ratification of the relevant legal instruments, with particular focus on the Dumping Protocol to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;

(b) The Bureau encourages the President and the Secretariat to continue their efforts with the respective Contracting Parties to achieve the full ratification of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention.

B. Compliance and Reporting

Reporting

5. At COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), Contracting Parties adopted Decision IG.24/1 entitled "Compliance Committee", making a strong call to Contracting Parties to finalize the submission of their reports for the biennium 2016-2017 as soon as possible but before December 2019 and also to proceed with the submission of their 2018-2019 reports by December 2020. The Secretariat, in coordination with MAP components, has been following-up with Contracting Parties on an individual basis to facilitate and boost reporting.

6. As of 19 May 2021, the status of reporting can be summarized as follows: (a) 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 biennia: the Secretariat continues working with Libya and Syria for them to submit their outstanding national implementation reports step-by-step, (b) biennium 2016-2017: a total of 18 Contracting Parties have submitted national implementation reports, and (c) biennium 2018-2019: a total of 11 Contracting Parties have submitted national implementation reports, with reporting rates for submission ranging across the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, from 50% (11 reporting Parties out of 22) for the Barcelona Convention and the SPA/BD Protocol to 27% (6 reporting Parties out of 22) for the Hazardous Wastes Protocol. As the time of writing the present report, 7 more Contracting Parties have started working towards finalizing the submission of their national implementation reports, with technical support from the Secretariat and INFO/RAC provided upon request.

Compliance

7. The resumed session of the 16th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was held on 27-28 January 2021, by teleconference. Building on its previous session held on 16-18 June 2020 and intersessional work, the Compliance Committee followed-up on the communication from the NGO Ecologistas en Acción de la Región Murciana as to the implementation by Spain of the SPA/BD Protocol in the SPAMI Mar Menor and how to enhance

its effective functioning. The next meeting of the Compliance Committee is planned on 10-11 June 2021 by teleconference is expected to address the above issues as well as the future work of the Compliance Committee proposed for the next biennium 2022/2023.

8. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau strongly urges those Contracting Parties who have not yet done so, to submit their national implementation reports for the reporting periods 2012–2013, 2014–2015 (2 Contracting Parties) and/or 2016-2017 (4 Contracting Parties) without further delay to complete the reporting for these biennia as soon as possible;

(b) The Bureau encourages Contracting Parties to expedite the submission of their national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019 in preparation for COP22, so that COP is in a position to keep under review in a timely manner the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as per article 18 of the Barcelona Convention; and

(c) The Bureau expresses its appreciation for the work of the Compliance Committee in preparation to COP22 in particular of its facilitating role to promote compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

C. Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy, including the follow-up to the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS

9. The processes of the evaluation of the current Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and the preparation of the new MTS in line with Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) are close to their finalization. The draft evaluation report was presented to the MAP Focal Points Meeting on the MTS (Teleconference, 13-15 April 2021), including conclusions and recommendations that summarized the findings of the evaluation. The results of the survey on the MTS evaluation were provided in an Information Document, as well as the interlinkages between the draft Evaluation of the 2016-2021 UNEP/MAP MTS and the draft 2022-2027 UNEP/MAP MTS.

10. The MAP Focal Points provided comments and suggestions regarding the draft evaluation report, which were reflected at the report of that meeting (UNEP/MED WG.504/5*). Based on these comments, the evaluation report was revised and is presented in Annex I to the present document. The evaluation report will be complemented by the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS (Teleconference, 5-6 July 2021) that will be submitted to the 91st Bureau meeting and at the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2021.

11. In relation to the preparation of the new MTS, since the last meeting of the Bureau, two working meetings of the ECP took place: ECP 44 (Teleconference, 19-20 January 2021) and ECP 45 (Teleconference, 29-30 March 2021). Detailed information is available in the reports of the ECP Meetings (document UNEP/MED BUR.91/Inf.4).

12. Following the conclusions of the 90th Bureau Meeting (Teleconference, 10-11 November 2020), the Secretariat in close consultation with the MAP components, refined the structure, programmes, objectives and outcomes of the new MTS. The updated document was then submitted to the Open-Ended Working Group for an inclusive two-week online consultation in March 2021. Four Contracting Parties and three MAP Partners provided comments during this consultation.

13. The revised draft was submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting on the MTS (Teleconference, 13-15 April 2021). During the meeting, several proposals were made on the text of the draft MTS, which were reflected either in the text of the draft MTS or in the report of the meeting.

14. The draft MTS was revised following the discussions at the MAP Focal Point Meeting on the MTS and is presented in Annex II to the present document. The document of the draft MTS will be complemented by the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS (Teleconference, 5-6 July 2021) that will be submitted to the 91st Bureau meeting.

15. Finally, the assessment of the current structure and the needs for enabling the Secretariat and MAP Components to deliver the new MTS, has been initiated, with the support of the Environmental Law Institute. To this end, a short document with the logic and methodology of the assessment as well

as the overall considerations of the analysis, is presented in Annex III of the present document. A questionnaire has been sent to the staff of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components and its results are currently analysed. Furthermore, the financial and governance frameworks of other global and regional MEAs are analysed to identify best practices and typical resource needs, while interviews with key stakeholders will also be conducted.

16. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the inclusive processes followed for the current MTS evaluation and the preparation of the new MTS as well as the active contribution by the Contracting Parties and MAP partners, and requests the Secretariat to ensure that the evaluation report and the new MTS take into account the comments and suggestions received during the second MTS Steering Committee and 91st Bureau meetings and submit its final version to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021;

(b) The Bureau takes note of the progress in the assessment of the current structure and the needs for enabling the Secretariat and MAP Components to deliver the new MTS and requests the Secretariat to ensure the timely elaboration of the assessment for submission to the first MAP Focal Points Meeting of the 2020-2021 biennium.

D. Follow-up to the work of the SO_x ECA Technical Committee of Experts and the processes of Updating the Regional Plans on Pollution

(i) Follow-up to the work of the SO_x ECA Technical Committee of Experts

17. Since the 90th Bureau Meeting, the knowledge gathering and further studies has been carried out in accordance with the Terms of Reference that were reviewed by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) sulfur oxides (SO_x) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts herein after referred to as the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, composed of representatives from all 22 Contracting Parties, which was tasked with overseeing the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparation of the agreed studies. The work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts was structured in four (4) phases, i.e. the first three (3) phases were held from March 2020 to February 2021, through correspondence coordinated by REMPEC; and the last phase was held through the convening of the Regional Expert Meeting (online, 27-28 April 2021), the report of which is was published as document REMPEC/WG.50/7. It concluded that the work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts was successfully completed within the approved timeline of the road map, and that the necessary knowledge was gathered and that the necessary studies were prepared, in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts.

18. The Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA also agreed, on the basis of the outcome of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, to take the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11, as a basis for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA; acknowledged that the road map was adopted with the view of formally submitting the proposal to the seventy-eighth (78th) session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) scheduled for 2022; noted that this date could be 1 March 2024 at the earliest or a later date such as 1 January 2025; and stressed that further discussions were necessary with a view to formulating a joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO. In light of the above, the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) (Online, 31 May - 2 June 2021) was invited to examine and endorse the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to the document REMPEC/WG.51/7. The Secretariat has also been in contact with potential donors to mobilize the necessary resources for the full implementation of Decision IG.24/8.

19. REMPEC submitted an information document related to the adoption of Decision IG.24/8 to the IMO Secretariat in view of the 75th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). Considering that MEPC 75 was postponed due to the current COVID-19

pandemic, the document has been updated with the progress made on the implementation of Decision IG.24/8 and published as document MEPC 76/INF.63, ahead of the 76th session of the IMO's MEPC, to be held on 10-17 June 2021.

20. Considering the uncertainty surrounding the travel restrictions and bans applied across the region due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Workshops on Ratification and Effective Implementation of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) for Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon (originally scheduled in Beirut, Lebanon, on 17-18 March 2020) have been held remotely, 26 November, 25 November and on 20 December 2020, respectively. It is recalled that similar workshops were held in Albania (25-26 November 2019), Bosnia and Herzegovina (28-29 November 2019) and Libya (5-6 December 2019)). In the meantime, on 19 November 2020, Albania ratified MARPOL Annex VI.

21. The Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC (Teleconference, 31 May-June 2021) further discussed this issue, in line with the Roadmap detailed in the document REMPEC/WG.51/7 on the "Possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SOX ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI". The REMPEC Focal Points endorsed the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SOx ECA to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.51/7 and requested the Secretariat to submit it for examination and approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points. Considering the importance of the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI to facilitate the designation of Med SOx ECA, the Secretariat with REMPEC are envisaging a number of actions with the respective Contracting Parties to support their efforts in this direction.

(ii) Processes of Updating the Regional Plans on Pollution

22. COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) adopted Decision IG.24/10 which called for developing Regional Plans for Urban Wastewater Treatment, Sewage Sludge Management, and for updating the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management. Through this Decision, COP 21 endorsed the Main Elements which specify the structure and further details of the scope and objective of these Regional Plans, and requested the Secretariat to establish Working Groups of designated Experts in line with the Terms of References endorsed by the 89th Meeting of the Bureau to the Contracting Parties. In total, 20 out of 22 Contracting Parties nominated experts to the Working Groups.

Regional Plans on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management

23. The designated Working Group for review of the Regional Plans on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management met virtually twice, on 9-10 December 2020 and 25-26 May 2021, with the participation of all Contracting Parties. Most of the provisions of the Regional Plans were concluded with the exception of timeframes for implementation of several measures as provided for in the Regional Plans. Despite the tight deadlines and rather late dissemination of documents, the contribution of the Contracting Parties was crucial in successfully concluding the negotiations of the final text in time for submission to the MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting. It should be noted that in contrast to the 2009 Regional Plan for reduction of BOD from Urban Wastewater, the updated Regional Plan on Urban Wastewater Treatment targets most pollutants discharged to the environment. It addresses both reclaimed water for agricultural use and industrial discharges, with concrete provisions that promote preventive measures to protect the marine environment. The final versions of both Regional Plans reflect the main elements as approved in COP21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) and bring about additional value to the work of MAP and to the Mediterranean region, in view of promoting circular economy, the precautionary principle and resource efficiency to achieve and maintain good environmental status, while promoting treated wastewater and treated sludge as potential resources and not waste. In view of their submission to the MEDPOL and MAP Focal Points meetings, there are some pending issues to be addressed, such as study reservations from some Contracting Parties and proposed timelines for implementation of specific measures.

Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management

24. The designated Working Group for updating the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean met virtually twice, on 31 March-1 April 2021 and 25-26 May 2021, with the participation of all Contracting Parties. Most of the provisions of the Regional Plan were concluded, with some specific issues pending related to definitions and other aspects of the Regional Plan related

to the updated prevention measures of marine litter. The contributions and discussions by the Contracting Parties were very important in successfully concluding the negotiations of the final text of the Regional Plan for submission to the MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting. In contrast to the 2013 Regional Plan, the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management addresses new elements including identification/phasing out single-use plastic products of concern and implementing sound measures to phase out consumption and production; consideration of the list of single-use plastic items; and phasing-out additives in plastic products, and in particular those chemicals already listed under the Stockholm Convention. The final version of the Regional Plan includes is in line with the main elements agreed and included in Decision IG.24/10, adopted by COP 21.

25. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the good progress made for delivering these important mandates of COP 21 and requests the Secretariat and the respective MAP components to ensure all steps are undertaken in a timely manner for their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021;

(b) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to take necessary actions for ratifying MARPOL Annex VI to facilitate the designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention, and requested the Secretariat and REMPEC, in collaboration with IMO, to support these processes upon request.

E. Main Directions of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023

Background and process

26. The Contracting Parties, with their Decision IG.24/14 “Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021” adopted by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019), requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare for consideration and approval by COP 22 a result-based Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based and taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work, and in full alignment with the MTS;

27. As in previous biennia, a highly participatory process is being followed for the preparation of the 2022-2023 Programme of Work (PoW), aiming at ensuring strong ownership by the Contracting Parties through regular consultation and better reflection of regional priorities and country needs, and delivering as one as MAP System and in an integrated manner. Based on the outcome of the 44th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) held through videoconference, on 19-20 January 2021, the MAP Components shared, in February 2021, an initial list of activities and expected related deliverables with their respective Focal Points, with a copy to the MAP Focal Points, for a preliminary consultation, aiming to trigger a first discussion on the relevance and pertinence of the proposed activities and their deliverables to MAP mandates as well as on their technical feasibility. Based on the inputs received from the first round of consultation on technical aspects, the Coordinating Unit in consultation with the ECP completed the first draft of the 2022-2023 PoW.

28. The draft PoW accompanied by a narrative part was shared with the MAP Focal Points on 23 April 2021 for review and submission of comments. Based on these comments, the Secretariat will advance the preparation of the 2022-2023 PoW and Budget. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD, Decision IG.22/17), the Secretariat will also inform the MCSDD at its 19th Meeting in June 2021 on its sustainability dimension. The proposed 2022-2023 PoW and Budget, reflecting the outcomes of the 91st Bureau Meeting discussions and the online consultation with the MAP Focal Points, will be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP for clearance before its formal submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September 2021.

Principles and main elements of the PoW

29. In line with this Decision IG.24/14, the proposed 2022-2023 PoW is designed based on the following main principles:

- a) Coherence with the 2022-2027 MTS;
- b) Strong ownership by the Contracting Parties through regular consultation and better reflection of regional priorities and country needs;
- c) Coherence with the most recent developments in global processes;
- d) Internal transparency, consultation, communication, efficiency and flexibility;
- e) Learning from the lessons of PoW and Budget gathered during the current and previous biennia (design and implementation);
- f) Delivering as one, as MAP system and in an integrated manner;
- g) Partnership and outreach to boost implementation and efficiency;
- h) Sensible and balanced use of core and external resources, recognizing the increasing role of projects, to fund both activities and operational costs.

30. The Programme of Work (PoW) for 2022-2023 is the first biennial PoW of the 2022-2027 MTS implementation, therefore, its successful design is expected to play an important role for the smooth start of the new MTS implementation.

31. The 2022-2023 PoW and Budget is built on the result-based management (RBM) approaches that have been already followed in the previous MTS cycle, with the view to shifting the focus away from inputs and minor activities and placing it on clearly defined outcomes/deliverables to be achieved through the joint efforts of all concerned actors, including the Secretariat, MAP Components, the Contracting Parties and MAP Partners.

32. The proposed 2022-2023 PoW aims at strengthening the contribution and leadership role of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system in partnership with other actors including civil society and the scientific community, for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions. Its objective is to ensure progress towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its SDGs, through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, for the benefit of people and nature.

33. The proposed 2022-2023 PoW is built around 27 Outcomes to be delivered through implementation of 116 Main Activities, distributed over the four Thematic Programmes (Pollution and Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Climate Change, and Sustainable Use of Resources, Circular and Blue Economy, comprising 23, 8, 6, and 13 activities respectively), one Foundational Programme (Governance, comprising 24 activities) and two Enabling Programmes (Towards Shared Knowledge and Assessment, and Advocacy and Communication, comprising 26 and 16 activities respectively).

34. The 2022/2023 PoW will focus on the following:

- Supporting integrated responses for prevention and reduction of pollution and marine litter in the framework of MAP Barcelona Convention legal and policy framework;
- Promoting a transformational change embracing circular economy and contributing to the implementation of the One Health Approach;
- Supporting Contracting Parties in their efforts towards improving ecosystem resilience through restoration of those with best regeneration potential;
- Supporting the establishment, expansion and efficient management of a comprehensive, coherent and effective Mediterranean network of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs);
- Improving the status of conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and controlling/minimizing NIS introductions, in accordance with the post 2020 SAP BIO and Key Species and Habitats Action Plans;
- Promoting implementation of nature-based, technical solutions to prevent or reduce the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and increase resilience to climatic change and variability;
- Supporting the implementation of climate change mitigation efforts, including by reducing GHG emissions and taking advantage of the positive nexus between SCP and action-led societal transformation.

- Assisting Contracting Parties in achieving the sustainability of coastal and marine resources through the synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches and integrating circular economy approaches in key Blue Economy sectors;
- Supporting the ratification of Protocols and ensuring the effective implementation of the legal and regulatory instruments of MAP Barcelona Convention;
- Enhancing partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector, and science policy interface;
- Providing updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making and assessment of Good Environmental Status (GES), through foresight and other assessments as well as monitoring and assessment tools and infrastructure; with a particular focus on delivering the 2023 MED QSR, TDA and Med+50.
- Properly informing stakeholders and policy makers about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and enhancing awareness and advocacy on environmental sustainability issues;
- Contributing to a digital transformation using new technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility.

35. To measure the progress and results of implementation of activities, a set of indicators and corresponding targets will be developed following the establishment of the MTS 2022-2027 indicators and targets framework.

Budget preparation

36. In line with paragraph 17 of COP 21 Decision IG.24/14 on the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021, the Secretariat is requested “to submit a budget for 2022-2023, sufficient to cover the implementation of the mandate deriving from the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy and the required capacity and operational costs of the entire Secretariat including MAP Components, considering also the need for adequate MTF allocation required to effectively execute their mandates and operations”.

37. In line with paragraph 4 of the same COP 21 Decision, the Secretariat is also requested “that in future budget preparations, potential budget scenarios should be based exclusively on the level of the assessed contributions”

38. The proposed 2022-2023 Programme of Work as indicated in the previous section is not minimalistic. It is built in a way to create a solid baseline for the elaboration of the next biennial PoW and Budgets of the new MTS cycle. The envisaged MTF resources are insufficient for the full delivery of the proposed PoW.

39. Important mandates included in the proposed PoW such as the full implementation of IMAP and the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, the delivery of the MED 2050, the implementation of the new/updated Regional Plans under the LBS Protocol developed in the current biennium and the preparation of three additional Regional Plans (agriculture, aquaculture, storm water management), the implementation of the Post 2020 SAP BIO and of the Regional Strategy on Pollution from Ships, the further implementation of the SO_x ECA Roadmap, and communication and advocacy, will require considerable financial resources. It is estimated that delivering the above mandates in the 2022-2023 biennium requires at least EUR 300,000, taking into account the significant country-level support required for the effective implementation of a number of key policy and regulatory instruments, the need for extensive consultation with Contracting Parties, as well as the integrated work amongst MAP components. This is in addition to USD 200,000 corresponding to the biennial contribution in cash to the MedProgramme which was already agreed at the COP 21 (part of the USD 600,000 over a period of five years against the total programme budget of approximately USD 42,3 million). The MTF allocations for the implementation for activities of the current 2020-2021 Programme of Work for the entire MAP was EUR 4,857,952 (excl. PSC).

40. As per the practice of UNEP/MAP and in consultation with Headquarters, Posts and Operational Costs of the Secretariat (Coordinating Unit (CU) including MED POL) are estimated by using the budgeted costs for the year 2021 with an increase of 2 to 3 per cent per annum for staff salary costs to cover for salary step increase, inflation and exchange rate fluctuations (to be confirmed with Headquarters). The same principle is applied to the administrative support costs of RACs,

however, excluding the one-time additional budget approved in 2020-2021 biennium on top of the proposed budget by the Secretariat based on the level of the assessed contributions.

41. In addition, the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau that there is an urgent need to further strengthen the MED POL team in the Secretariat by financing an additional Programme Assistant, in view of the heavy workload of MED POL which experienced a substantive decrease in its positions since 2014. The creation of the post was approved at the COP21 in the staffing table, however, unfortunately it remained unfunded in 2020-2021 biennium. Furthermore, the current staffing of MED POL does not allow for any of its Programme Officers to provide substantive supervision and undertake the necessary managerial responsibilities to the MED POL team, which has led to the transmission of this additional responsibility on the two positions of the MAP senior management. Therefore, a senior position to lead MED POL team is also needed.

42. The consideration of the above elements for the preparation of the budget is estimated at an additional level of 600 000 EUR for the biennium 2022-2023 compared to 2020-2021 allocations as administrative costs. The Secretariat is also aiming at a substantive reduction of administrative costs related to travel and other administrative costs, at least for the Coordinating Unit and MED POL, to optimize the use of funding for activities, which will be reflected in the draft proposal to be presented at the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points in September 2021.

43. It is important to note that the Secretariat has secured in the 2022-2023 biennium additional support from external sources through ongoing project, i.e. approx. USD 560,000 under the EU-funded IMAP MPA Project, USD 1,925,000 under EU-funded ECAP MED III Project and USD 893,000 under the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project) ; as well as approximately USD 16,000,000 together with Partners' budget, from the GEF MedProgramme.

44. Based on the above analysis there are four possible scenarios to build the 2022-2023 budget:

- a) Building a budget based on the approved ordinary income of Mediterranean Trust Fund in 2020-2021 biennium amounting to EUR 13,296,144.
- b) Building a budget that is based on marginally increased assessed contributions for 2022-2023 biennium amounting to approximately EUR 14 million that would allow to absorb the increase in administrative costs as indicated in paragraphs 40-42 above.
- c) Building a budget which is a combination of scenario (a) with an increase of USD 1,7 million from the MTF surplus (to be validated by UNEP Headquarters).
- d) Building a budget which is a combination of scenario (b) supplemented by additional funding from the MTF surplus up to USD 1,2 million (to be validated by UNEP Headquarters).

45. In the scenarios (b) and (d), the projected increase in posts and operational costs and administrative support costs of each MAP component is translated into approximately 4.5 percent increase in the total assessed contributions, as compared to that in 2020-2021.

46. The Secretariat considers that scenarios (a) and (b) do not provide the necessary budget allocations for the effective implementation of the proposed PoW 2022-2023. It considers that one of the two last scenarios (c) and (d) are feasible due to the healthy situation of the MTF. Use of savings from the MTF surplus beyond USD 1,7 million is not recommended.

47. In line with COP 21 Decision IG.24/14, a "net cash balance" will continue to be retained at the level of up to four months of the PoW budget in addition to the Working Capital Reserve so as to provide sufficient liquidity and cash flow and to enable continuity of operations and the timely implementation of the PoW.

48. Finally the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau the need to increase assessed contribution in line with the international practice with the view to absorbing the annual increase recommended for other MEAs based on the annual increment in the salary scale between steps for UN staff and other relevant elements.

49. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau is invited to express their views on the principles and main elements for the PoW 2022-2023 and the proposed budget scenarios and provide guidance to the Secretariat as may deem it useful.

F. Preparations for COP 22: Format, Ministerial Session and Declaration, Host Country Preparations

Format of the Ministerial Session

50. COP 22 will be held on 7-10 December 2021, in Antalya, Turkey, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkey. COP 22, as customary in the MAP system, will have its Ministerial-level discussions. The Ministerial session would benefit from an interactive format, in the form of a panel, as was the case in COP 21. Following the opening session and the report on activities carried out since COP 21, an Interactive Ministerial Policy Review Session is envisaged. The discussion may be steered by a moderator, and include a panel consisting of 4-5 speakers/resource persons coming from different strands of work and expertise relevant to the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and the theme of the COP. Resource persons are expected to make a short introduction on the theme from their perspective and the discussion that will follow would involve the Ministers/Heads of Delegations and stakeholders/MAP Partners. Keynote speakers may come from different strands, such as Governments, UN bodies, academia/science community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, depending also on the thematic area to be addressed and the focus of the discussions. The Ministerial Session is also expected to include the short interventions by Ministers and Heads of Delegations that are expected to focus on the theme of the COP, the ceremony for awarding the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2020-2021, and the adoption of the Antalya Ministerial Declaration.

51. A series of events organized around specific activities/achievements of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and partners in the main thematic areas of the COP with regional and sub-regional scope and other formats of outreach would be arranged throughout the COP, culminating during the Ministerial Session. These would include:

- Signing of bilateral agreements;
- Side events, including with stakeholders and Youth;
- Photo exhibitions;
- Media events;
- Other.

Theme of Ministerial Session

52. The Secretariat, through discussions between the Coordinating Unit and the MAP Components, and considering the key strategic documents submitted to COP 22 for adoption and in particular the UNEP/MAP 2022-2027 MTS, would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau two options in relation to the theme of COP 22. These potential proposals, which are in the process of consultation with Turkey, Host Country of COP 22, are presented below for a first discussion during the 91st Bureau meeting. It should be noted that the Host Country may also come with specific suggestions, and that any further information on the proposed theme of COP 22 will be shared with the Bureau as it becomes available.

Proposal 1: A blueprint for a post-COVID green renaissance in the Mediterranean

53. According to the Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED) and the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR 1) released by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), the Mediterranean region has been facing a triple environmental crisis (pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change) and is not on track to achieve the SDGs, even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

54. The Mediterranean region stands a historic chance of rising from the pandemic in a more sustainable and resilient fashion. A green renaissance - defined as a recovery from COVID-19 that transforms Mediterranean economies as part of a deliberate shift towards greater sustainability and resilience - would save hard-won gains achieved on the SDGs since 2016 as it would accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement in the Mediterranean.

55. This reflection outlines essential building blocks for a green renaissance considering the peculiarities of the Mediterranean region and what has been achieved by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and taking into account the framework set by the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027.

Proposal 2: Making peace with nature in the Mediterranean

56. Quoting a landmark report released by UNEP in February 2021, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that “making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century”. A few months earlier, the two seminal reports backed by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system (namely SoED and MAR 1) provided a surge of Mediterranean-specific evidence revealing that the region is on a collision course with nature.

57. This reflection seeks to chart the contours of a ‘peace plan’ encompassing the best available science to mend the Mediterranean region’s dysfunctional relationship with natural systems. It will take into consideration both the global framework (such as the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD) as well as the regional priorities (including those framed under the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027).

58. Embarking on a deliberate and decisive shift towards sustainability and resilience, harnessing the extraordinary policy momentum and financial mobilization associated with the ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 and rigorous monitoring and assessment would constitute essential building blocks of the region’s plan to make peace with nature. The full implementation of obligations that Mediterranean countries accepted under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols is a crucial prerequisite for the success of the plan.

Some considerations on the proposed themes

59. Although the two reflections (inevitably) converge toward the need for a green renaissance in the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, they differ in the manner in which they address the associated issues. In the first proposal, the focus is on economic recovery and how the outcome sought (halting and reversing current trends outlined in the SoED and MAR 1 assessment reports) can be achieved in the most pragmatic terms. It borrows economic concepts such as the cost-benefit analysis to advocate green policy action despite differences in national contexts around the basin. The second proposal, builds on the UN narrative on ‘making peace with nature’ and addresses these issues at the root of the triple environmental crisis that the Mediterranean is facing. It goes beyond economic considerations and circumstantial aspects to suggest a deep rehabilitation of “our relationship” with nature, including through the full implementation of obligations that the Contracting Parties have signed up to under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols during the 45 years of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s existence.

Preparation of the Ministerial Declaration

60. These proposals, following the advice of the Bureau and the respective refinements, will be also used as a basis for the preparation of the Antalya Ministerial Declaration to be prepared under the leadership of the Host Country of COP 22 and under the guidance of the Bureau. In the course of the preparation of the draft Antalya Ministerial Declaration, the involvement of stakeholders will be sought, with a focus on MAP Partners and MCSD members. The involvement of stakeholders can be secured through either: (a) the MAP Partners being invited to contribute to an online Working Group formed of the Contracting Parties for the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration; or (b) a meeting with the MAP Partners/stakeholders being organized for their contribution to the draft Ministerial Declaration. Special emphasis will be also provided to the involvement of Youth, following the successful example of COP 21. The Members of the MCSD are also expected to address during the 19th Meeting of the MCSD (Teleconference, 7-9 June 2021) issues of relevance to the Ministerial-level discussions of COP 22 and possibly provide inputs on elements that they would expect to be addressed in the draft Antalya Ministerial Declaration.

61. The Bureau is invited to reflect on the above considerations and provide advice and guidance in the preparation of the Ministerial Session of COP 22 and the Antalya Ministerial Declaration under the COP 22 Host Country leadership.

Proposed COP 22 Decisions

62. The Secretariat in consultation with the MAP Components has prepared the list of proposed COP 22 Decisions, Presented in Annex IV of the present document. As shown in the list presented in Annex IV, the suggested COP 22 Decisions are linked to the preparation and adoption of a number of substantive and strategic documents. The Secretariat made every effort to limit the number of proposed Decisions for COP 22, taking into account the nature of the strategic documents that need to be adopted by COP 22 as well as the fact that some issues can be addressed through the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 and the Report of the COP and not necessarily through a COP Decision.

63. The members of the Bureau are expected to discuss on the draft COP 22 Decisions included in the list, and to provide their guidance and advice to the Secretariat.

Organization of COP 22

64. The Secretariat is in continuous dialogue with Turkey, the Host Country of COP 22, for the finalization of the Host Country Agreement for the COP. The Host Country Agreement preparations have been almost finalized and the Agreement is being prepared for signature. The preparation of the logistical aspects of the meeting has also started early in 2021 in close consultation with the Host Country team in charge of COP 22, and they are also considering the specific needs and requirements due to the measures to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. To this end, regular, bi-monthly, meetings are organized between the Secretariat and Turkey teams to look both at organizational and substantial aspects of the COP, while ad hoc meetings and exchanges also take place, as need be.

65. The Secretariat is also reflecting on innovative concepts for the COP side-events. New ideas include increasing outreach through a hybrid format whereby side-events would function as webinars open not only to COP attendees, but also to a wider audience connecting online. This could be piloted at COP 22 (depending on logistical arrangements to be discussed with the Host Country) with a view to using the hybrid side-event format as a permanent fixture in the future, even after the full return to normality.

66. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the work by Turkey and the Secretariat for the preparation of COP 22 as a in-person meeting, and urges all Contracting Parties to ensure high level participation to the extent possible to maximise the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention's system visibility considering also that UNEP Executive Director has confirmed her participation;

(b) The Bureau recommends the that the theme of the Ministerial Session is

(c) The Bureau agrees with the approach proposed by the Secretariat for the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration, and encourage both the Secretariat and the Host Country to draft the concept note and the first main elements of the Ministerial Declaration for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, where the theme will be agreed and the main elements of the Ministerial Declaration subsequently discussed;

(d) The Bureau takes note of the proposed list of draft Decisions for consideration by the MAP Focal Points and requests the Secretariat to finalize their preparation, taking into account the considerations of the Bureau at its 91st Meeting, in a timely manner for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

G. Partnerships

67. During the period under reporting the Secretariat has been very active in promoting new and strengthening existing partnerships. In view of consolidating the dialogue between UNEP/MAP and regional parliamentarians' bodies, the Secretariat liaised with the Parliamentary of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) towards the preparation of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). Based on the UNEP's template, the draft text of the two proposed MoU was prepared and is contained in Information Document UNEP/MED BUR.91/Inf.6. The text was agreed between the organizations, while some provisions

related to legal issues were sent for clearance to the UNEP Headquarters. The draft MoUs include areas of cooperation around the following themes: a. Support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols through national legislation and measures; b. Promote and implement common initiatives to advance the delivery of the SDGs in the Mediterranean; c. Mobilize parliamentary diplomacy in support of regional multilateralism and solidarity for environment and sustainable development; d. Cooperate closely to identify opportunities to promote the active engagement of parliamentarians and national parliaments in addressing climate and environmental changes across the Mediterranean Basin; e. Promote and strengthen the science-policy interface in the Mediterranean region; and, Launch joint advocacy and action-oriented initiatives on common priority themes.

68. The Secretariat has worked together with FAO/GFCM for the update of the MoU that was signed between the two organizations in 2012, to better reflect ongoing activities and to incorporate new ones that will emanate from the joint proposal “Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED)” approved in May 2020 by the GEF Council. The two organizations agreed that the update of the MoU should be limited to the Appendix. The draft text of the revised Appendix was agreed following exchanges between the two organizations and is contained in Information Document UNEP/MED BUR.91/Inf.6. The revised appendix includes a new section on Marine Litter, while the existing sections were enhanced to reflect better ongoing processes and new developments such as the Post-2020 SAP BIO, the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships’ Ballast Water Management, the incidental bycatch monitoring and data collection on vulnerable species, the cooperation on spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity, the coordination on the possible identification and designation of protected areas (PSSAs, SPAMIs and FRAs), the efficient use of marine resources, as well as cooperation on legal, institutional and policy-related issues.

69. The Secretariat continued working with the Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean (UfMS) for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between the two Organizations, which was signed in 2013. Several bilateral meetings and exchanges took place on the possible update of the Appendix of the MoU in order to better reflect the recent regional and global evolutions related to the environmental and sustainable development, in line with the mandates of the two organizations and in order to make use of their complementarities most effectively. The two organizations agreed to postpone the process of updating the Appendix of the MoU for the next biennium.

70. During the “One Planet Summit” held in Paris in January 2021, a “Coalition for an Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030” was launched, that prepared a draft Action Plan entitled “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” with the active contribution of a number of Contracting Parties and regional organizations. The Action Plan is built around four priority axes, namely i) Increase ambition for preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean; ii) Promote and develop sustainable fishing to end overfishing by 2030; iii) Redouble efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly so that no plastic is discharged into the Mediterranean by 2030; and iv) Promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change. The Secretariat has been actively involved in the preparation of the Action Plan, by participating as Observer in the consultation meetings with the engaged countries and regional Organizations and holding bilateral meetings with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is steering the preparatory process, with a view to ensuring that this initiative will build on existing regional processes and initiatives and will contribute to the achievement of regional objectives, in particular those adopted under the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention. Key MAP instruments and processes are referenced in the draft Action Plan and UNEP/MAP is attributed an important role in the implementation of the Action Plan as outlined in its governance mechanism paper. A Technical Expert to be funded by France is planned to be seconded to UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit to support the coordination of the Action Plan implementation ensuring synergies with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention as well as with the work of other regional instruments and initiatives, while the expert is also expected to bring an additional expertise on marine litter in the Coordinating Unit.

71. The Secretariat continued to identify, promote and strengthen synergies with other Secretariats in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean

Area. The Secretariat, together with SPA/RAC, organized a second teleconference in February 2021 with the Secretariats of the partner organizations FAO/GFCM, ACCOBAMS and IUCN-Med. The partners agreed that UNEP/MAP will continue facilitating the process in 2021 and that feedback from all partners regarding the two pilot areas identified (Pomo Pit area in the Adriatic and the functional whales' corridor area in the north-western Mediterranean) would be sent to SPA/RAC. ACCOBAMS was asked to provide information on a proposal for a new protection corridor initiated by France, and IUCN-Med to provide further information on a proposal to prepare a workshop on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean; the workshop was finally set for late June 2021 and will be co-organized by SPA/RAC. The next meeting was agreed to take place on 17 June 2021 and will also discuss the possible involvement of other organizations, ideas/elements of possible project proposals, and ways to involve respective governing bodies/Parties.

72. The Secretariat is actively participating in several ocean related processes in the regional and global levels, including the preparation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025, where the Secretariat provided substantive comments and participated in several meetings for the preparation and finalization of this important strategic document of UNEP; the process for the development of an African Ocean Governance Strategy (the 3rd consultative meeting organized virtually on 15-16 June 2021); as well as the International Ocean Governance process, a stakeholder platform organized by the EU for the future of the oceans.

73. UNEP/MAP continues collaborating with the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP): UNEP/MAP, through MED POL and SCP RAC, is currently actively participating in three working groups emanating from this initiative focusing on prevention, collection and transboundary movement of plastic waste and is leading the work of the PWP-PG2-Subgroup 2 concerned with plastic waste collection, recycling and other recovery, including financing and related markets.

74. Following the call for new MAP Partners issued by the Secretariat during the previous biennium, and its promotion through news items, outreach during meetings where UNEP/MAP staff participated and the email signatures of UNEP/MAP staff in summer 2020, the Secretariat has received eight new applications from non-governmental organizations for accreditation as MAP Partners, namely the "Ona Futura Foundation", a national NGO operating in Spain since 2020, "European Topic Centre – University of Malaga" (ETC-UMA), a national NGO operating in Spain since 2011, "Cittadini per l'aria onlus", a national NGO operating in Italy since 2016, "Cercle Mallorquí de Negocis" (CMN), a national NGO operating in Spain since 2015, "SUBMON", a national NGO operating in Spain since 2008, "Marevivo", a national NGO operating in Italy since 1985, "All For Blue", a national NGO operating in Greece since 2017 and the "World Ocean Council" (WOC), an international NGO-business association, operating since 2009 .

75. The Secretariat has reviewed the documentation submitted in line with Decision IG.19/6 on "MAP/Civil Society cooperation and partnership" and found that seven of the above organizations meet the criteria for such accreditation. Regarding the "Ona Futura Foundation", the Secretariat notes that this organization was established in 2020, and therefore does not meet the criterion "b) to have existed for at least 4 years;". The results of the evaluation of the application are presented in Annex V to the present report for the Bureau's consideration. The table of Annex V includes some specific comments / clarifications by the Secretariat that the Bureau may wish to consider.

76. In relation to the renewal of accreditation of existing MAP Partners, a letter was sent to MAP Partners endorsed at COP 19 on 23 July 2020, reminding these organizations that they need to renew their accreditation in line with Decision IG.19/6 "Every 6 years, NGO observers ask the Secretariat to renew their accreditation". The Secretariat has followed up through individual emails and phone calls with the organizations that have not submitted a request for renewal of accreditation until the previous meeting of the Bureau.

77. As a result of these efforts, the Secretariat has received four applications from MAP Partners for renewal of their accreditation, as follows:

- Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- Arab Office for Youth & Environment (AOYE)
- Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)
- Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA)

78. The Secretariat has reviewed the applications for renewal of accreditation and recommends that the Bureau approves the nine organizations to be renewed as MAP partners.

79. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the work of the Secretariat on enhancing ocean governance and on strengthening cooperation and partnerships with global and regional organizations for joint impact on the ground;

(b) The Bureau welcomes the work by the secretariat in developing new MoUs with PAM and COMPSUD and in updating the Appendix of the MoU with FAO/GFCM, and requests the Secretariat to submit the draft text of these MoUs to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021;

(c) The Bureau welcomes the engagement of the Secretariat in the preparation of the Action Plan “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” as well as the proposal for the secondment of a Technical Expert by France in the Coordinating Unit and requests the Secretariat to keep the Contracting Parties informed on the next steps;

(d) The Bureau endorses the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the new applications submitted by “European Topic Centre – University of Malaga” (ETC-UMA), “Cittadini per l’aria onlus”, “Cercle Mallorquí de Negocis” (CMN), “SUBMON”, “Marevivo”, “All For Blue”, and the “World Ocean Council” (WOC), ” [~~“Ona Futura Foundation”~~] for accreditation as MAP Partners and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for consideration and endorsement;

(e) The Bureau endorses the proposal by the Secretariat to renew the accreditation as MAP Partners of the organizations “Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)”, “Arab Office for Youth & Environment (AOYE)”, “Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF) ”, and “Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA)” following the applications submitted by these organizations, and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for consideration and endorsement.

H. Visibility and Communication

80. The second half of 2021 will see a succession of major meetings, including the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the CBD COP 15 and the UNFCCC COP 26. This sequence taking place prior to Barcelona Convention COP 22 presents visibility and outreach opportunities. With the support of the Secretariat, the Bureau - in primis Italy, as the current President, and Turkey, as the COP 22 Host Country - may wish to use the platforms that the aforementioned events offer to position COP 22 as a key event for the Mediterranean region. This may include references to specific items on the COP 22 agenda (as, for example, the post-2020 SAPBIO, in relation to the CBD COP 15) in official statements, media encounters and other outreach activities (e.g. side-events). Such activities would recognize the role of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system as a regional integrator for global MEAs and relevant intergovernmental frameworks.

81. The Secretariat is working with SPA/RAC and PB/RAC to ensure a coordinated presence at the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, France, 3-11 September 2011). This includes communicating as one-a principle enshrined in the Operational Communication Strategy. SPA/RAC and PB/RAC will join other Mediterranean institutions taking part in “Mediterranean solutions”, a collective exhibition stand that will showcase collaborative work undertaken in the region and the latest nature conservation initiatives.

82. The Mediterranean Coast Day (25 September) is the main regional observance under the Barcelona Convention. The Secretariat is working with PAP/RAC on revamping the logo of the event. In view of the encouraging results¹ obtained by the digital campaign organized for the 2020 edition, a similar concept is currently under preparation. Visibility will be boosted by the organization of a

¹ <http://www.info-rac.org/coastday/>

Mediterranean Coast Day webinar that will focus on the impact that urban development is having on the Mediterranean Coast.

83. The 'Green Renaissance' narrative that the Secretariat has developed in spring 2020 to advocate for recovering better from the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved and is focusing on opportunities offered by recovery-oriented policies, stimulus packages and investments, and presents the acceleration of enforcement and compliance by the Contracting Parties as the shortest route to a more sustainable and resilient future. To "flick the green switch" in the Mediterranean, as the narrative indicates, there is no need to "start from scratch": the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system offers a ready-to-use blueprint for a green renaissance in Mediterranean countries and the entire region. A sample of the narrative is provided in a special feature prepared by the Secretariat to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May): <https://bit.ly/IDB2021-Med>

84. In the current period, particular impetus was given to the digital campaigns, such as those for UN Oceans Day, International Air Day, Mediterranean Coast Day, Earth Hour, Raise Your Voice For Nature, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment on the occasion of International Woman Day, the dissemination of MAP's flagship publication, the State of Environment and Development report (SoED), and the launch of the UN Biodiversity Day campaign. The campaigns included the development of specific initiatives aimed at the Mediterranean region, including dedicated web pages, key messages, articles on featured topics, online video libraries, storymaps and infographics, extensive networking with Mediterranean partners and countries, photo competitions, quizzes for children, vademecum on sustainable behaviour, online thematic dictionaries, and a video message from the Ambassador for the Coast on the occasion of the appointment.

85. In the area of award promotion, INFO/RAC supported the promotion of the "Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award for Mediterranean coastal cities", which recognizes and rewards the efforts of local authorities to improve the environment and quality of life and promote sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal cities. As part of the production and dissemination of news and communication materials INFO/RAC produced the quarterly online newsletter MEDNEWS that updates on the progress of MAP, ongoing initiatives and projects and provides an overview of actions aimed at safeguarding the Mediterranean. On social networking, INFO/RAC strengthened MAP's presence on Twitter by adopting new communication tools such as twitter cards. Particular attention was given to the dissemination of information on the COVID 19 pandemic in the context of the necessary transition towards a more sustainable and resilient future in the "post-COVID Med Region" (Green Renaissance).

86. Several communication activities were launch in support of projects and agreements with the support of INFO/RAC. Some examples are the creation of the logo and website for the dissemination of Integrated Coastal Management results for the CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the development of the Communication Plan in the framework of the UNEP/MAP Agreement with IMELS. The latter included the development of a communicative booklet highlighting the importance of the agreement as best practice in the Mediterranean and a promotional video resuming the main outcomes achieved.

87. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the efforts and results of the work on information and outreach, and requests the Secretariat to further progress in this direction based on the objectives of the MAP Communication Strategy.

I. Other Issues

(i) Host Country Agreements of RACs

88. Through Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), Contracting Parties "Welcome[d] the agreed set of common provisions for Host Country Agreements as presented in Annex IX of this Decision and urge the Secretariat in collaboration with the Contracting Parties hosting the MAP Regional Activity Centres to finalize the set for presentation of the minimum common provisions to COP 22 for consideration, building on the inputs provided by the Contracting Parties hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres". As a follow-up, two consultation meetings with MAP Focal Points of the Host Countries of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) were held on 5 June

2020 and on 25 November 2020 by teleconference to finalize the set of minimum common provisions as presented in Annex IX to Decision IG.24/2, focusing on identifying those common operational principles necessary for the UNEP/MAP RACs to continue to deliver their regional mandate effectively. The result of this work has crystalized on the finalization of a set of common operational principles for MAP Components, which operationalize the minimum common provisions agreed at COP 21. Following the request of the 90th Meeting of the Bureau these principles will be presented for the consideration of the MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP 22.

89. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the finalization of the set of common operational principles for MAP Components and requests their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting before further submission to COP 22.

(ii) Savings deriving from the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of MAP's work

90. As per the request of the 90th Meeting of the Bureau, discussions on PoW and budget savings due to COVID-19 pandemic were held at ECP level. All MAP Components shared with the Coordinating Unit their status of savings (generated and estimated for the period until 31 December 2021) along with proposals for reallocation. The biggest part of savings' reallocations is made among Umoja classes within the same activities. For reallocation proposals between activities requiring a prior approval by the Bureau, a letter was sent by the Coordinator to the Bureau members on 6 May 2021, explaining the situation and providing information on the proposed reallocations including amounts, activities and justification. This concerns an amount of approximately USD 520,000 from savings, that is not due to lack of implementation of PoW 2020-2021 activities, but mainly to different modalities of implementation needed to comply with COVID-19 imposed restrictions (e.g. organization of virtual meetings instead of physical ones and delays in recruitment processes), which however won't hinder the implementation of the PoW. It is proposed to reallocate this amount to a limited number of activities detailed in the letter. For the moment no feedback has been received by the Bureau Members. The next step of the processes outlined in the letter is to submit the proposal for a 2-week no objection written consultation process with the MAP Focal Points, upon completion of which the Secretariat will be able to formalise the budget revisions with the amendment of the Legal Instruments with the RACs, where appropriate.

91. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat on savings due to the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic the agrees with the proposals provided by the Secretariat on the reallocation of savings through the letter addressed to the Bureau members on 6 May 2021 and with the proposal for a two week no objection consultation with the MAP Focal Points.

Annex I

Evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNEP/MAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021

Final Revised Draft

May 2021

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List of Acronyms

BBNJ	Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
BCRS	Barcelona Convention Reporting System
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme
COP	Conference of Parties
CP	Contracting Party
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EEA	European Environment Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IE	Independent Evaluation
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast
LSI	Land-Sea Interaction
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
MTS	Medium-term Strategy
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSPAR	Oslo Paris Commission (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic)
PoW	Programme of Work
QSR	Quality Status Report
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPAMI	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
SWOT	Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats Analysis
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive summary

1. The main objective of the Independent Evaluation (IE) is to assess the implementation of the MTS with the aim of enhancing/strengthening the delivery of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system's mandate in the future and, to this end, of providing feedback for the new MTS. The purpose of the IE is to provide an impartial review of MTS implementation in terms of its effectiveness, overall performance and achievements. The information, findings, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations generated by the evaluation will feed the preparation of the next MTS covering the period 2022-2027 and possibly beyond that timeframe. The IE has assessed the extent to which planned results have been achieved since the beginning of the MTS implementation in 2016 and the likelihood of their full achievement by the end of its validity in 2021.

2. The evaluation methodology focuses on analyzing the concept and design of MTS and its implementation, and provides a set of recommendations for the new MTS. The IE is carried out through five overlapping phases: (a) Document review and analysis (desktop study); (b) Consultations with key stakeholders; (c) Preparation of the First Draft IE Report; (d) Preparation of the Second Draft IE Report; and (e) Preparation of the Final IE Report.

3. The MTS is meant to guide the path towards the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribute to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2016-2021. The priorities of the MTS are intended to be "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, universally applicable to all countries in the region, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities." They are developed to be "focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development". The priority themes reflect legal commitments and major needs at the regional and national levels, they contribute to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) objectives and they are part of the global efforts for sustainable development. Their respective outputs are expected to be achieved through the three successive MAP biennial Programmes of Work of the 6- year period. The vision of the MTS is to achieve "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".

4. The evaluation finds that the Vision of the MTS is too general and is not focused enough on the specific time period it is covering. The vision, normally, describes the state that is to be achieved by the end of the planning period. This MTS vision is, definitely, a long-term one and describes the long-term goals to be achieved in a relatively distant future, or after several medium-terms, for example.

5. In its concept and structure, the MTS looks like a very complex document, which is sometimes difficult to follow and the user/reader may lose track of its main objectives. The MTS has the total of 42 strategic outcomes and 84 indicative key outputs, which is too large. Although they reflect the full scope of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, such large number makes monitoring of implementation difficult. The elaboration of each individual theme is coherent and follows the predetermined format. The titles of specific MTS outputs per outcome are then reflected in the Programme of Work, which then further divides each output into a number of activities. The evaluation finds that there is a high degree of coherence and consistence between the MTS and PoW.

6. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component of the MTS is not adequately developed. There is no timeline for the implementation of the specific outcomes and outputs/deliverables, which is a basic constitutive element of any strategy. Existence of the implementation timeline would also be an

indication of the MTS priorities. The timeline could also indicate important milestones to be reached during the implementation of the MTS, such as when a certain predefined number of new ratifications is achieved, or significant amount of external resources confirmed, or significant thematic action plans implemented, etc.

7. The MTS is integrating well all major guidelines entrenched in main international and/or regional evolutions of the last 5 years. The regional evolutions, in particular the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives, are directly integrated in the MTS's objectives, themes, outcomes and outputs. The three Core Themes are directly linked to the respective EcAp Ecological Objectives. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 and came into force on 1 January 2016, just around the time or soon after the MTS was developed and approved. The 2030 Agenda and especially the SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), are mentioned in the Decision IG.22/1 and in the preamble of the MTS, but no further elaboration and/or direct linkage exist in the document itself.

8. As the MTS states, its aim is "...to guide the path for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribution to sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2016-2021." The ultimate objectives of the MTS are to achieve the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean and contribute to sustainable development. These objectives are quite general and far-reaching and do not fully show what is to be achieved in the medium term, i.e. after six years of the MTS's implementation. However, the evaluation finds that definition of the MTS priority themes, which "... reflect legal commitments and major needs at the regional and national levels..." better expresses the real objectives of MTS even if that has not been clearly stated in the document itself. Having the above in mind, this evaluation analyzes and assesses the realization of strategic outcomes grouped under the seven priority themes.

9. Table 3 shows the extent of achievement of targets at the level of strategic outcome with an indication of the current status of realization. Information used to compile this table was taken from existing documentation that was provided by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat. The results shown in the table are based on the analysis of indicators that have been defined for each Strategic Outcome in the PoW as well as on complementary information from UNEP/MAP documentation, reports and expert judgment. Table 3 uses the "traffic lights" system of notation. After an analysis of the implementation of indicators and targets, the appropriate "light" was assigned to it.

10. The implementation rate of the MTS outcomes and outputs, in view of the evaluation, has been on time for most of the outcomes. Those outcomes that are facing difficulties in being fully implemented in the time remaining until the expiration of the planning period should attract special attention by the Contracting Parties and the Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centres. It is true that the Covid-19 pandemic has seriously affected implementation efforts during 2020 and it is now continuing well into 2021. This is particularly relevant for the activities where face-to-face contacts are of great importance such as implementation of activities at the national level, or the capacity building activities. It is fairly safe to assume that some of the activities will not be completed until the end of 2021

11. MTS's perception by the stakeholders (Contracting Parties, MCSD members, other MAP partners) is positive. They have given a number of suggestions on how to improve its design and implementation. Points to be stressed here are the need to prioritise, make financial resources for the implementation of MTS more transparent, and the fact that MTS has had positive influence on the regional and national stakeholders. They have commended the role of MAP Coordinating Unit and RACs as well as the level of communication between them.

12. The major operational objective of the MTS, to guide the implementation of the PoW, has been achieved. The MAP-Barcelona Convention system, including the Contracting Parties, the Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centres, and other stakeholders should be congratulated for the successful implementation of the overall programme of activities. There are some activities whose implementation should be speeded up such as those related to climate change adaptation and other emerging issues. It seems that the whole system, at a regional scale, has become more robust as the major outcome of the activities implemented. There is still a lot to do to improve the transmission, and, by consequence, improved efficiency, at the national level of implementation. This could be one of the main MTS's strategic directions in the future. The respective modalities will have to be discussed at length between stakeholders to secure the most effective implementation.

13. Based on the above assessment, the evaluation proposes a set of recommendations to improve the formulation and implementation of the MTS. Some of the recommendations are of the operational nature, while some are of a more strategic nature. The recommendations are presented at the end of the evaluation report.

1 Introduction

14. The evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) follows the request of Contracting Parties as in Decision IG.22/1 of the COP19 held in Athens, Greece in February 2016, which states the following: “Requests the Secretariat to launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.” The current MTS covers a period of six years until COP 22 (i.e. 2016-2021).

1.1 Purpose and scope of the evaluation

15. The main objective of the Independent Evaluation (IE) is to assess the implementation of the MTS with the aim of enhancing/strengthening the delivery of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s mandate in the future and, to this end, of providing feedback for the new MTS. The MTS is a policy document and, necessarily, the respective evaluation necessarily is what is usually called the “process” evaluation. A process evaluation, generally, focuses on the implementation process and attempts to determine how successfully a certain initiative/program (in this case: MTS), including its outcomes and outputs, followed its implementation logic and determines whether program outputs have been implemented as intended and resulted in predetermined outcomes.

16. The purpose of the IE is to provide an impartial review of MTS implementation in terms of its effectiveness, overall performance and achievements. The information, findings, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations generated by the evaluation will feed the preparation of the next MTS covering the period 2022-2027 and possibly beyond that timeframe. The IE has assessed the extent to which planned results have been achieved since the beginning of the MTS implementation in 2016 and the likelihood of their full achievement by the end of its validity in 2021.

17. The IE covers the entire scope of the MTS with all its components, and in particular by assessing the success of implementation of the strategic themes, the over-arching, the core and the cross-cutting ones. The IE's scope revolved around three major aspects, namely: (1) review of the MTS’s strategic approach, concept and design; (2) evaluation of the MTS's implementation, i.e. progress towards results; and (3) conclusions and recommendations.

1.2 Methodological approach

18. The evaluation methodology focuses on analyzing the concept and design of MTS and its implementation, and provides a set of recommendations for the new MTS. The IE is carried out through five overlapping phases:

- Document review and analysis (desktop study);
- Consultations with key stakeholders;
- Preparation of the First Draft IE Report;
- Preparation of the Second Draft IE Report; and
- Preparation of the Final IE Report.

19. The **concept and design** of MTS was assessed by focusing on the approach used in its design and selection of its main strategic directions, with a reference to other relevant global and regional initiatives assessing the level of incorporation of these into the MTS’s design. The aim of the assessment of MTS **Implementation** was to define the rate of achievement of MTS outcomes and delivery of related outputs. The evaluation has also analyzed, to the extent possible, the financial

aspect of the MTS implementation. However, it is not an audit report, but only an approximation of the rate of expenditure of funds, which will provide an indication of the commitment of Contracting Parties to the implementation of MTS. Finally, the **conclusions and recommendations** are the summary of findings in the previous two stages of the evaluation.

20. While it was envisaged that the evaluation consultant should undertake three missions (visit to Coordinating Unit in Athens; attend the Bureau Meeting in 2020 and MAP Focal Points Meeting in 2021), due to the Covid-19 pandemics, none of these missions was possible to materialize. This can be considered as a serious limitation to carrying out this task. In the absence of the missions, the consultant relied heavily on other means of communication, in particular video conferencing. The consultant made every effort to contact relevant stakeholders, and a limited number of consultations took place. However, it has to be noted that the consultant had very effective support from the MAP Coordinating Unit, whose assistance was critically important when other limits to his performance were present.

21. As part of the evaluation process, a survey among the stakeholders has been undertaken. The questionnaire had 34 questions grouped in 5 sections: (1) General information; (2) Design of the MTS; (3) MTS implementation; (4) Achievement of outcomes and outputs; and (5) Recommendations for the future MTS. The questionnaire was sent to all groups of stakeholders that have participated in the development and implementation of the MTS. The MAP Coordinating Unit and RACs were not included in the exercise. The response rate was received from 23 addresses, out of which 8 were from national Focal Points. It should be noted that this survey is only an indicative one and that it served the purpose of signaling the major issues related to development and implementation of MTS.

2. MTS Description

2.1 Brief MTS description

22. The MTS is meant to guide the path towards the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribute to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2016-2021. The priorities of the MTS are intended to be "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, universally applicable to all countries in the region, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities." They are developed to be "focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development". The priority themes reflect legal commitments and major needs at the regional and national levels, they contribute to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) objectives and they are part of the global efforts for sustainable development. Their respective outputs are expected to be achieved through the three successive MAP biennial Programmes of Work of the 6- year period. The vision of the MTS is to achieve "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".

23. The concept of the MTS is reflected in Figure 1. The **Ultimate Objectives** are the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean and the contribution to sustainable development. The **Strategic Themes** are selected accordingly, and will be promoted under the Overarching Theme of Governance. The **Core Themes** are:

- Land and sea-based pollution;
- Biodiversity and ecosystems;

- Land and sea interactions and processes.

The **Cross-cutting Themes** are:

- Integrated coastal zone management;
- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Climate change adaptation.

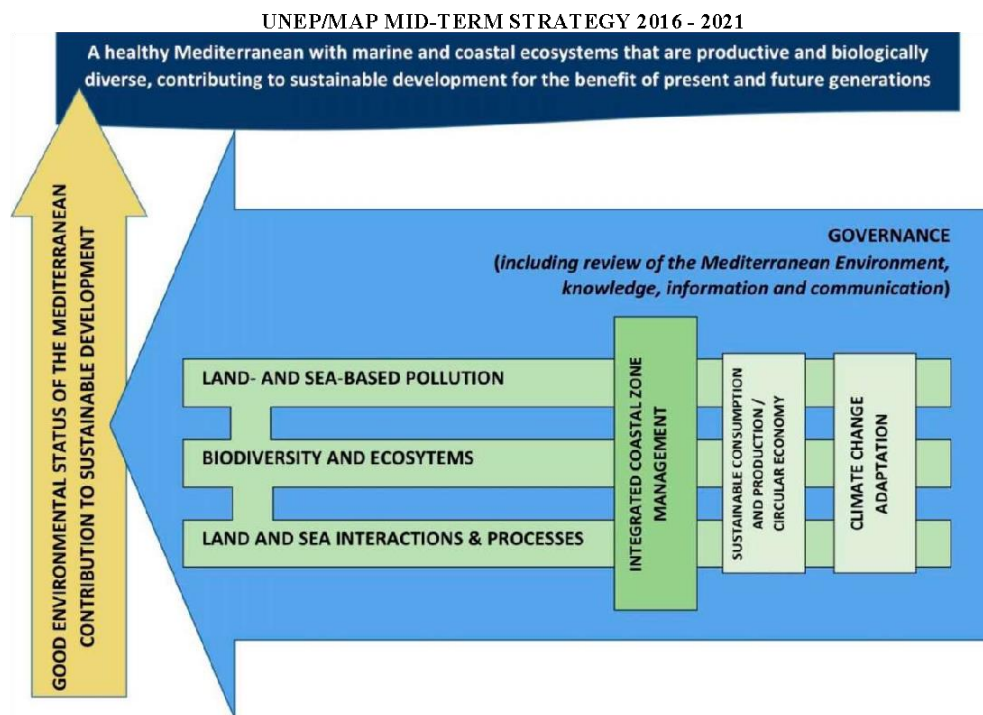


Figure 1: The concept of the MTS

2.2. Assessment of the MTS design

24. The introduction to the document is succinct and up to the point. It shows, in a general manner, how the MTS priorities, in fact the themes, are selected. They are legal commitments stemming out of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and they cover all the issues these legal documents are dealing with. The paragraph that explains it is the following:

"In line with the Rio+20 Outcome Document, the priorities of the MTS are intended to be 'action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, universally applicable to all countries in the region, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.' They are developed to be 'focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development'."

25. While the above paragraph is sufficiently enough guidance for the selection of the priorities, the evaluation finds that **the scope of themes covers the entire range of issues MAP** is dealing with and it is a bit difficult to spot the real priorities while analyzing the themes, outcomes and outputs. It looks like the entire scope of the MTS reflects the MAP institutional structure. However, the evaluator respects the fact that the MTS' priorities are decided upon by the Contracting Parties. The stakeholders interviewed largely find that the structure and the scope of action of the MTS is relevant to the MAP-

Barcelona Convention mandate, as well consistent with national and local policies and priorities and the needs of intended national beneficiaries.

26. The evaluation finds that **the Vision of the MTS is too general and is not focused enough on the specific time period it is covering**. The vision, normally, describes the state that is to be achieved by the end of the planning period. This MTS vision is, definitely, a long-term one and describes the long-term goals to be achieved in a relatively distant future, or after a several medium-terms, for example. It is true that the current MTS vision is based on the vision approved by the COP 16 in 2009 and inspired by the vision of the MSSD. The MTS Vision is very similar in style and the “spirit” to both. However, while both former visions are really aimed at achieving the long-term goals, the MTS’ vision should be aiming at results to be achieved in the medium term and its “spirit” should actually reflect that time frame, or medium-term goals such as, for example, establishing coastal and marine governance systems, full or partial (but precisely defined) ratification of legal documents, increasing coastal resilience, full application of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the region, etc., which could be easily monitored. In fact, in the absence of these, the current vision could easily be repeated verbatim for the next MTS. Besides, the scope of the current vision seems to be limited because there is no reference to increasing the coastal and marine ecosystems’ resilience including mitigating the impacts of climate change.

27. The issue of **vision is important because it is the major milestone against which the final outcome, and the “change of behavior” as a result of the MTS implementation should be judged**. The evaluation proposes that the next MTS vision reflects the medium time-frame and be more concrete in terms of the major objective(s) to be achieved. The MTS vision could, however, be placed in the context of the longer-term visions such as the COP 16 and the MSSD visions but should be more concrete in terms of visioning the state to be achieved at the end of the planning period.

28. In its concept and structure, the **MTS looks like a very complex document**, which is sometimes difficult to follow and the user/reader may lose track of its main objectives. The MTS has the total of 42 strategic outcomes and 84 indicative key outputs. The impression is that during the development of MTS, a “Christmas tree” approach was taken, intended to accommodate the full range of MAP activities and, judging by the number of outputs, it was done in considerable detail. Maybe it would be better if the MTS, as any strategy does, establishes clear priorities early on during the strategy development process. It should be noted, though, that in the document there are only 20 odd mentions of priority/priorities, albeit not in a systematic but in a very haphazard manner.

29. The MTS exhibits a somewhat **intricate concept of objectives**. Besides relationships among objectives presented in Figure 1 above, the Table 1 below shows how the objectives, in terms of type and number, are distributed among the strategic themes.

Strategic Theme	Accomplishments	Objectives	Ecological Objectives	Strategic objectives related to a protocol	Strategic objectives	Linked to strategic objectives of cross-cutting theme	Outcomes	Outputs
Governance	3	7					6	16
Land and sea Pollution			5	2		4	7	15
Biodiversity and Ecosystems			6	2		4	7	17
Land and Sea Interactions and Processes			3	4		4	6	10
ICZM					9		6	11

SCP					8		4	7
Climate Change Adaptation					2		5	8
TOTAL							42	84

Table 1: Distribution of objectives among Strategic Themes

30. There are several categories of objectives: ultimate, objectives (linked to accomplishments within the governance theme only), ecological objectives, strategic objectives related to a protocol, strategic objectives linked to the strategic objectives of the cross-cutting themes, and accomplishments, which are neither objectives, outcomes or outputs. The evaluation finds that this structure of objectives is too complex and that the understanding of the MTS would greatly benefit from its simplification. The evaluation proposes that each theme has clearly identified objective(s), which should then be linked to indicators and targets, as an efficient way to monitor the implementation of the activities within the theme. However, in separate paragraph it could be indicated what are the linkages with the objectives of other strategic documents (ecological objectives, protocol's objectives and objectives with the cross-cutting themes).

31. Seven strategic themes are grouped into an overarching theme (governance), core themes and cross-cutting themes (three in each group). Each theme has a number of strategic outcomes that are contributing to the achievement of eight generic "products": implementation of existing regional legal framework and decisions; development and approval of new or updated plans / programs / guidelines; assistance to Contracting Parties for implementation at national level; monitoring / evaluation; technical assistance/capacity building; networking; regional cooperation; and dealing with emerging issues. The evaluation finds that this structure is robust and clear. It allows for exercising the full potential of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system to assist Contracting Parties in their endeavors towards achieving sustainable development. However, the evaluation also finds that **the total number of outcomes (42) and outputs (84) is too large**. Although they reflect the full scope of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, such large number makes monitoring of implementation difficult. The distribution of outputs per strategic outcome is presented in Table 2 below.

Themes	Outputs	Outputs per Strategic Outcome							
		Existing regional legal framework implementation	New/updated plans/ programs/ guidelines	National impl.	Monitoring/ evaluation	Capacity building	Networking	Reg. coop.	Emerging issues
Governance	16	3		3	5	2	1	2	
Land and sea Pollution	15	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	1
Biodiversity and Ecosystems	17	2	3	3	4	2	1	1	1
Land and Sea Interactions and Processes	10	1	2	1	2	1	1		2
ICZM	11	3	2	3	1	1		1	
SCP	7	3			1	1	2		
Climate Change Adaptation	8	2	3	3	1	1			
TOTAL	84	15	12	14	17	11	6	5	4

Table 2: Distribution of outputs per outcomes

32. The evaluation finds that the **elaboration of individual themes is coherent and that all of them follow the predetermined format**. The titles of specific MTS outputs per outcome are then reflected in the Programme of Work, which then further divides each output into a number of activities. The evaluation finds that there is a **high degree of coherence and consistence between the MTS and PoW**.

2.3 Implementation arrangements

33. Some of the stakeholders that responded to the survey (National Focal Points, MCSD members, NGOs, IGOs, local actors) commented that only a limited number of **national stakeholders participated in the MTS design phase**. This may be understandable considering the fact that this was the first strategy prepared and, consequently, adequate experience in developing such a complex document was lacking. Also, there was a relatively short time available to prepare and adopt it. However, this is certainly an area for improvement during the preparation of next strategies.

34. Majority of the stakeholders surveyed felt that the **MTS should have a clearly defined budget for its implementation**. However, the evaluation is aware of the fact that PoW has the budget for implementation of the activities, and this is clearly stated in the MTS (paragraph 106). The evaluation suggests that this may be an issue to discuss further. This will largely depend on the structure and character of future strategies.

35. The evaluation finds that **the role of the private (business) sector and its contribution to the MTS implementation is not adequately covered in the MTS**. It is only cursorily mentioned in the implementation section. Again, this could be justified by the short time available for its preparation and adoption, but certainly is an issue of strategic importance for the future MTSs.

2.4 Monitoring and evaluation, timing and milestones

36. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component of the MTS is not adequately developed. **There is no timeline for the implementation** of the specific outcomes and outputs/deliverables, which is a basic constitutive element of any strategy. Existence of the implementation timeline would also be an indication of the MTS priorities. The timeline could also indicate important milestones to be reached during the implementation of the MTS, such as when a certain predefined number of new ratifications is achieved, or significant amount of external resources confirmed, or significant thematic action plans implemented, etc.

37. The **system of indicators and targets is not a constituent part of the MTS**. There is a system of indicators and targets that accompanies the PoW, but not all the MTS outcomes are covered with one or more indicators and targets. For example, the Overarching Theme "Governance" has a total of 16 indicators, but only 9 outputs are accompanied by one or more indicators/targets. Similar situation is also found with the remaining themes. The evaluation suggests that future MTSs have, at least, a number of limited indicators and targets that may be linked to major priorities and outcomes, and which should be a constituent part of the MTS document. A more detailed set of indicators and targets should be provided in the PoW.

38. The evaluation is aware of the **complementarity between the MTS and PoW in the matter of M&E** and the need to avoid the repetition of tasks, which is also related to indicators and targets. However, it is of the opinion that, when **indicator system exists in the PoW that it should be more consistent and cover all the MTS's outputs**. However, it is also aware of the fact that MTS has 42 outcomes and 84 outputs and that devising the system to cover all of these would make it very

complex. In this respect, the evaluation stresses again the need for prioritization and simplification of the MTS's structure which would, consequently, lead towards a more simplified M&E system.

2.5 Linkages with other international initiatives

39. The MTS is **integrating well all major guidelines entrenched in main international and/or regional evolutions of the last 5 years**. The regional evolutions, in particular the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives, are directly integrated in the MTS's objectives, themes, outcomes and outputs. The three Core Themes are directly linked to the respective EcAp Ecological Objectives. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 and came into force on 1 January 2016, just around the time or soon after the MTS was developed and approved. The 2030 Agenda and especially the SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), are mentioned in the Decision IG.22/1 and in the preamble of the MTS, but no further elaboration and/or direct linkage exist in the document itself.

3. MTS implementation

3.1 Evaluation of the Strategic Outcomes implementation

40. As the MTS states, its aim is "...to guide the path for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribution to sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2016-2021." The ultimate objectives of the MTS are to achieve the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean and contribute to sustainable development. These objectives are quite general and far-reaching and do not fully show what is to be achieved in the medium term, i.e. after six years of the MTS's implementation. However, the evaluation finds that definition of the MTS priority themes, which "... reflect legal commitments and major needs at the regional and national levels..." better expresses the real objectives of MTS even if that has not been clearly stated in the document itself. Having the above in mind, this evaluation analyses and assesses the realization of strategic outcomes grouped under the seven priority themes.

41. Table 3 below shows the extent of achievement of targets at the level of strategic outcome with an indication of the current status of realization. Information used to compile Table 3 was mainly taken from existing documentation that was provided by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat. The results shown in the table are based on the analysis of indicators that have been defined for each Strategic Outcome in the PoW.

42. Each indicator had targets assigned for each biennium. All the documents that were put at the disposal of the evaluator were thoroughly inspected and each output/deliverable that constituted a "finished" product was recorded. The activities that were ongoing and that were not resulted in a finalized product were not recorded as "finished". Equally so, most of the meetings were not considered as deliverables because they were means to achieve the deliverables/targets considered as such in the PoW. Also, the evaluation notes that some outcomes do not have associated indicators and targets, but if it was obvious that the respective outputs were completed they were recorded and, as such, contributed to the assessment of a specific outcome. The evaluation for the biennia 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 is complete as much as it was possible with the documents that were provided. The analysis for the biennium 2020-2021 is, obviously, not complete and for many outcomes the progress could not be recorded. The respective activities, though, were carried out but not completed yet and, thus, could not be counted as a progress towards the outcomes.

43. The Table 3 below uses the “traffic lights” system of notation. After an analysis of the implementation of indicators and targets was made, as outlined above in par.38, the appropriate “light” was assigned to it.

“Traffic lights” system for the implementation of the Strategic Outcomes

Target completely or largely achieved	Target on course to be achieved	Target’s activities need speeding up	No sufficient information
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Theme	Strategic Outcome	Assessment	Remarks
Overarching Theme: Governance	1.1 Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratifications of legal documents already exceeded the 6-year target • Satisfaction with the MAP meetings’ services is good • Very good success rate in attracting the external finance has been achieved, in particular the GEF MedProgramme and new EU-funded projects
	1.2 Contracting Parties supported in compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of CPs reported on compliance but there is still a number of countries that have to improve their reporting (82% and 50% per biennium respectively) • BCRS established and UNEP/MAP Secretariat has to see whether this could improve the reporting rate
	1.3 Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society organizations and private sector increasingly partnering with MAP • Cooperation on joint activities with partners such as EEA, OSPAR, HELCOM, GFCM, WWF and other
	1.4 Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the outcome is on a steady course • Many countries have adopted national IMAPs • Guidance factsheets for IMAP CI prepared • IMAP implementation is on course • Assessment reports published (Med 2017 QSR, SoED 2020, MedECC MAR 1, H2020 EEA-UNEP/MAP)
	1.5 MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy- making, increased awareness and understanding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMAP Infosystem has been developed • Speed up development of SEIS national nodes
	1.6 Raised awareness and outreach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New MAP website • Communications Strategy implemented • A number of interesting communications products • MAP present at many events

Theme	Strategic Outcome	Assessment	Remarks
Core Theme 1: Land and sea-based pollution	2.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and 4 pollution -related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Regional Plans implementation completed • Support provided for the implementation of existing regional measures • Implementation of activities under the theme of the MTS on pollution
	2.2 Development or update of new/existing action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement to develop 6 pollution regional plans. Work on 3 Regional Plans in progress • Good at producing knowledge products (9 guidelines developed and adopted)
	2.3 Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement and integration into sectorial processes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special indicators and targets for this outcome • NAPs analysis undertaken • NAP H2020 indicators developed • 11 countries supported on marine litter and/or circular economy • 4 SCP NAPs developed
	2.4 Marine Pollution Monitoring and assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed record of countries submitting their reports • Countries supported to update/develop their national pollution control system • QSR 2017 pollution chapter and H2020 pollution report finalised
	2.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows good level of training activity at national level • Large number of people trained • Activities in 2020-21 biennium still need to show results
	2.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators established to assess progress in this outcome • 2 MOUs and 1 sub-regional plan • Cooperation on marine pollution enhanced, especially in the areas of marine litter (ML Platform, meetings of ML Best Practices)
	2.7 Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete indicators to assess progress in this outcome • Emerging issues were identified and efforts to address them in the regional policy/regulatory instruments have been made: • REMPEC established SO_x Technical Committee • Identification of key elements for the preparation of new/updated Regional Plans has considered emerging issues, like microplastics, sludge management, aquaculture pollution impacts etc.

Theme	Strategic Outcome	Assessment	Remarks
Core Theme 2: Biodiversity and ecosystems	3.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries implementation reported through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System SPA organized MPA Forum • Data collected on SPA management • National Ballast Water Management Strategies adopted
	3.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Action Plans adopted in 2019 • 6 guidelines developed • Biodiversity component integrated in MSP project GEF Adriatic
	3.3 Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of NAPs developed • Regulatory measures including MPAs • Biodiversity component integrated in CAMP Italy and GEF Adriatic project
	3.4 Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non- indigenous species and key habitats		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries supported on monitoring of biodiversity • SPA/RAC worked on IMAP implementation for Biodiversity and NIS clusters • Review of SPAMI platform
	3.5 Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity -related national legislation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 scientific meetings on Mediterranean marine biodiversity in 2016-17 and 2018-19 • Slow progress in 2020 due to Covid-19 on scientific meetings and pilot projects • Training in 11 countries
	3.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 working strategies/working programmes developed with partners
	3.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete indicators to assess progress in this outcome • SPA/RAC participated in UNEP BBNJ initiative • Needs to be speeded up
Core Theme 3: Land and sea interactions and processes	4.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement according to the planned targets • MSP related chapter for ICZM Protocol and MSP annex to Regional Framework for ICZM
	4.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Regional Framework for ICZM adopted • MSP Conceptual Framework adopted • LSI Testing Tool
	4.3 Strengthening national implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMPs targets achieved in first 2 biennia • Possibly critical in the third since 2 CAMPs are planned (if there will be delays in starting them)
	4.4 Monitoring and assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete indicators to assess progress in this outcome

Theme	Strategic Outcome	Assessment	Remarks
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMAP implementation for coast and hydrogeography cluster
	4.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 training courses on coast and hydrogeography, and on MSP
	4.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMP networks established and functioning
	4.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete indicators to assess progress in this outcome
Cross-cutting theme 1: Integrated coastal zone management	5.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully achieved
	5.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete indicators to assess progress in this outcome • ICZM CRF adopted • MSP Conceptual Framework adopted • Guidelines developed (e.g. on EIA/SEA linked with ICZM)
	5.3 Strengthening national implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sufficient information on national ICZM strategies produced • Needs stepping up efforts: 7 strategies are planned for the entire period
	5.4 Monitoring and assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete indicators to assess progress in this outcome • 2 factsheets produced
	5.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MedOpen courses implemented
	5.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICZM Platform functioning • CAMP network functioning • 2 national coordination mechanisms established • In the third biennium 3 more ICM inter-ministerial national committees to be established
	6.1 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines and implementation of current ones		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress in the first two biennia • Need to step up activities in the biennium 2020-21
Cross-cutting theme 2: Sustainable consumption and production	6.2 Monitoring and assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete PoW indicators to assess progress in this outcome • Set of SCP indicators produced
	6.3 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number of persons trained • 16 training courses • Interactive Sustainable Business Development Online Platform launched

Theme	Strategic Outcome	Assessment	Remarks
	6.4 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCP Hub launched with great number of members • Green Business Online Development Platform
Cross-cutting theme 3: Climate change adaptation	7.1. Strengthening the regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on mainstreaming biodiversity in climate change adaptation • “Climagine” guidelines • Regional online knowledge platform • Guidelines on coastal resilience
	7.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress reports show only 1 strategy streamlining climate change adaptation issue • Need to step up the activities
	7.3 Strengthening national implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress recorded relative to respective indicator
	7.4 Monitoring and assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concrete PoW indicators to assess progress in this outcome • Indicators on vulnerability and impacts of climate change developed
	7.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress recorded relative to respective indicator

Table 3: Outcomes assessment summary table

44. From the Table 3 above, a number of interesting MTS implementation trends could be observed. It has to be noted that this evaluation is not about the individual MAP components or the MAP system as a whole, but about the implementation of the MTS itself. Also, although this is not an evaluation of the implementation of the PoW, because of the close relationship between the PoW and the MTS, the conclusions could be applicable also to the PoW.

45. In terms of the delivery of outputs, there is evidence of a **dominance of products that belong to legal instruments** or “implementation of existing regional legal framework and decisions”. This is a somewhat expected outcome as this aspect is deeply inherent to the very existence of the overall system of MAP - Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and what Contracting Parties have been continuously supporting. Also, the dominance of activities related to **regional cooperation and networking** could also be observed. This is also justifiable, since MAP is a long-established institutional system in the region and has built many collaborations through the years.

46. The evaluation finds that the delivery of the **knowledge products (guidelines, standards, criteria, etc.), monitoring and assessment deliverables, and capacity building was effective and successful**. However, an increased activity on finalizing the knowledge products during the last year of the third biennium would be beneficial.

47. With regards to the above two issues, one interesting correlation could be observed and it is that **more resources have been used for the legal component, regional cooperation and networking than for the group of knowledge products**. However, while the resources for knowledge products were smaller in size, the rate of their utilization, at least during the first two biennia, has been higher, usually in the range between 80 and 100% of the funds allocated. This finding shows that utilization of these funds has been more effective.

48. National interventions, i.e. **implementation of regional guidelines at a national level in the form of pilot projects, policy interventions, NAPs implementation etc., is also an area where more could have been achieved.** The evaluation proposes that this should be an area for increased intervention in the future, though more precise modalities how these interventions will be carried out are open for a wider discussion among regional stakeholders and national authorities. For example, while CAMPs have been carried out for more than 30 years now and have been implemented in almost all countries of the region, maybe the time has come to discuss new forms of intervention and accompanying institutional and financial solutions at national level. This could also be one of the strategic areas for some future MTS.

49. Two areas are considered as critical. The available data show that **moderate to low progress has been made in addressing climate change adaptation issues.** Similarly, **very few new emerging issues have been addressed,** at least during the first two biennia of MTS implementation. This may need more attention considering the amount of activity and initiatives at the global and even at regional level.

50. Finally, a specific problem is that a **rigorous and consistent system of indicators and targets that will cover all the MTS outcomes and outputs and, consequently, their monitoring and reporting on implementation through PoW does not exist.** Out of the total of 42 outcomes, 11 have not been monitored because there were no accompanying indicators and targets. It is true, though, that some outputs related to those outcomes have been reported in the biannual progress reports, but this does not add up to the need for more rigorous monitoring and reporting. The evaluation found it very difficult to navigate through reports and other documents to find out what was really achieved. Also, the manner of reporting does not seem to be harmonized among the MAP components. In particular, it was not always easy to spot when an activity was really completed and output delivered. The evaluation finds that this is an area where considerable improvements will have to be made in the future.

3.2 Stakeholders' perspective

51. Majority of stakeholders (National Focal Points, MCSD members, NGOs, IGOs, local actors) contacted during the survey felt that there were some **obstacles to more effective MTS implementation.** There was a number of challenges that have probably resulted in this partial satisfaction, in particular the lack of data, lack of adequate financing, lack of political will to implement the strategy at national level, lack of interest among stakeholders, and delay in delivery of outputs. They also mentioned the following:

- measures to be implemented at local level were not specifically identified neither monitored;
- new and innovative financing mechanisms (at national or local level) have not been developed and/or supported enough;
- there was also a problem of transversal work at national level between the ministry in charge of environment and other sectorial ministries to reach an agreement and an effective implementation of measures.

52. Although information on resources for implementation, including MTF and external resources, are provided in the biennial Programmes of Work which are publicly available in UNEP/MAP website, some stakeholders appeared not to be informed of the availability of the resources for the implementation of the MTS, as only a minority had an answer (mostly not enough resources). This may be caused by the inadequate explanation in the section of the MTS where resources for its implementation were discussed. The majority of stakeholders did not have an opinion on the issue.

This is certainly an issue to be pursued more strongly in the future, in particular in explain the regional, national and local actors that the financing of MTS is secured through the PoWs, which are adopted by the COP every two years, and which could effectively be considered as the biannual action plans to implement the MTS.

53. They were generally **satisfied with the level of communication with the MAP Coordinating Unit (CU)** during the implementation of the strategy, but a significant number stated that it could be more frequent. Their frequency of the communication with the Coordinating Unit was once a year or not at all.

54. The majority of stakeholders felt that **MTS outputs and outcomes have only partially been delivered as planned, i.e. against the indicators provided**. This is an important issue for the implementation of MTS and it may be related to the point raised above on the difficulty to identify the activities that were really completed and outputs delivered. Among the **factors critical to achieving better delivery of intended objectives, outcomes and outputs**, the following were considered as the most important:

- the role played by the Coordinating Unit and MAP Regional Activity Centres,
- MAP Focal Points regularly monitoring the implementation of MTS,
- the implementation structure established at national level,
- the adaptive management tools, which allowed changes in case of lagging delivery of outputs.

55. The majority of the stakeholders felt that the implementation of the MTS has brought improvement of environmental indicators of the Mediterranean Region, better biodiversity protection, better environmental governance, and better coastal and marine management. However, a clear distinction should be made between eventual benefits accrued by implementation of the MTS and the PoWs. Again, the respondents felt that the resources available for the implementation of the MTS were not enough. However, this is also an issue that has to be looked upon by taking in consideration the entire MAP budget and whether it is sufficient for the implementation of the PoW. Consequently, almost all respondents thought that the MTS objectives have been achieved only partially. Of course, the survey does not cover the last year of the MTS implementation.

56. Respondents felt that the **MTS has positively influenced the stakeholders** and that they have become more engaged in its implementation, or have expressed readiness to implement it. This is definitely a positive sign.

57. Regarding the future MTS, the respondents overwhelmingly thought that the **current institutional structure, led by Coordinating Unit and RACs, should be kept and strengthened to support and monitor MTS implementation**. They were definite in answering that other institutions will not be needed.

58. The respondents felt that the **future MTS should have clearer budgetary considerations, and have clear targets and indicators for each output and outcome**. Also, they thought that greater emphasis should be placed on the **alignment of MTS targets with those of the global agenda**, such as climate change and the Sustainable Blue Economy. Some of them expressed the view that the structure of the document should have **reduced number of priorities**.

59. Among specific suggestions they thought that:

- MTS should be more targeted, because the subjects are too broad and cover all ecosystems;
- enforcement should become the top priority of the next MTS;
- there should be more emphasis on climate change vulnerability and adaptation, consideration of global processes and emerging issues;
- new MTS needs to include an analysis of functioning of MAP system, including SWOT analysis of current institutional setup, technical and financial means that are needed to ensure new MTS to respond to ever growing challenges in Mediterranean region;
- new MTS needs to be fully driven by the national needs;
- UNEP needs to exercise maximum flexibility in administrative rules and procedures to run UNEP/MAP as its oldest Regional Seas Programme in order to maximize its efficiency in delivering UNEP/MAP mandate during the implementation of new MTS;
- Barcelona Convention does not have the capacity to take on too many priorities but could integrate those without necessarily taking the lead on these issues;
- there should be more integration among thematic subjects;
- Land-Sea Interactions priority is not as clear as the other priorities and seems to overlap with the others;
- Logical Framework Analysis should be prepared;
- Theory of Change approach should be integrated based on achieving measurable impacts;
- implementation structure should be better defined;
- an assessment of the financial and human resource required for the implementation of the new MTS prepared in order to be more realistic;
- the modalities of implementation are unclear and the communication of progress (status check) in a meaningful way is lacking;
- more explicit role of MAP Focal Points and national authorities and institutions presented; core and cross cutting themes need to be designed again.

60. Among the current MTS elements, they would like to retain the following: Vision, Ultimate Objective, Strategic Themes, Core Themes, Cross-Cutting Themes, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Outcomes and Key Indicative Outputs. In a nutshell, it seems that they would like to **retain the current MTS structure as much as possible**.

61. Among the main **suggestions** to achieving a “healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems” that should be given particular importance in the new MTS, the respondents mentioned the following:

- higher engagement and accountability by the countries;
- the decision-making system would benefit more from the promotion of an overall coordination with equal participation from all Contracting Parties rather than groupings of CPs;
- as the enforcement of the legal provisions remain a weak point of the system, it should be reinforced in the next MTS to become the top priority;
- land-based pollution including pollution by marine litter, biodiversity conservation, resilience of coastal area from climate change and development, implementation of MSP, reducing air pollution from ships by implementing available tools should also be a priority;
- regulatory process on the decisions to be binding and its enforcement would be a key process leading towards achievement of the MTS goals;
- address increased risks and instability in the region.

62. Among **specific implementation tools**, respondents overwhelmingly supported development of the Monitoring & Evaluation Plan to become a constitutive element of the strategy. The strategy should be made more adaptable and responsive to unforeseen emerging issues and priorities. The respective adaptive mechanisms should be, among other:

- establish the contact/focal point of UNEP/MAP when a Contracting Party or stakeholder identifies an emergency and wants to share it with the UNEP/MAP community;
- MTS should cover a longer period of time, until 2030, for example, to allow long-term processes to contribute to achieving SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- a mid-term assessment, in 2026, could allow adaptation/flexibility, while the new MTS should not be as detailed as the previous version, leaving details to the level of the biannual Programme of Work, which could also be adapted to address new emerging challenges;
- allow more proactive role of the Bureau of Contracting Parties and specially Coordinating Unit;
- contingency planning allowing revision of the Strategy; emergency funds to be allocated to new and urgent challenges and the possibility that they enter as part of "an emergency action plan" within the Strategy to be implemented, monitored and evaluated.

3.3 Assessment of the financial implementation

63. The evaluation of the financial implementation is limited to the assessment of the development of the MAP budget over the three biennia (2016-2021), as approved by the Contracting Parties at their bi-annual conferences, and its strategic importance for the implementation of the MTS. Therefore, this evaluation is not an assessment of the actual implementation of the MAP budget, i.e. it is not an analysis of how the financial resources have been utilised. That aspect of the financial implementation is the subject of the official financial audits that have been regularly carried out.

64. Having the above in mind, this assessment is taking in consideration the countries' contributions that have been furnishing the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), administered by UNEP, and the external resources, provided by various sources of financing (EU, GEF, bilateral etc.). It has to be stated that during the first biennium (2016-17), these external resources were not distinguished between "secured" and "non-secured" ones, while for the subsequent two biennia this has been done. The evaluation has taken in consideration full amount of the external resources for the first biennium, while for the subsequent two only the "secured" resources were taken in consideration, since only those could be taken as unconditionally available for the implementation of the activities. The relevant information for the evaluation of the financial implementation has been taken from the PoWs and budgets adopted at the respective Contracting Parties' Meetings. As an auxiliary source of information and analysis, the respective presentations by the MAP Secretariat at two most recent meetings have been consulted. The financial allocations (in euros) are presented in table 4 below.

HEME	2016-2017			2018-2019			2020-2021		
	MTF	EXT	TOTAL	MTF	EXT (Secured)	TOTAL	MTF	EXT (Secured)	TOTAL
Governance	2,276,350	1,937,500	4,213,850	1,973,632	2,895,000	4,868,632	2,442,873	3,099,500	5,542,373
Land and sea-based pollution	1,231,750	2,977,000	4,208,750	1,300,773	1,753,000	3,053,773	1,449,661	2,932,540	4,382,201
Biodiversity and ecosystems	278,750	1,593,180	1,871,930	418,000	3,985,339	4,403,339	365,922	2,529,500	2,895,422
Land and sea interactions and processes	294,000	4,079,500	4,371,500	200,000	1,790,000	1,990,000	377,000	494,000	871,000
Integrated Coastal Zone Management	96,200	15,000	111,200	75,881	440,000	515,881	20,896	450,000	470,896
Sustainable consumption and production	60,000	3,930,000	3,990,000	80,000	545,000	625,000	159,000	3,378,831	3,537,831
Climate change	5,000	470,000	475,000	53,600	30,000	83,600	42,600	424,000	466,600
TOTAL	4,240,050	15,002,180	19,242,230	4,101,886	11,438,339	15,540,225	4,857,952	13,308,371	18,166,323

Table 4: Financial allocations

65. Overall, the funding of the PoW and, consequently, MTS has been relatively stable over the last three biennia. The MTF contributions have increased by 14.6% in 2020-21 compared to 2016-17 (in 2018-19 there was a small decrease in funding, though). When external funding is added, then the 2020-21 total budget (MTF plus external funding) shows a decrease of 5.6% compared to 2016-17. However, it has to be noted that while this evaluation took in consideration only the secured sources of external financing in 2020-21 budget, that was not possible for 2016-17 biennium, because then the funds were not split between secured and non-secured sources. Therefore, more consistent comparison would be between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 biennia, where the latter shows an increase of 11.7% in total funding (Option 2 was considered as that was the one adopted by the CPs). During the same period of comparison, the increase of MTF was 18.4%, while the increase of the external, secured, funds was 11.6%. This, however, should not be considered as a cause of concern, because the relation between MTF and external secured funds was 1:2.8 in 2018-19, and 1:2.7 in 2020-21, therefore very large (almost 3 euros of external funding for 1 euro in MTF) and unchanged.

66. The evaluation concludes that MAP has been very successful in maintaining the support of the Contracting Parties for its PoW and, consequently, for the implementation of MTS, and gaining a growing support from external sources of funding for its activities. One possible cause for concern, however, could be the question whether the current capacity of MAP institutional structure will be capable of maintaining such a large rate of external funding in the long run, without expanding it.

67. The budgeting policy over the three biennia, expressed via allocation of MTF funding for the seven MTS themes, has been fairly consistent. The bulk of funding was allocated to two themes (roughly about 80% of the MTF funding in each biennium): Governance (53.7%, 48.1% and 52.4%, respectively for 2016-17, 2018-19 and 2020-21 biennia), and Land and Sea-based Pollution (29.0%, 31.7% and 27.5%). Other themes are showing a slight increase over the 2016-2021 period, though with much smaller actual financial allocations than the above two major themes. The only theme that is experiencing a steady decrease in allocation is the ICZM. It has to be noted, however, that a number of activities that are ICZM (and MSP related) could be found in the Theme 4: Land and Sea Interactions

and Processes, and if these two are taken together, there could be an increase for the ICZM in the reporting period as well. The total allocations are shown in the Figure 2 below (Option 2 was considered as that was the one adopted by the CPs). The evaluation finds that the resulting allocations over the reporting period have been the result of the strategic directions taken by the Contracting Parties and adopted at the biennial CP Meetings.

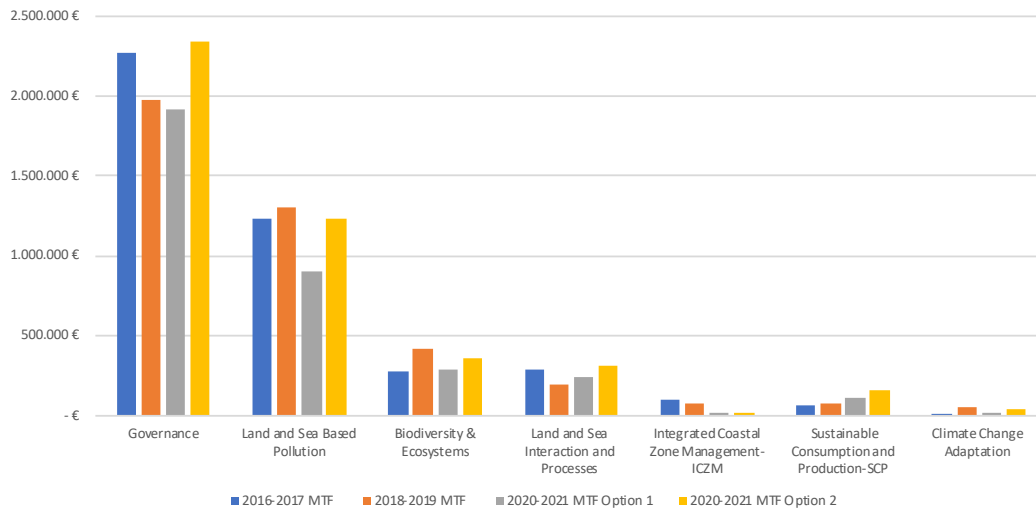


Figure 2: Biennial budgets for activities from Core MTF Funding per Theme (Source: Deputy Coordinator’s presentation at COP21)

68. When external funding is added to the financing via MTF, we can see that most themes have experienced overall growth over the three biennia, in particular themes on biodiversity and ecosystems, ICZM, sustainable consumption and production and climate change. This is particularly valid for the last two biennia, which are comparable because of the distinction between the secured and non-secured external financing (only the secured external financing has been taken in consideration). Figure 3 shows the development of overall funding (Option 2 was considered as that was the one adopted by the CPs). The external funding for the themes on governance and land and sea-based pollution is still, generally, the largest in absolute numbers, but in relative terms, because of the high MTF allocations, it lags behind the other themes. It has to be noted that GEF MedProgramme is the larger contributor of external financing to the themes on governance and land and sea-based pollution in 2020-21, but also to some other themes.

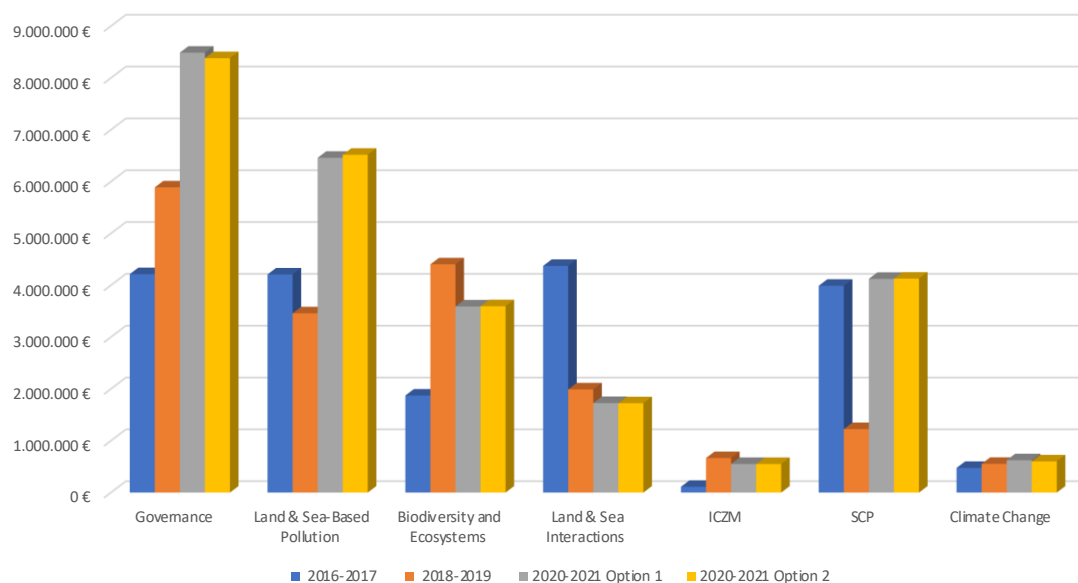


Figure 3: Core MTF Funding and External Funding per MTS Theme (Source: Deputy Coordinator’s presentation at COP21)

69. One issue that this evaluation raises is the question how the allocation for the MTS themes are being decided. The paragraph 106 of the MTS states the following: “The MTS, having a strategic nature, does not enter into budgetary details. Such details, as well as the actors and components in charge of implementation by activity, are to be found in the PoW of the relevant biennia of the period 2016-2021.” While the presentation on the 2018-19 PoW given at COP 20 is not very elaborate on the key principles for the budget preparation and allocation of funds among the seven themes, the presentation on the 2020-21 PoW and budget given at COP21 is more specific. In the latter, some PoW priorities are indicated, but it also states that “remaining MTF allocations for activities (are) shared proportionally among all MAP components based on the 2018-19 biennium share for activities, except for MED POL the share of which is reduced by 5%”. The evaluation finds that this approach needs to be more refined in the future and that the allocation of funds per theme should follow more clear priorities in the MTS. The MTS has themes and each one of them is essentially considered as a priority. However, while this is correct, it would be useful if MTS itself will go one step further and prioritize the outcomes and deliverables among these themes, details of which will be further elaborated in the PoW. In this respect, the MTS will provide the directions for the budgeting policy.

4. Conclusions

70. The major operational objective of the MTS to guide the implementation of the PoW has been achieved. The MAP-Barcelona Convention system, including the Contracting Parties, the Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centres, and other stakeholders should be congratulated for the successful implementation of the overall programme of activities. There are some activities whose implementation should be speeded up such as those related to climate change adaptation and other emerging issues. It seems that the whole system, at a regional scale, has become more robust as the major outcome of the activities implemented. There is still a lot to do to improve the transmission, and, by consequence, improved efficiency, at the national level of implementation. This could be one of the main MTS’s strategic directions in the future. The respective modalities will have to be discussed at length between stakeholders to secure the most effective implementation.

71. The MTS concept is encompassing and tries to integrate elements of as many regional and international initiatives as possible. As a result, the document turned out to be complex and not always easy to understand and follow. Another point that needs to be raised is the fact that the MTS to a large extent resembles the Programme of Work even if MTS is meant to be implemented by the PoW. The specific value added of the MTS, thus, is not always evident. If the PoW is a mirror image of the MTS, then it is not clear what the real priorities are, of course if one doesn't consider the entire PoW as a priority.

72. The document lacks some important elements such as the timeline for implementation, the system of indicators and targets to monitor its implementation, and a more rigorous implementation structure that will be somehow independent from the MAP - Barcelona Convention system's institutional structure. It is true, though, that the PoW contains the targets and indicators, which can be considered relevant for the MTS as well. But even in the PoW, a number of outcomes lack adequate indicators and targets. However, every strategic document needs to show how it will be monitored and its implementation assessed.

73. MTS's perception by the stakeholders (Contracting Parties, MCSD members, other MAP partners) is positive. They have given a number of suggestions on how to improve its design and implementation. Points to be stressed here are the need to prioritise, make financial resources for the implementation of MTS more transparent, and the fact that MTS has had positive influence on the regional and national stakeholders. They have commended the role of MAP Coordinating Unit and RACs as well as the level of communication between them.

74. The question, thus, is what is MTS? Is it a strategy or medium-term plan of action? The strategy, by definition, covers a longer time period and it is usually focused on the limited number of issues of a strategic nature. Therefore, it should deal with priorities and not with everything that is repeated in the PoW. In this respect, it should be considered as a guiding document to the PoW, and focus on the priorities of the strategic nature only, which the PoW develops in much more detail. As a document on which the PoW builds upon, each action elaborated should have clear objective, and provide the framework for the time-frame for implementation, cost, implementation responsibilities, benefits of intervention, deliverables, internal and external linkages, etc.

75. The implementation rate of the MTS outcomes and outputs, in view of the evaluation, has been on time for most of the outcomes. Those outcomes that are facing difficulties in being fully implemented in the time remaining until the expiration of the planning period should attract special attention by the Contracting Parties and the Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centres. It is true that the Covid-19 pandemic has seriously affected many implementation efforts during 2020 and it is now continuing well into 2021. This is particularly relevant for the activities where face-to-face contacts are of great importance such as implementation of activities at the national level, or the capacity building activities. It is fairly safe to assume that some of the activities will not be completed until the end of 2021.

5. Recommendations

76. Based on the above assessment, the evaluation proposes a set of recommendations to improve the formulation and implementation of the MTS. Some of the recommendations are of the operational nature, while some are of a more strategic nature. The following is recommended:

77. **Recommendation 1:** The MTS vision should be more operative and should focus on the period covered by the MTS, i.e. the six-year time-span. It has to be more concrete and provide some indication what changes are expected at the end of that planning period as a result of the implementation of the strategy. It should, however, be embedded in the longer-term vision of the COP 16 and MSSD as well as other relevant regional and international initiatives (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular), which provide a larger context for medium-term intervention. In this context it would be very useful to develop a Theory of Change, which will describe and illustrate how and why a desired change is expected to happen in the Mediterranean context.

78. **Recommendation 2:** The MTS should identify priorities and not be fully repeated in the Programme of Work. The Programme of Work is being adopted by the Contracting Parties and the MTS should be considered as a precursor and guide to the PoW, focusing on issues that need support and strengthening. However, both documents should be considered as complementing each other. It is of great importance to develop a timeline for every outcome/output, which in itself will be the prioritization of issues, as the most urgent and important ones should be tackled first.

79. **Recommendation 3:** The MTS should be simpler with regards to its concept and structure. The number of strategic outcomes and key indicative outputs needs to be reduced to make the strategy more operative, even in case the number of themes is kept at the present number.

80. **Recommendation 4:** The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system needs to be better developed. Although the indicators and targets are developed for monitoring the implementation of the PoW, and they are conveniently used to monitor the implementation of MTS, a more elaborate description of the M&E system than one existing now in the document is needed. In addition, population of the MTS indicators needs to be more consistent as many values are not existing or are extremely difficult to find in the MAP documentation, which makes timely monitoring of the implementation almost impossible.

81. **Recommendation 5:** Regarding the budgeting policy, the MTS should identify priorities among themes, outcomes and outputs, which will then be transposed in definition of key principles for the biennial budget preparation. Furthermore, financial monitoring of implementation of outcomes and outputs needs to be more consistent, accurate and timely.

82. **Recommendation 6:** Consider reorienting the nature of the MTS in the future. Instead of its subjects being, to a large extent, repeated in the PoW, it could prioritise a few strategic directions such as improved effectiveness of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system; better visibility of the strategy and PoW; financial sustainability, viability and resource mobilization; improving impacts at national level; capacity building, etc. Such initiative could be a complement to the PoW by giving it a strong sense of direction. By focusing on strategic issues, it could largely improve the implementation of the PoW. Such reorientation of the MTS should be brought about by initiating the consultation process among a wide range of regional and national stakeholders. Strategy's value is not in the document itself; its real value lies in achieving the stakeholders' ownership achieved through an intensive consultation process.

83. **Recommendation 7:** Improve the visibility of MTS and communicate its achievements to the general public. The communication should focus on the MTS-specific achievements showing the value added of its implementation and not to leave the impression of it being merely mirror-imaged in the PoW. Furthermore, this will provide to the stakeholders a clearer view of the achievement of outputs and deliverables, which they appear to lack. Consider having a separate web page devoted specifically to the MTS implementation focusing on clear achievements.

Annex II

Draft UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027

UNEP/MAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2022-2027

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

With a 2030 deadline to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), the Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions from the global to the regional and to the national/local level. The 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) of UNEP/MAP contributes to the implementation of the Agenda and the achievements of the SDG Goals and targets which are relevant to the protection of the marine and coastal environment and the sustainable development of the coastal regions. The MTS will also contribute to the implementation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to contribute to the UN Decade of Action for the SDGs, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

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1. Introduction

1. UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols – 21 coastal 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 structure encompassing the Secretariat, MED POL and six Regional Activity Centres and most importantly its 22 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.

2. The timing of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 presents the opportunity to **ensure coherence and contribute in a coherent way** to 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 for Sustainable Development. It also gives the opportunity for coherence with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025, approved at UNEA-5 in February 2021.

3. The global context for the development of the MTS includes a number of processes **some of which are not yet finalized**, such as 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), the ongoing UN Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) relevant UNEA resolutions, and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements of relevance to the Mediterranean region.

4. The design of the MTS 2022-2027 integrates key recommendations from the evaluation of the MTS 2016-2021; the mid-term evaluations of the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan, as well as the main findings and recommendations of the Mediterranean 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR), the 2020 State of Environment and Development (SoED) report, and the Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin Current Situation and Risks for the Future First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) prepared by MedECC.

5. The MTS reflects the broad political impetus expressed by the Naples Ministerial Declaration, adopted at COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019). The Naples Declaration showcased strong political commitment for specific action in achieving good environmental status and shoring up sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and constitutes a clear inspiration for the strategic design of that action. The MTS also assimilates the consultation process completed in 2019 to evaluate the implementation of the current SAP/BIO, as well as the processes for the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026-2035, the Post-2020 SAP/BIO, the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MPAs and OECMs and the Strategy to combat Pollution from Ships 2022-2030.

6. The implementation of the MTS aims at achieving transformational change and in substantively progressing in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by the Contracting Parties, strengthening enforcement and compliance with their provisions and implementation of ecosystem approach for achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) and substantively progressing in achieving the SDGs in the Mediterranean. To achieve this ambition, it is important to

highlight the need for adequate resources and outreach, *in primis*, the leadership and full involvement of the Contracting Parties as well as solid and inclusive partnerships and coordination with national, regional and global actors. The COVID-19 pandemic and the unpredictability that surrounds it compounds the triple crisis of pollution, nature loss and climate change. The UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 aims to contribute to a “green renaissance” in the Mediterranean that will effectively tackle this crisis, a concept which highlights the pressing need for a recovery from COVID-19 that is more environmentally sustainable and resilient than the pre-pandemic status quo and which can support a transformation of Mediterranean economies as part of a deliberate shift towards greater sustainability and resilience.

2. Background

2.1. UNEP/MAP AND THE BARCELONA CONVENTION

7. 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 is subject to continuous update and expansion, remaining unique and fully relevant. The seven Protocols to the Barcelona Convention have expanded its application to the seabed and its subsoil, to terrestrial coastal areas, including wetlands, and to river watershed; taken measures to conserve marine biodiversity, enhancing the alignment with global targets; promoted specially protected areas; strengthened the commitments of the region to more ambitious objectives for ensuring integrated coastal zone management; phased out pollution from land- and sea-based sources; promoting transition to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and circular economies; and ensured litter-free Mediterranean sea and coast and sustainable offshore activities.

8. The work of UNEP/MAP and of the entire MAP-Barcelona Convention system for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the 2016-2025 MSSD and other Regional Strategies and Action Plans as well as the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, is guided by a six-year Medium-term Strategy (MTS) and implemented through two-year Programmes of Work and Budgets. The 2016-2021 MTS was adopted by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) with the vision of “*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*”.

9. In recent years, UNEP/MAP has increasingly prioritized partnerships with global and regional organizations for the implementation of its mandate to coordinate and maximize impact and achieve transformational change. Activities are also supported through a number of donor-funded projects and initiatives. UNEP/MAP and the MTS 2022-2027 will benefit from a major Programme funded by GEF (MedProgramme, 42 million USD) and three projects funded by the EC (8+ million USD) which have been instrumental for taking up ambitious objectives in several areas of MAP mandate

10. The 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) provided the political commitment through its Naples Ministerial Declaration and outlined the principles and timeline for the MTS 2022-2027 through its

relevant decisions. 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”.

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 2020 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.”

11. A strategic response of UNEP/MAP to the COVID-19 crisis builds upon the blocks set forth in the UNEP’s COVID-19 Response paper “*Working With the Environment to Protect People*”, namely: (1) The

medical and humanitarian emergency phase; (2) A transformational change for nature and people; (3) Investing to build back better; and (4) Modernising global environmental governance, with a focus on elements related to the UNEP/MAP—Barcelona Convention system’s legal, policy and action framework. Its identified priority actions are fully considered into the MTS 2022-2027.

2.2. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

12. The 2022-2027 MTS has been developed fully in line with global initiatives and their objectives. Central to this is the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and relevant SDG Goals and targets, in particular Goal 14. Life below water related to pollution (target 14.1), marine and coastal ecosystems (target 14.2), marine protected areas (target 14.5); as well as numerous other targets as presented in the following sections. A regional approach to the implementation and reporting of the SDG’s is regarded as essential especially for targets which are more transboundary in nature and especially considering that in voluntary national reviews the least reported are related to environment and nature, such as life below water (SDG 14), (SDG 6), climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) as well as partnership for the goals (SDG 17).

13. The **UN Decade of Action** launched in 2020, includes numerous thematic decades. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [[LINK](#)], supported by UNEP, FAO and CBD has as overarching goal to stop and reverse the destruction and degradation of billions of hectares of ecosystems in cooperation with all key stakeholders, organizations and governments. Also, the UN Decade of Ocean Science [[LINK](#)], coordinated by IOC-UNESCO will provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries’ actions to sustainably manage the Oceans, embracing a participative and transformative process, so that scientists, policy makers, managers, and service users can work together to ensure that ocean science delivers greater benefits for both the ocean ecosystem and society.

14. The relevant **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** resolutions are considered in the development of the MTS [[LINK](#)]. The Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development [[LINK](#)], which notes that the COVID-19 outbreak calls for the urgent need to address threats to wildlife and ecosystems and recognizes the role of regional level coordination as key to address transboundary issues and facilitate regionally coherent approaches, are also considered.

Relevant UNEA Resolutions

- UNEA 1 (2014) resolutions 1/5 Chemical and waste; 1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics; and 1/8 Ecosystem-based adaptation;
- UNEA 2 (2016) “*Strengthening the science-policy interface*” resolutions on 2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste; 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production; and 2/10 Oceans and seas;
- UNEA 3 (2017) “*Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*” resolutions 3/7. Marine litter and microplastics; 3/10 Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems;
- UNEA 4 (2019) “*Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production*” resolutions: 4/1 Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production; 4/4 Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices; 4/6 Marine plastic litter and microplastics; 4/7 Environmentally sound management of waste; 4/8 Sound management of chemicals and waste; 4/9 Addressing single-use plastic products pollution; 4/11 Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities; 4/14 Sustainable nitrogen management
- [To be updated with relevant UNEA 5 Resolutions]

15. The **UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025** was developed with a focus on supporting the 2030 Agenda and Decade of Action, with three strategic objectives and programmes related to achieving climate stability; living in harmony with nature; and a pollution-free planet. It is supported by seven sub programmes which will, in particular, support, accelerate and scale up a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, to achieve planetary sustainability for people, prosperity, and equity.

16. Other relevant UNEP-led strategies include the **Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2021-2024)**, which has identified initially five strategic directions (climate change, SCP/circular economy/pollution, marine biodiversity, monitoring and assessments and knowledge management). In 2019, the Regional Seas published a report on the “*Follow Up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*” guidelines [\[LINK\]](#) and case studies [\[LINK\]](#), including guidance and recommendations on the role of Regional Seas in contribution to the SDG reporting. This is complemented by the **UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy (2020-2030)** focussed on four strategic objectives related to knowledge; circular economy and sustainable consumption and production; policies and strategies for integrated management; and innovative financing instruments. Since 2020, UNEP has published numerous reports in response to COVID-19, including its **COVID-19 Response paper “Working with the Environment to Protect People”**; Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians [\[LINK\]](#); and COVID19, the Environment, and Food Systems: Contain, Cope and Rebuild Better report [\[LINK\]](#).

17. The **Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**[\[LINK\]](#), includes five Strategic Goals and 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with corresponding indicators [\[LINK\]](#). Work is ongoing to develop the **Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework** [\[LINK\]](#) which includes regional and thematic consultations. UNEP/MAP has closely followed the process and contributed with its Mediterranean views to the different reviews of documents contributing to the Framework elaboration, including on monitoring issues as set by the adopted IMAP. This Framework is very relevant for the Post-2020 SAP BIO and will be duly considered in the implementation of the MTS.

18. The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement [\[LINK\]](#) and of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The ultimate objective of these agreements under the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a

level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development. In 2019, IPCC published a Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate [\[LINK\]](#) including recommended responses. Following this, the dialogue has continued among Parties and non-Party stakeholders to discuss how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action on ocean and climate change, drawing upon the knowledge and scientific findings from the IPCC Report and the submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders [\[LINK\]](#).

19. Other global strategies, MEAs and processes include:

- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Strategic Plan for 2018-2025 [\[LINK\]](#) focuses on seven strategic Directions and for each has developed a number of performance indicators and includes a list of concrete outputs per biennium. Also relevant is the IMO GHG Strategy [\[LINK\]](#) and the IMO Action Plan to address Marine Litter from Ships [\[LINK\]](#), both adopted in 2018;
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - Strategic framework 2012-2021 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Minamata Convention on Mercury, programme of work and Decisions adopted during COP 3 (2019) [\[LINK\]](#);
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade programme of work and decisions adopted at COP 9 (2019) [\[LINK\]](#).
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Strategic Plan for Migration Species 2015-2023 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Strategic Vision 2021-2030 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance - Strategic Plan 2016-2024 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world [\[LINK\]](#);
- ~~[Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) Work Programme (2018-2021).]~~
- ~~[Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction [\[LINK\]](#)²]~~

20. Links are also established with working groups such as the “*Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics*” established at UNEA 3 [\[LINK\]](#) and key ocean conferences such as the UN Ocean Conference [\[LINK\]](#), Our Ocean Conference [\[LINK\]](#) and IUCN World Conservation Congress [\[LINK\]](#).

2.3. REGIONAL CONTEXT

21. 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, and the only one providing a

² Footnote by Turkey: “The MTS is not to be interpreted in such a way as to imply the express or tacit acceptance of all or parts of the provisions included in UNCLOS.”]

comprehensive legal framework for all Mediterranean countries, the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system 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. UNEP/MAP is supported in its work regarding marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular through a number of partnerships. The regional context in which the MTS is developed also includes the UN Regional Economic Commissions, conventions and initiatives³.

22. UNEP/MAP has over 45 accredited partners and several MOUs of cooperation (including with FAO/GFCM, ACCOBAMS, UfMS, IUCN, Black Sea Commission). The **UfM Secretariat** and the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Istanbul (Turkey), in December 2013, which provides for stronger collaboration in a number of issues of common interest, in line with decisions and Ministerial Declarations of the Meetings of Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and relevant UfM Ministerial Declarations [[LINK](#)], as well as the respective Programmes of Work of the two organizations. **FAO's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO/GFCM)** and UNEP/MAP signed an MOU in 2012. UNEP/MAP and GFCM work in close partnership towards bringing together biodiversity 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 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR); but also in terms of spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity. **ACCOBAMS** strategy (Period 2014-2025) has the overall objective to "*Improve conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2023*"; collaboration with ACCOBAMS is ongoing. **The IUCN Mediterranean Programme 2017-2020** was developed in line with the global IUCN Programme; collaboration and complementarities in implementing the strategies and programmes of work of the two organizations is continuous.

23. At the European Union (EU) level, the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)** adopted on 17 June 2008 and its implementation framework remains extremely important for the implementation of UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and its Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP). This is complemented by the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030, which includes the objectives to have 30% of EU seas as marine protected areas of which 10% are to be strictly protected, as well as an initiative comprising specific restoration targets. Regarding green and circular economy and climate change, the European Commission has 6 priorities for 2019-2024, which includes "**A European Green Deal - Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent**" which, through this biodiversity strategy and zero-pollution ambition-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. Furthermore, the work of the **European Environment Agency (EEA)** 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.

24. Cooperation is also continuous with other UN bodies, Agencies and Offices. To this end, collaboration is ongoing with the relevant UN Economic Commissions (UNECA, UNECE and UNESCWA), in relation to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and beyond, as well as with the UNEP Regional Offices of relevance to the Mediterranean Region.

³ Sentence added to avoid listing regional programmes and instruments in the section on international instruments (paragraph 19).

25. Furthermore, the collaboration with other regional seas, such as OSPAR, HELCOM and the Black Sea Commission, has been strengthened; this collaboration is *inter alia* addressing the challenge of marine litter and plastic pollution. On this issue, UNEP/MAP is also collaborating with the Basel Convention and is actively engaged in its Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP), while the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system has also initiated the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter. Both initiatives aim to mobilize all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

26. This list is not exhaustive, and other regional processes will also be considered, including those supported by the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), the MedFund, and several NGOs and professional associations/organisations which are very active in the Mediterranean.

27. Finally, the Mediterranean represents a solid example of collaboration and partnerships at sub-regional, multilateral and bilateral collaboration platforms and partnerships, addressing transboundary issues, including but not limited to the EUSAIR, the West Mediterranean Initiative, sub-regional agreements for preparedness and response to major marine pollution incidents (e.g. RAMOGE Agreement), etc.

3. Situation Analysis or State of the Mediterranean Environment

28. Key assessments conducted in the Mediterranean provide an essential basis for the 2022-2027 MTS. These include:

- UNEP/MAP, 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, the first assessment based on the Mediterranean Action Plan Ecological Objectives and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) indicators adopted in 2016 by all Mediterranean riparian countries, Parties to the Barcelona Convention;
- UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu (2020), State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED) report;
- Joint EEA-UNEP/MAP (2020), Towards a cleaner Mediterranean: a decade of progress. Monitoring Horizon 2020 regional initiative;
- MedECC, 2020, Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1);
- MedPAN and SPA/RAC, 2019, The 2016 status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, updated in 2021 (and used as baseline reference for the post 2020 progress on MPAs); and
- Numerous other thematic assessments by UNEP/MAP, IUCN, WWF, EU and Joint Research Centre (JRC) and others.

29. This exhaustive body of recent assessments show that, despite notable progress, Mediterranean countries are not on track to achieve and fully implement the agreed upon goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Ecological Objectives for Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast. The majority of observed trends show developments that are either progressing towards the set targets, but at an insufficient rate or unequally across the countries, or moving away from the target. Based on the 2020 Sustainable Development Report [\[LINK\]](#) the Mediterranean countries overall require further efforts in achieving all the SDGs with particular challenges remaining in achieving SDG 14 “*Life Below Water*” and SDG 15 “*Life On Land*” for all Mediterranean countries. Particular focus is needed to ensure a regional approach is taken for those SDG’s relevant to the environment which have been the least reported on by countries, in particular SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15. Finally, since 2020, it has been reported that COVID-19 will have severe negative impacts on most SDGs although impacts on the environment related SDGs (SDG 12, 13, 14 and 15) is not fully assessed.

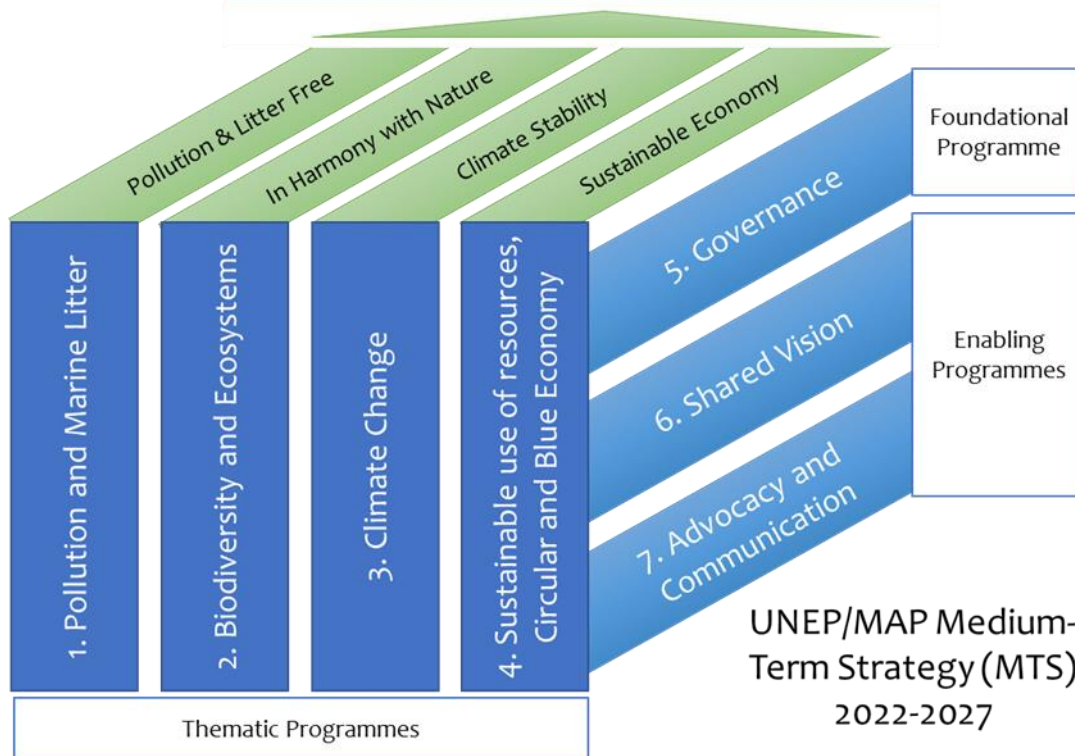
30. The Mediterranean marine and coastal environment therefore continues to be under threat due to increasing pressures and threats which are summarized on the 2020 SoED Report as due to: 1) Climate Change, with the Mediterranean identified as a hotspot by the IPCC; 2) Population densities in coastal areas which continue to increase 3) Health impacts from atmospheric pollution in urban areas, ports and emissions from ships; 4) Health impacts from lack of water supply and wastewater treatment particularly in the southern and eastern Mediterranean; 5) Waste and its management, in particular plastic waste; 6) Fisheries practices with 78% of assessed stocks are overfished; 7) Fossil fuels; and 8) Excessive use of chemical and pharmaceutical products, which are increasingly used especially in northern Mediterranean countries.

31. Progress is also discernible, in particular in relation to active cooperation on environmental matters and integrating the environment into sectoral policies, especially in relation to the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and its Contracting Parties. Mediterranean countries have adopted common objectives and cooperation frameworks, setting a shared path towards

sustainable development, including the ecosystem approach (EcAp), adopted plans and frameworks, pollution control and prevention, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and other strategies and plans in support of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention. As a result, Integration and system-based approaches are increasingly recognized as the most efficient way to address systemic factors, combined pressures and cumulated impacts such as EcAp, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and SCP and major funding has been mobilized through GEF and the EC to implement concrete actions to support countries. The Mediterranean has seen a decrease in some of the major pollution sources and health hazards, with increased sanitation and wastewater treatment and a reduction in accidental spillages of oil and other harmful substances from ships in spite of heavy traffic. Also, particular efforts have been made throughout the region to build capacity for monitoring and assessment in particular with the adoption of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its implementation with the support of the EC, as well as the EU-supported Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) for reducing marine pollution and the development of Sustainable development indicators and the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.

32. Findings from the recent SoED report highlight some of the strengths of the Mediterranean region. Countries along the Mediterranean Sea share a common history and legacy (as testifies the number of UNESCO-labelled natural and cultural heritage sites), as well as analogies in lifestyle and values (culture of creativity and leadership, the world-renowned Mediterranean diet). It is also a region of widespread access to education in primary and secondary schools for both boys and girls (with limited but persistent disparities) and the first region in the world to develop a regional Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development. While facing contrasted situations, countries in the region are connected by flows of people, goods, financial resources, information and social interaction, as well as via environmental flows and shared natural resources (the Mediterranean Sea and its marine currents, river flows and basins, migratory species, etc.). Such interconnections have led to a high number of pan-Mediterranean collaboration mechanisms: scientific networks and cooperation's, civil society organizations, thematic networks (cities, youth, women, etc.), institutional frameworks, etc. The region also shows a high level of ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which demonstrates the region's level of awareness on sustainability issues and poses the basis for common action for sustainable development.

4. Rationale and Vision



4

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

“A Mediterranean Sea and coast showing progress towards Good Environmental Status and sustainable development based on enhanced ecosystem resilience, where the SDGs are being achieved through stakeholder-induced inclusive governance processes.”

⁴ The scheme will be updated to reflect the vision and title of theme 6, when finalized.

["Progress towards a healthy, clean, sustainable and climate resilient Mediterranean Sea and Coast with productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, where the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its SDGs are achieved through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the benefit of people and nature."]

34. This vision considers:

- i. 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"*;
- ii. 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"*;
- iii. 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
- iv. The 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."*

35. It also reflects:

- 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"*;
- *The CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework vision // The 2050 Vision for Biodiversity "Living in harmony with nature" (CBD)*; and
- The European Green Deal Vision.

4.1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

36. 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"*.

37. 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, achieving sustainable development through the SDGs, and living in harmony with nature.*

38. The MTS 2022-2027 **Overall Objectives** are:
- To drive transformational change in enhancing the impact of the “delivery as one” of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and its contribution to the region;
 - To ensure that the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, the relevant SDGs and their targets, and the post-2020 global biodiversity goals and targets are achieved, through concrete actions to effectively manage and reduce threats and enhance marine and coastal resources;
 - To contribute to strengthening Mediterranean solidarity and peoples’ prosperity; and
 - To contribute to the Building Back Better approach of the “*UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19*” and towards a “green renaissance” of the Mediterranean by supporting new and sustainable business models, enabling a just and green transition to a nature-based solutions and circular economy.

4.2. MTS 2022-2027 CONCEPT AND PRINCIPLES

39. 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.***

40. Inspired by the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS, and in line with UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030, the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 charts the contribution of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system towards the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action, delivered against a 2022-2027 timeframe, and with a 2050 outlook.

41. The MTS 2022-2027 is structured through seven programmes. In developing the main areas of work, the MTS 2022-2027 stems from the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the obligations and commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the needs of the Contracting Parties, the long experience and best practices gathered during 45 years of working in the Mediterranean, and the synergies with partners.

5. Main Areas of Work

42. The MTS 2022-2027 contains 7 Programmes - 4 of which are Thematic, 1 Foundational, addressing a systemic governance and regulatory mechanism in its entirety in an integrated manner, and 2 Enabling, addressing the capacity of the system to generate knowledge and evidence-based assessment to feed policy and measures formulation and implementation through advocacy and awareness-raising - which in their entirety will allow the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the Contracting Parties to commit to ambitious priorities and move forward together with their partners for the full and effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and contribute to the promotion of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean and the achievement of GES and the SDGs.

PROGRAMME: 1. TOWARDS A POLLUTION AND LITTER FREE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND COAST EMBRACING CIRCULAR ECONOMY

General introduction

43. The elimination and improved management of marine and coastal pollution from sea and land-based sources, [using ecosystems-based management,] remains a core priority for the Mediterranean through cooperation amongst countries and partnerships for effective implementation of the Protocols addressing pollution, the thematic Regional Plans, Strategies and the NAPs. The importance of this issue is highlighted in a number of recent assessment reports, such as the EEA-UNEP/MAP joint Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report, the 2015 Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean, the 2016 SAP-Med evaluation, the 2017 Quality Status Report and the 2020 EEA-UNEP/MAP Towards a cleaner Mediterranean report and the 2019 State of the Environment and Development report. Whilst levels of major pollutants show a decreasing trend important issues remain, especially for heavy metals in coastal sediments, as well as in known hotspots associated with urban and industrial coastal areas and wastewater. There is a recognized need to also assess the threat emerging pollutants, such as plastic additives, cosmetics, plasticizers, microplastics, nanoparticles, and pharmaceuticals, to ecosystems and human health. In addition, further work will be undertaken regarding the impacts of underwater noise. Major attention is also needed with regards to marine litter, as the Mediterranean is one of the areas in the world most highly affected by marine litter due to an increase in plastic use, littering, inadequate and ineffective waste management, the lack of proper separate collection and recycling, unsustainable consumption patterns, high pressures from tourism and shipping, coupled with significant riverine inputs. More than 730 tonnes of plastic enter the Mediterranean Sea every day, and plastics account for up to 95 to 100% of total floating marine litter, and more than 50% of seabed litter. Single-use plastics represent more than 60% of the total recorded marine litter on Mediterranean beaches, which is typically generated from beach recreational activities. Lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ghost-gear) in particular is a major concern and source of marine litter, resulting also in entanglement of marine animals, including sharks, dolphins, seals and turtles, and risks of disseminating invasive species, disease and parasites in endemic habitats.

44. This Programme, aims to provide effective support to the Contracting Parties in delivering concrete achievements in the strategic directions explained above, using up-to-date integrated, ecosystem approach-based management and nature-based solution tools, as well as One Health approach. This will lead to ensure a transformational change towards an environmentally-sustainable and socially-inclusive integration into sectoral policies of pollution prevention and control including the ICZM Protocol, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Strategy on Pollution from Ships and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan, translated onto actions on the ground in the respective up-to-date NAPs. Key consideration is given in particular to the impacts of pollution and marine litter on human health, building upon long cooperation with WHO, and also in line with UNEP/MAP's Strategic response to the COVID-19.

45. This is achieved through the effective implementation of the Regional Plans adopted in the framework of LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and NAPs as also facilitated through the SAP MED Policy Framework and associated targets, the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031); the Offshore Action Plan; and the Regional Action Plan on SCP and the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

46. Programme 1 directly contributes to a number of **global and regional objectives and targets** including the SDG's and multilateral environmental agreements (the Minamata Convention, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions (e.g., MARPOL, OPRC and Dumping Conventions). It also considers the resolutions of UNEA 3 (2017) and UNEA 4 (2019) towards a pollution-free planet including with regards to **innovative pathways to achieve** Sustainable Consumption and Production and environmental sound management, Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics and, Environmentally Sound Management of Waste and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. It also contributes to the implementation of relevant EU Directives and Strategies, including the Green Deal zero-pollution ambition, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where applicable, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and relevant UN regional priorities. Finally, Programme 1 is in line with UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 2.

47. For the development of Programme 1, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, building on the work that has been since undertaken in line with these recommendations, envisaging measures development and implementation in a number of sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture, desalination etc., further consideration of microplastics, integration of circular economy approaches into marine litter management, etc.

Programme 1 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Target 14.1
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation:	Target 6.3
Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth:	Targets 8.3 and 8.4
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:	Target 9.4
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities:	Target 11.6
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production:	Targets 12.4 and 12.5, 12a

Objectives

48. 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 consolidate the development and implementation of national programmes for circular economy businesses (including the polluter pays principle) 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

49. This will also contribute overall to the Ecosystem Approach achievement of Good Environmental status and the Ecological Objectives and indicators defined in the Integrated Monitoring

and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria as well as the objectives of the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development.

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO5. 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;
- EO9. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;
- EO10. Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments;
- EO11. Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems;

Outcomes

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

Outcome 1.1. Strategies and Action plan addressing marine litter and plastics developed and implemented through comprehensive, coherent and collaborative approaches

51. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the most marine litter affected areas in the world. To achieve this outcome the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona will be supported to implement the UNEP/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, considering other global and regional processes i.e., the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership. Actions will include the development and application of harmonised approaches and tools, the provision of technical support for the drafting of legislation and cooperation agreements between public and private stakeholders (i.e. Regional and National Plastic Pacts), as well as capacity building, pilot actions and awareness raising activities. Through these activities UNEP/MAP will strengthen prevention and control measures to reduce Land- and Sea-based sources marine litter and plastic pollutions in the Mediterranean, thus contributing to the GES. Priority will be given to actions which address: 1) single-use plastics which represent more than 60% of the total recorded marine litter on Mediterranean beaches; 2) recycling, including support to the private sector for the creation of a lucrative market based on recycled products (subsidies, incentives, etc.); 3) the harmonization of technical standards., 4) Strengthened control and regulation of recycled plastic; 5) Collection of beach litter including technical and financial support from municipalities, campaigns, etc.

Outcome 1.2. A holistic and efficient response to land and sea-based pollution [, as a part of overall Ecosystem Approach for Mediterranean policy,] (chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution) for a sustainable Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystem is implemented

52. Outcome 1.2 focuses on measures dealing with land-based pollution including negotiating and adopting new/update legally binding Regional Plans containing measures and timetables for their implementation in a number of sectors; updating national actions plans, pilot actions on the national level to eliminate hazardous chemicals; updated guidelines and technical standards developed and implemented to facilitate transfer of knowhow, sharing best practices and promoting transfer of

knowhow among Contracting Parties; targeted support for the implementation of the Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols and compliance with their obligations including joint activities with London Dumping Protocol and Basel Convention Secretariats as well as with Stockholm convention for the management of obsolete chemicals. This will include the implementation of common approaches and tools to update, test, interlink and implement national and sub-regional operational systems for preparedness and response to marine pollution from ships, the establishment of a regional financing mechanism (i.e. “Blue Fund”), avoiding overlapping and maximizing synergies with existing mechanisms, through a collaborative and harmonised enforcement system, the provision of technical support as well as capacity building, and awareness raising activities. Finally, in order to avoid costly remediation actions and irreversible impacts on environment and health, this outcome will also develop strategies to prevent the use of toxic chemicals, in particular those POPs listed under the Stockholm Convention, and promote alternatives to toxic chemicals and promote zero-waste initiatives by the Contracting Parties. This will be achieved through technical assistance to strengthen national policy frameworks regulating the use of POPs and toxic chemicals and through the development of mechanisms to accompany companies in phasing out certain hazardous chemicals. Likewise, access to information on Chemicals and products and pathways for a transition to a Circular Economy Free of Toxic Chemicals will be improved. The issue of discharging the effluents of sulphur scrubbers directly into the water should also be addressed.

53. Through these activities UNEP/MAP will reinforce the prevention of, response to and the enforcement of measures to eliminate chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution in the Mediterranean, thus contributing to the GES.

Outcome 1.3. Systemic approaches for Circular Economy, *eco-innovation* as well as Sustainable Consumption and Production incorporated into key sectors of activity which are main sources of pollution

54. The promotion of *eco-innovation and* innovative business models is a major leverage point to prevent pollution. By adopting Circular Economy and SCP approaches, sustainable business models are based on the principle of preventing pollution and saving resources. Through *eco-innovation*, circular, life-cycle and system thinking approaches (including the promotion of product durability reusability, upgradability and reparability) and eco-design [, industrial symbiosis], businesses are able to design out waste and pollution and keep products and materials in use.

55. Actions foreseen under this Outcome will promote networking among public, private and non-profit Business Support Organizations (BSOs) and Financial Institutions (FI) gathered in National Partnerships for Sustainable/Circular Business Development. Regional exchange and networking will also be promoted at Mediterranean level. Capacities for green business development of the BSOs and FI will be reinforced through training programmes and provision of methodologies and tools. BSOs will also be supported to deliver programmes for *eco-innovation*, circular economy-based business development targeting green entrepreneurs, while FI will be engaged in national and regional fora and working groups. These actions will also *consider-encourage* the uptake of Green Public Procurement (GPP) practices to support the systemic transition towards circular economy.

Outcome 1.4. One Health approach developed and implemented, linking human and ecosystems health with pollution reduction and prevention, taking into account lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

56. While health has overall improved in the region, air pollutants, new lifestyles and consumption patterns are raising increasing health concerns. Climate change also affects social and environmental determinants of health – i.e. clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. The “One

Health” approach is “a cross-cutting and systemic approach to health based on the fact that human health and animal health are interdependent and linked to the health of the ecosystems in which they co-exist.”

The air polluting emissions can contribute to adverse effects on human health (e.g. lung cancer, cardiovascular illnesses and asthma), as well as on the environment. Due to lack of sufficient water resources, several Mediterranean countries revert to reuse treated wastewater for irrigation and aquifer recharge, as well as use in sludge in agriculture. These activities without harmonized minimum water quality requirements, entail significant risk on human health. Recent scientific reports have shown a direct correlation between air pollution as well as population infection with the COVID-19 virus. Infection was monitored through the quality of effluents in terms of virus load in wastewater effluents.

57. To ensure that a One Health approach is applied in the Mediterranean region, relevant partnerships will be established with regional and global organizations (e.g. WHO, World Bank, FAO, IMO, other international agencies, etc.). Actions will aim at the reduction of air polluting emissions, deriving from the maritime sector, considering the utilization of alternative energies and the implementation of the Mediterranean SO_x Emissions Control Area (ECA), as a whole, once designated, as well as, possibly widening of the work towards a cost-benefit case, including socioeconomic aspects, for NO_x ECA, covering the whole Mediterranean Sea, and possible way forward, while acknowledging the existing NO_x ECA studies; strengthen the health-related dimension of LBS Protocol and its Regional Plans; publish a study on COVID-19 impacts on environment and development in the Mediterranean. All of the above will be achieved through the organization of Med-wide conferences; the preparation of relevant feasibility technical studies; the provision of technical support, as well as capacity building and awareness raising activities.

PROGRAMME 2: TOWARDS HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS AND ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY

General introduction

58. The Mediterranean remains a hotspot for marine biodiversity and endemism, which are fragile and threatened by species extinctions, habitat losses, pollution and climate change. The preservation of these marine and coastal habitats is not only vital in terms of their unique biodiversity but also play an essential role in water quality regulation, coastal protection, carbon fixation and storage and increased resilience from climate change as well as providing feeding, breeding or nursery grounds, including species of commercial interest for fisheries and endangered or threatened species, such as the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*, which is endemic to the Mediterranean. Whilst there have been significant advances towards a strengthened and coordinated approach to protect and restore key vulnerable habitats and species, the Mediterranean sea and its coasts are under constant and growing human pressure caused by increasing population in coastal and urban areas (where one out of three people live in a Mediterranean coastal region), an additional 360 million tourists per year (~27% of world tourism in 2017), intensive resource exploitation and increasing maritime transport.

59. Programme 2 aims at the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value, and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, in line with the SDG's and the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This will be achieved through assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, and under the "*Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean*" (SPA/BD Protocol), Ecosystem Approach-related COP decisions and 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), currently under development, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD). To guide and facilitate the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and Post-2020 SAP-BIO, a number of regional strategies and action plans have been developed, adopted and regularly updated, aiming at the protection, preservation and sustainable and effective management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna:

- The "*Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea*", and the emanating "*Roadmap for a Comprehensive, Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean*";
- Eight Action Plans for the conservation and/or management of endangered or threatened species and key habitats: Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Marine Vegetation, Marine and Coastal Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans), Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions, and Dark Habitats;
- A Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal;
- An Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea; and
- The Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management Strategy and its Action Plan.

60. To improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, collaboration will be enhanced with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components. Many of the regional partners collaborating in marine conservation issues rely very much on technical tools, strategic documents and other outputs produced within the Barcelona Convention context.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

61. Programme 2 directly contributes to a number global and regional objectives and targets including the SDG's and actions towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Post-2020 Global Diversity Framework, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and its Strategic Vision 2021-2030, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS). It also contributes to European level policies such as the EU Green Deal, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and Birds and Habitats Directives, where applicable.

62. For the development of Programme 2, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, building on the work that has been since undertaken in line with these recommendations, i.e. strengthen implementation of SAP BIO and Action Plans in key areas, enhance MPA and other spatial measures networks and improve their management, support restoration actions, improve NIS control and management, enhance protection of sea-floor integrity, better address impacts from aquaculture and fisheries related activities etc.

Programme 2 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production:	Target 12.2
Goal 15. Life on Land:	Targets 15.5, 15.8, 15.9, 15a

63. It also considers the resolutions of UNEA and in particular UNEA-5 which will be conducted virtually on 22-23 February 2021, with the overall theme of "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". Also important are the Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development [\[LINK\]](#) which notes that the COVID-19 outbreak calls for the urgent need to address threats to wildlife and ecosystems and recognizes the role of regional level coordination as key to address transboundary issues and facilitate regionally coherent approaches.

64. Programme 2 is also coordinated with global and regional partners in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), ACCOBAMS, relevant EU Directives and Strategies, including the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the EU nature restoration targets under development, as well as to MSFD where applicable, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), the Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (The MedFund), OCEANA, etc. It is in line with UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 3.

Objectives

65. Programme 2 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the Specially Protected Areas 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 in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction;
2. To protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna and their habitats; and
3. To ensure preservation of the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems, landscapes and geomorphology.

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO 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;
- EO 2. Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
- EO 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;
- EO 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
- EO 6. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;
- EO 8. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved; and
- Contribution to all other EO's in particular EO5, EO9, EO10, and EO11.

Outcomes

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

Outcome 2.1. Ecosystem resilience improved through restoration of those with best regeneration potential.

67. To ensure ecosystem function for the future, restoration programs must: (1) learn from the past; (2) integrate ecological knowledge; (3) advance regeneration techniques and systems; (4) overcome biotic and abiotic disturbances. Certain habitats are not particularly resilient, that is, making them vulnerable to adverse outcomes that are irreversible. In this sense irreversibility is indirectly proportional to a system's resilience. A system with greater biological diversity is also usually more resilient than one with less diversity. The aim of this outcome is to assist the Contracting Parties to implement national measure to restore the most resilient marine and coastal habitats and address the artificialisation of the coast and soils, as mean to allow successful restorations during the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and get experience in the future, through the elaboration of tools and

guidelines, specific training and where and whenever possible action in the field by countries, including actions to support ecosystem evaluation and the mapping of ecosystem services, development of methodologies for valorisation and monitoring of their status. This outcome is expected to also cover the restoration of degraded priority/of key importance ecosystems or specific habitats, for example to tackle climate change or other priority issues.

Outcome 2.2. Comprehensive, coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed MPAs and OECMs in place, expanded, effective and sustainable.

68. In order to establish, expand and operationalize a comprehensive coherent Mediterranean network of effectively-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), countries will be supported in the elaboration or updating of their national strategies and action plans for the development of MPAs and OECMs networks, based on the orientations and priorities of the post-2020 SAPBIO, post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs, the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and other relevant global and regional goals and targets. Parties will be encouraged to streamline the updated regional strategies and action plans into their national legal and institutional frameworks. At the implementation level, countries will be assisted, as much as possible, in extending their national MPAs and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), [Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)] and OECM networks, by extending existing areas, declaring new ones, including in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJ), designating highly and fully protected zones, and enforcing efficient management measures for their long-term conservation[, in line with the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment under international law, as reflected in the UNCLOS][⁵], in line with the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment under international law, including the UNCLOS]⁶. Specific support will be provided in terms of strengthening effective SPAMI management through SPAMI Twinning Programmes. Enforcement activities will be guided and supported by technical tools, standards, criteria, guidelines, tailored at regional or sub-regional level, as needed and relevant. The multidisciplinary Ad hoc group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM) will deliver timely advice and orientations to support the Secretariat and Contracting Parties. Synergies and collaboration with regional partners will be strengthened to support effective management of MPAs at local level through joint activities of capacity building, knowledge development, experience-sharing and networking, including the Mediterranean MPA Forum, the Mediterranean MPA database, MAPAMED and the MedFund.

Outcome 2.3. Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats in favourable status of conservation.

69. The Regional Action Plans on key species and habitats and the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean are adopted by the Contracting Parties as regional governance tools setting priorities and activities to be undertaken. They call for greater solidarity between the States of the region, and for co-ordination of efforts to protect the species and Habitats in question. This approach has been proved to be necessary to ensure conservation and sustainable management of the concerned species in every Mediterranean area of their distribution. To be more efficient, they are adapted to the sub-regional and national context. Strengthened cooperation and joint actions with relevant regional institutions (e.g., ACCOBAMS, GFCM, MedPAN etc.) and the main stakeholders (fisheries stakeholders, fishery and marine scientists, MPA managers, environmental and fisheries governmental institutions, NGOs, citizen science) is essential towards a

⁵Reservation by Turkey on the first option and proposal to add the following footnote: "The MTS is not to be interpreted in such a way as to imply the express or tacit acceptance of all or parts of the provisions included in UNCLOS".

⁶ Reservation by the EU and its Member States on the second option.

better optimised conservation status and the sustainability of the natural resources use. The deliverables and targets of this outcome will contribute to the implementation of the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol, following the priorities of the Post 2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO) and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) of the Ecosystem Approach.

70. The actions foreseen under this outcome aim to improve the conservation status of marine and coastal species and habitats covered by Regional Action Plans for endangered species or by the Annex II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol through assistance to the Contracting Parties including capacity building programmes (symposia, workshops and thematic regional, sub-regional and national training sessions). It will also support the updating and elaboration of regional and national annexes/regional action plans/strategies ~~y update and elaboration of sub-regional and national ones~~. It will, ~~but also ensure the implementation of improvement of~~ measures to mitigate the impact and interaction with coastal and human activities and ~~enhancing~~ enhance their adoption of national measures by the Contracting Parties.

Outcome 2.4. Non-indigenous species introductions minimized and introduction pathways under control.

71. Non-indigenous species (NIS), particularly invasive ones, are considered among the greatest threat faced by coastal environments, and can contribute substantially to altering the abundance, diversity, and distribution of many native species. Unlike many forms of pressures that degrade over time, non-indigenous species can persist, increase, and even ~~spread out~~ disperse. Records of NIS on the Marine Mediterranean Non-Indigenous and Invasive Species database (www.mamias.org) indicate that corridors are the most important pathway for introductions into the Mediterranean, followed by shipping and aquaculture. Assessing pathways of introduction of marine non-indigenous species is essential to identify appropriate measures and evaluate management decisions to regulate and prevent new introductions.

72. The actions foreseen under this outcome aim at assisting the Contracting Parties to update and implement the Regional Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea. It includes the elaboration of tools and guidelines and their adaptation to sub-regional and national contexts, to enhance knowledge and capacities. These measures will also contribute to the collective enforcement of the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027) and other international instruments and guidelines to minimize the transfer of invasive alien species.

PROGRAMME 3: TOWARDS A CLIMATE RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN

General introduction

73. The combination of various ongoing climate drivers of environmental change (e.g. sea warming, ocean acidification, and sea level rise) has numerous detectable effects on marine organisms acting at individual, population, and ecosystem scales. Expected future impacts include major reorganizations of the biota distribution, species loss, decrease in marine productivity, increase in non-indigenous species, and potential species extinctions. The importance of specifically addressing climate change in the Mediterranean has been recognized recently by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): In the upcoming 6th Assessment Report (IPCC AR6) there will be, for the first time, a cross-chapter paper specifically on the Mediterranean, co-coordinated by one of the MedECC Coordinators, who work in close coordination with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

74. The 2020 Mediterranean Experts on Climate Change and Environmental Change (MedECC) First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) notes that due to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, climate is changing in the Mediterranean Basin, historically and projected by climate models, faster than global trends. Virtually all sub-regions of the Mediterranean Basin, on land and in the sea, are impacted by recent anthropogenic changes in the environment. The main drivers of change include climate (temperature, precipitation, atmospheric circulation, extreme events, sea-level rise, sea water temperature, salinity and acidification), population increase, pollution, unsustainable land and sea use practices and alien invasive species. In most areas, both natural ecosystems and human livelihoods are affected. Most impacts of climate change are exacerbated by other environmental challenges such as changing land use, increasing urbanization and tourism, agricultural intensification, overfishing, land degradation, desertification, and pollution (air, land, rivers and ocean).

75. The 2020 State of Environment Report also stressed that climate change already exacerbates regional challenges, inducing an increase in risks of droughts, floods, erosion, and fires. In the upcoming decades, climate change is expected to further threaten food and water security, as well as human livelihoods and health, which is why it is essential that climate change is tackled in parallel to ensuring the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment as well as addressing socioeconomic aspects such as poverty, security and human health.

76. UNEP/MAP has been working on the issue of climate change impacts on the marine and coastal zone as far back as in the 1990's and, after a first comprehensive bottom-up assessment of vulnerability and impacts of climate change on Mediterranean biodiversity done at national, sub-regional and regional levels and related priorities identification in 2008-2009, followed by works on its monitoring possibilities, climate related activities were integrated into the work of UNEP/MAP as a transversal common work theme within the 2016-2022 MTS. Programme 3 aims to provide even more consolidated support to Contracting Parties as noted in the Naples Declaration agreed in 2019 by COP 21 and in line with the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas and Objective 4 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2025, both adopted in 2016 by COP 19, and as support to the implementation of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management adopted in 2019 by COP 21.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

77. Programme 3 directly contributes to a number of global and regional objectives and targets including the SDG's and the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC). It also considers the resolutions UNEA in particular UNEA 4 (2019) resolution on Ecosystem-based adaptation which stresses ecosystem-based adaptation as a mechanism to reduce vulnerability to climate change and subsequent vulnerabilities in areas such as food security, water, health or biodiversity. It is also fully in line with UNEP's 2022-2025 MTS Climate Action Programme.

78. For the development of Programme 3, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, which although structured around the MAP Ecological Objectives, they also addressed to some lesser extent climate change issues, mainly relating to the need to fill knowledge gaps about the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems, especially the impacts of acidification.

Programme 3 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Targets 14.2 and 14.3
Goal 13. Climate Action:	Targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation:	Target 6.6
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities:	Target 11.b

79. At the regional level, of great relevance is the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) and the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) published in 2020 [\[LINK\]](#). This programme also contributes to the implementation of the relevant EU Directives and Strategies - climate action is at the heart of the European Green Deal [\[LINK\]](#), where applicable as well as with the relevant work of UfM, including the first Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (adopted in Athens on 13 May 2014) and the progress since. The work of several other regional partners is considered, including IUCN-Mediterranean work on nature-based Solutions, WWF Mediterranean (WWF Med), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) [\[LINK\]](#) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

Objectives

80. 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

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO 7. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems

Outcomes

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

Outcome 3.1. 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.)

82. Climate change related challenges including among others sea level rise, extreme weather events and storm surges are expected to generate additional pressures on coastal and marine areas. The increase of temperature will have an impact on both, terrestrial and marine ecosystems and will affect land- and sea-based activities. In this regard, support will be provided in effectively mainstreaming climate change into national and regional strategic and policy instruments. At regional level, work will be undertaken to review the implementation of the current Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, having a timeframe until 2025, and develop an updated Regional Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation taking into consideration the findings of MedECC report and other key regional and national assessments. Contracting Parties will be supported to integrate into National ICZM and MSP Strategies and management plans **adaptation and mitigation measures as well as** expected climate change projections and the increased uncertainty it brings to the environment, human health, and economic activities. To this end, leverage of adequate climate finance mechanisms will also be promoted, as well as stronger engagement of private, banking and insurance sectors. Activities will be undertaken to progress towards climate neutrality in line with regional and global commitments.

Outcome 3.2. Nature-based, technical solutions ~~promoting prevention or reduction of implemented to prevent or reduce~~ the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and increase resilience to climatic variability and change.

83. The actions foreseen under this outcome aim to assist the Contracting Parties through the elaboration of guidelines and technical tools as well as through sharing of best practices for optimizing the use of ecosystem restoration as a means to maintain its ecosystem services. Adequate spatial planning and management can have important resilience enhancement effects, in particular through the establishment of coastal setback - that allows implementation of nature-based solutions in the sensitive land-sea interface areas - as well as measures related to green infrastructure and greening of coastal cities that improve quality of life of coastal populations by ensuring clean air and reducing risks of flooding, heat waves and other similar events. Coastal erosion prevention at national level will be supported also through mapping of key coastal ecosystems and targeted conservation and restoration actions.

Outcome 3.3. Better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impacts on environment and development.

84. Scientific evidence and knowledge about the current and projected impacts of climate change on the environment and development will enable decision-makers to anticipate and design policies that take into account the systemic interrelations between human activities, nature and climate change. The identification of particularly sensitive coastal areas and species threatened by climate change will support decision-makers and stakeholders to increase resilience and focus efforts when drawing-up inclusive and resource-efficient strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Coastal areas, as the interface between land and marine ecosystems and landscapes, are of exceptional value; they are also mainly urbanized areas, with a high population density and concentration of activities, which make them more vulnerable to impacts of climate change. It is

therefore necessary to identify and assess the most threatened areas and propose planning and management measures in order to achieve preservation, restoration or adaptation in various coastal contexts, e.g. pristine areas, coastal cities, the narrow coastline, and the coastal sea.

85. Efficient climate change mitigation and adaptation measures will take into account the local environmental and socio-economic conditions and lead to a virtuous cycle where positive outcomes in addressing climate change also lead to positive outcomes for the environment and communities. Technical assistance to local authorities will support them in taking into account local socio-economic contexts and impacts of nature-based solutions from the design phase of such solutions to their implementation and replication. Human lifestyles are also a driver of climate and environmental change; investigating how changes in lifestyles towards sustainable consumer choices can impact climate outcomes can be a powerful lever for policies that target consumer behaviour.

Outcome 3.4. Mitigation of Climate Change progressed through Circular Economy, increased resource efficiency and carbon neutrality business strategies.

86. This Outcome aims at supporting climate change mitigation efforts by exploiting the positive nexus between sustainable production and consumption and action-led societal transformation. To this end, Circular Economy, industrial symbiosis, eco-innovation and value co-creation will be fostered through a number of activities targeting primarily the private sector, including entrepreneurs and small businesses, with the aim to support circular economy entrepreneurs and business ventures to address climate change mitigation, increased resource efficiency and reduced emissions and to promote tools for improved measurement frameworks and consumption-based accounting. Specific actions and innovative solutions will be also developed and implemented to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including energy efficiency and decarbonisation. Also, energy efficiency and larger shares of renewable sources in the energy mix, in line with international agreements will be encouraged.

87. In achieving this outcome's goals, sustainable business support will be complemented by actions targeting civil society and local authorities, by offering appropriate tools to boost a change of lifestyles according to the pressing, climate change related, needs. In this respect, this outcome aims to promote cities and municipalities to be engaged to pivot climate positive lifestyles assessments and plans, using consumption-based accounting models to inform local mitigation pathways, identifying carbon hotspots and triggering effective consumption-production nexus.

PROGRAMME 4: TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES INCLUDING CIRCULAR AND BLUE ECONOMY

General introduction

88. The circular and blue economy concept, which includes Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is a response to the aspiration for sustainable development, given the growing pressure of consumption and production on the world's resources and environment. The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean and the SoED Report both recognize that patterns of consumption and production need to be changed to decouple human development from degradation of the marine and coastal environment. The SCP Action Plan gives guidelines for a shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, long-term sustainability, a circular economy and new paradigms in the use of resources, while taking into account climate change and contributing to the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, as the SoED Report highlights, the increasing attractiveness of coastal regions and cities comes with a concentration of the population in urban coastal areas, with a decline in rural economic and population dynamics, with less than 50% of national populations living in rural areas in all but two Mediterranean countries today. Recently, new activities such as renewable marine energies or the extraction of marine minerals and organisms have emerged and coexist with other maritime activities, such as offshore oil and gas, maritime transport, and with Marine Protected Areas. This multiplication and intensification of sometimes conflicting maritime uses represents new challenges for achieving or maintaining Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean. A good planning of the sea space is essential to avoid conflicts between current and emerging sectors, while creating synergies and **lower costs enhancing cost effectiveness** of activities at sea.

89. Programme 4 brings together essential, integrated and cross-cutting approaches to ensure the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development, the – worldwide unique – ICZM Protocol and the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (adopted in 2019 at COP 21), the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (adopted in 2016 at COP 19), and in line with the Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean, Blue economy and related COP decisions and recommendations. ICZM and MSP have a special role to play, as a transversal policy, with strategic options, plans and management measures, which can integrate and reflect on the same coastal geographic unit (with its terrestrial and marine parts) all thematic policies and horizontal dimensions, encompassing development measures, environmental protection, SCP, adaptation to climate change etc. Furthermore, a combined implementation of diverse actions, involving policy makers, businesses, retailers, academia and civil society is needed, in order to redesign in an innovative manner, the way in which goods and services are produced and consumed to drive the revitalisation of industrial and socio-economic development towards non-pollutant, no-waste, low-carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive, green and circular economies. A regional approach to planning at sea is essential, especially for environmental impacts and renewable energy production.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

90. Programme 4 directly contributes to all SDG Goals 14 and in particular Goals 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12. It also considers a number of UNEA resolutions, in particular UNEA 4 (2019) resolutions on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production; Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices; and Ecosystem-based adaptation. The outcome of UNEA 5 with its theme of “*Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*” is of particular relevance. At the regional level, Programme 4 contributes to the work of all partners in the region including the objectives of the European Green Deal, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, zero-pollution ambition, MSFD and MSPD, where applicable, as well as UfM’s work on Blue Economy⁷. It is also in line with UNEP’s Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 4.

91. For the development of Programme 4, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, building on the work that has been since undertaken in line with these recommendations, i.e. integrate circular economy in the policy and regulatory instruments implementation, strengthen the application of MSP linked with ICZM, enhance implementation of the Offshore Protocol, etc.

Programme 4 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Targets 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, and 12.5 and 12a

Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Targets 11.3, 11.4, and 11.6, 11.a and 11.b

Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Targets 8.3, 8.4 and 8.9

Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Target 9.4

Goal 1. No Poverty: Target 1.5

Goal 5. Gender Equality: Target 5a

Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Targets 6.5 and 6.6

Objectives

92. Programme 4, in addition to the contribution to the objectives of programme 1, addresses 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 and the MSSD:

1. 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;
2. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly with regard to safe water use, though, notably, more sustainable consumption and production patterns and the promotion of the circular economy;
3. 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;
4. To provide innovative services and products, taking advantage of the significant advances with regards to digital technology, and strengthen technical capacities of businesses,

⁷ <https://medblueeconomyplatform.org/>

entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations, contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;

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

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO 6. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;
- EO 7. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems;
- EO 8. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved;

Outcomes

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

Outcome 4.1. Sustainability of coastal and marine resources achieved through the synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches, including the adequate consideration of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI).

95. Action under this outcome will focus on the implementation of ICZM and MSP at national, regional and as appropriate sub-regional level, as the most effective approach to manage potential conflicts among various sectoral policies (such as conflicts for space, resources, infrastructures etc.), as well as between maritime and terrestrial policies. In line with the Common Regional Framework for ICZM adopted by COP 21, Contracting Parties will be supported in the development or update of national and as appropriate sub-regional strategies for ICZM, and the implementation of national and/or transboundary Coastal Area Management Plans (CAMPs) and other integrated coastal and marine plans. In this context, special emphasis will be placed on the application of MSP, particularly addressing Land-Sea Interaction and adaptation to climate change. Another important operational direction will go towards the main coastal and marine sectors in order to increase their ownership of sustainability and ecosystem-based management principles and objectives. The achievement of this outcome's objectives will be strengthened with targeted support provided to priority coastal areas for the development of water, food, energy and ecosystems nexus assessments and endorsement of relevant Strategies and Action Plans.

Outcome 4.2. Sustainable Blue and Green Economy tools and approaches in the context of Sustainable Development and MSSD implementation.

96. In order to adapt human activities to the carrying capacity of the Mediterranean ecosystems and to achieve their Good Environmental Status (GES), it is necessary to accelerate the dynamics embracing Circular and Green Economy approaches. A particular attention should be given to the sectors having a main impact in the coastal and marine ecosystems, including sectors of the Sustainable Blue Economy, as the population continues to grow in coastal and urban areas and as Mediterranean countries, communities (societies) and economies are dependent on natural coastal and maritime resources to create wealth, provide jobs, and continue local development (SoED). A regional strategy on sustainable tourism will be developed. The implementation of this Outcome will be framed within the context of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and its flagship initiatives and the SCP Regional Action Plan; those regional strategic and

forward-looking frameworks will be reviewed in 2024-2025, taking into account inter alia scenarios of the MED 2050 foresight study and regional measures supporting the development of green and circular businesses. Technical support will be provided to strengthen national policy frameworks, support the green and blue economy sectors in integrating circular economy measures, and develop pilot actions, flagship initiatives and dissemination activities. Regional mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plans will be strengthened.

97. Measures to increase the efficiency and sustainability of Mediterranean ports, including marinas (Green ports initiative) will be envisaged as Blue economy concrete tools to respond, in particular, to the adverse effects of the maritime and tourism sectors in the Mediterranean, and with the view to contribute to the decarbonisation and reduction of air pollutant emissions in the Mediterranean. The Green ports initiative, which aims at adapting port infrastructures to environmental sustainability standards, will be explored and promoted in the Mediterranean.

Outcome 4.3. Innovative environmental management and economic instruments implemented for the protection and efficient use of coastal and marine resources.

98. Limiting environmental degradation largely relies on proper planning of the use of coastal and marine space and resources. Instruments such as land stewardship, environmental fiscal instruments, payment for ecosystem services, compensation schemes, etc., come to support policy- and decision-making processes; this calls for a detailed elaboration of these instruments, economic analysis for the assessment of various policy options and measures, and strengthening of the Mediterranean stakeholders' capacities to use them. Innovative solutions can be also linked to pilot activities in Mediterranean countries as identified through relevant initiatives, such as the BlueMed Initiative for Research and Innovation for Blue Jobs and Growth. Regarding "innovative services and products" could you, please, add a point to digitalization, too.

Outcome 4.4. 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.

99. The increase of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region, in particular in countries with little experience in the field could lead to long term adverse consequences on the fragile ecosystems and biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea, and to negative consequences on the economies of the Mediterranean coastal States, especially in relation to tourism and fisheries, should these activities not be regulated and monitored adequately. Offshore renewable energy sources also present a great potential in terms of energy production and job creation, that should not be missed. It is therefore important to have a long-term planning of these developments already today, so as to balance this opportunity with sustainability. The actions foreseen under this outcome pursue the effort of Contracting Parties to the Offshore Protocol through the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan by strengthening its governance framework leading to a sustainable and operational cooperation and partnership framework, with a view to delivering common guidelines and standards, and capacity building program, while also defining the way forward for the period after 2024, being the end date of the current Action Plan's implementation timeframe, which will include the formulation of a new/updated Action Plan to effectively implement the Offshore Protocol in coherence with relevant global commitments. a review to [ensure/promote] the compatibility of the Offshore Action Plan and Guidelines with [these] other relevant global commitments.

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 (MCSD - 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, 17.6, 17.17**

Noting that Programme 5 also contributes to all other SDG targets mentioned

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.

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, MCS, 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.

107. 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.

108. 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.

109. 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.

ENABLING PROGRAMME 6: TOGETHER TOWARDS A SHARED MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, KNOWLEDGE AND FORESIGHT [VISION] OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND COAST

General introduction

110. Programme 6 reflects a core cross-cutting mandate of UNEP/MAP in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions from its Protocols, such as Articles 8 and 13 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities; Article 5 of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; Articles 3, 15 and 20 of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; and Article 16 of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean.

111. It also contributes to the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (COP 19 Decision IG.22/7). IMAP sets out all the required elements to cover in an integrated manner monitoring and assessment of biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and marine litter, and coast and hydrography. At the core of IMAP are the 23 regionally-agreed common indicators and the 4 candidate indicators (for which scientific knowledge and information is not yet fully developed to allow for regional monitoring and assessment) currently covering 9 out of 11 Ecological Objectives, namely the EO 1, EO 2, EO 3, EO 5, EO 7, EO 8, EO 9, EO 10, EO 11.

112. Programme 6 also includes UNEP/MAP's mandate to produce State of Environment and Development and Quality Status Reports, as well as other key thematic assessments as agreed by Contracting Parties. COP 21 Decision IG.24/4 endorsed the roadmaps for the 2023 QSR and MED 2050 foresight study. In terms of data management, which is also related to this Programme, Contracting Parties endorsed through COP 21 Decision IG.24/2 the main elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

113. Programme 6 contributes to several SDG targets towards enhanced information and science on the marine and coastal environment, as well as multiple UNEA resolutions, in particular UNEA 4 Resolution 4/23, *Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook*. It also contributes to UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 1, and is in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS programmes and in particular those on Science-Policy and Digital transformations.

114. It also will contribute to relevant key global reports such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) assessments and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and World Ocean Assessment (WOA) reports as well as to the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

Programme 6 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water: Target 14a
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Target 9.5
~~Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Target 16.10~~
Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Target 17.6 and 17.18

Noting that Programme 6 also contributes to all other SDG targets mentioned

Objectives

115. Programme 6 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the IMAP-related COP Decisions and the Assessment Studies Decision adopted by COP 21:

1. To strengthen and harmonize 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. To achieve and/or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through science-based IMAP,
3. To develop foresight and other assessment studies as per the MAP Phase II document, referring to the publication of the Report on the State and Evolution of the Mediterranean Environment at regular intervals, and the relevant COP decisions on assessment studies; and
4. To ensure a fully operational data management Info System based on consolidated and quality-control assured monitoring datasets to support integrated assessments.

Outcomes

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

Outcome 6.1. Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national and local levels, with associated capacity-building.

117. Foresight activities conducted in a participatory manner and on a voluntary basis will be essential through the setting-up of multi-stakeholder platforms towards compromises on evidence-based decisions and their shared ownership for a more effective implementation. At regional level, future regional strategic documents, including the reviewed Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2026-2035), will be more powerful because they will build on the results of the participatory foresight activities initiated in the framework of MED 2050. Furthermore, replicating pilot foresight exercises at regional, national and local levels will allow to fine-tune the methodological approach as well as the definition of policies at territorial level. That will also strengthen the ability to conduct such exercises in the future and build capacity through a network of Mediterranean foresight institutes.

Outcome 6.2. Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making.

118. To achieve this outcome, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will increasingly focus on the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in

order to progress towards a regular holistic integrated monitoring and assessment of the state of marine and coastal environment based on IMAP Ecological Objectives/Common Indicators and Good Environmental Status (GES) targets. In that context, the main focus will be on the further development of IMAP, implementation of national IMAPs by the Contracting Parties and implementation of QSR Roadmap, following Decisions of the Contracting Parties: Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets (COP 18, 2013); Decision IG.23/6: Mediterranean Quality Status Report (COP 20, 2017); Decision IG.22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (COP 19, 2016); Decision IG.23/04: Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean and Decision IG.24/4: Assessment Studies (COP 21, 2019) as well as delivery of assessment products. Actions will be undertaken to strengthen links with global initiatives and assessments, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Finally, support will be provided to encourage national and regional exchange of good digital practices and mainstream digitalisation into different policies/actions in order to enable sustainable development.

Outcome 6.3. IMAP implementation and Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES.

119. Under this outcome, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will undertake set of actions related to i) transfer of knowledge and hands-on experience related to reliable and cost-effective monitoring of marine environment; ii) use of standardized analytical procedures and equipment for sampling, analysis, processing and quality assurance of data; and iii) optimal data management. These actions must be coupled with effective use of unprecedented achievements in science and technology, including through i) strengthening of synergies with scientific networks to support science-policy interface; ii) upgrading of MAP Info System into a regional platform/node to facilitate sharing of data, information, marine scientific research outputs, marine and digital technologies and knowledge on Mediterranean coastal and marine environment in line with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) principles and best practices; and iii) application of advanced observing, modelling and forecasting techniques and tools to improve and extend a range of multidisciplinary predictive capabilities. Data visualization tools to integrate data in user-friendly formats such as maps, graphs or charts provide an accessible way to see and understand trends, outliers, and patterns, but also to download and use them and can be utilized for policy-making, advocacy, and awareness-raising. Activities will be dedicated to the interconnection and interoperability of the MAP observation and monitoring systems with the global and national ones, including the innovative World Environment Situation Room.

ENABLING PROGRAMME 7: FOR INFORMED AND CONSISTENT ADVOCACY, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

General introduction

120. Programme 7 contributes to the implementation of the MAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) adopted in 2017 (COP 20, Decision IG.23/3) and the Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021 adopted in 2019 (COP 21 Decision IG.24/2). This is achieved through integration and coordination of all advocacy, awareness, education and communication considerations through the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, taking advantage of the significant advances with regards to digital

technology. This will include enhancing “Ocean Literacy” and to engage communication, awareness raising and education on the coastal and marine environment.

121. Innovative communication should be a driving force for empowered environmental advocacy. It aims to be innovative, inclusive, using a growing foothold in digital spheres and social media spaces to reach and engage with a diverse and expanding range of audiences and stakeholders. It aims to empower individuals and groups for environmental action, placing emphasis on the voices from sectors and actors typically outside the environment space. It should increase awareness and engage the voices of youth, consumers, students, environmental entrepreneurs, activists, women, innovation leaders and faith-based actors and organizations, among others. Education, using new digital technologies, is key for increasing awareness and empowering the future generations.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

122. Programme 7 contributes to several SDG targets in particular those under SDG 4 “quality education” and is in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS and in particular its Science-Policy and Digital Transformation Programmes.

Programme 7 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 4. Quality Education:	Targets 4.4 and 4.7
Goal 5. Gender Equality:	Targets 5.5, and 5a, 5b and 5e
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production:	Targets 12.8

Noting that Programme 7 also contributes to all other SDG targets mentioned

Objectives

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

1. To enhance MAP’s status as an authoritative voice on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean and Advocate the MTS vision to policymakers;
2. To encourage commitment and contribution of key stakeholders in support of MAP priorities and enhance public participation in MAP’s work;
3. To upgrade the MAP-Barcelona Convention system communication and dissemination capabilities;
4. To ensure Communicating as One and embark on digital transformation in the delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy; and
5. To enhance “Ocean literacy” and to engage communication, awareness raising and education on the coastal and marine environment towards different targets: elected officials, tourists, socio-professionals, etc. via the development of innovative tools (social marketing, etc.).

Outcomes

Outcome 7.1. Stakeholders and policy makers properly informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and aware of the environmental priority issues.

124. A communication strategy implemented under this outcome will support the environmental objectives put forward in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols through the identification of and

meaningful engagement with target audience groups, as well as the amplification of MAP messages enhancing the concept of a Communicating as One. To policymakers and other groups of stakeholders (whose opinions and actions will directly impact the MTS outcomes), it is crucial to advocate policy and action conducive to the attainment of the MTS objectives and, more broadly, Good Environmental Status (GES). Advocacy for a green renaissance in the Mediterranean, including through prioritizing sustainable options in the context of recovery from COVID-19, full compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and renewed commitment to their objectives in high level meetings and fora, will constitute an overarching advocacy priority. Under this outcome, advocacy will be delivered as a deliberate process using a range of tools, including the strengthening of the science-policy interface, awareness raising, production and dissemination of flagship publications and other communication products, campaigning, negotiating, and media engagement, in order to persuade decision-makers, influencers, partners, institutions and communities to endorse and/or carry out pro-GES policy and action. Information, communication and advocacy actions under this outcome will also support gender mainstreaming into the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system's mandate and operations. In order to strengthen the links with SDG 14, a peer review exercise that integrates the main uses of the ocean (fishing, maritime and coastal tourism, maritime transport, etc.) and in the framework of the Regional Marine Forum with other partners. Awareness and advocacy **will should** also address the private sector and companies, in terms of social and environmental responsibility; to this end, the concept of Corporate Environmental Responsibility SDG14/"ocean approved" can be explored to be deployed in the Mediterranean **through different modalities—possibly through a feasibility and opportunity study.**

Outcome 7.2. Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns.

125. Effective external communication increases visibility and general public support for MAP's objectives. It is crucial to raise and achieve an active awareness about the critical role that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system plays in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the promotion of sustainable development. Different actions will be put in place to deliver this important outcome such as thematic digital campaigns, knowledge management tools, education packages on key topics of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and citizen science.

126. In this context, Barcelona Convention and its Protocols acquis will be promoted and introduced to Mediterranean countries' relevant universities through the elaboration of dedicated curricula and their delivery and disseminated to key private and public stakeholder. Key MAP achievements should be promoted for awareness-raising and education on key aspects of the mandate of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, such as those highlighted in the thematic Programmes of this Strategy, in partnership with the civil society organizations (CSOs) and concerned public authorities and stakeholders. Awareness-raising activities and digital campaigns will be implemented, giving visibility to those change-makers and eco-innovators delivering environmental and social benefit to their communities in the Mediterranean. The role of the Mediterranean entrepreneurs' community (with specific focus on women and youth), their needs, activities and products will also be promoted.

Outcome 7.3. Towards a digital transformation: use of digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility

127. The actions foreseen under this outcome will aim to ensure a transformational change in this domain within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. This digital transformation should lead to an improved use of digital technologies, to a strengthening of networking and to enhancing MAP visibility. Digital capacity-building is substantial to achieve real and sustained progress in the various dimensions of digitalization and requires skills development and effective training, as well as capacity building in

relation to digital skills and infrastructures. It will also significantly contribute in removing digital inclusion barriers - even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic - unlocking the benefits of technology, including the more effective use of emerging technologies and ensuring that individuals stay safe, protected and productive online.

6. Implementation

6.1. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

128. Implementation of the MTS will be operationalised through biennial Programmes of Work (PoW), prepared through consultative process within the MAP system, in accordance with relevant provisions stipulated in COP 15 Decision IG.17/5 "*Governance paper*", and adopted by the respective Conferences of the Parties (COP 22, COP 23 and COP 24). COP Decisions adopting the biennial PoW and Budget will mandate MAP Components to implement specific activities under the MTS Programmes and Outcomes, in line with each Component's scope of action and mandate, provided for in COP 16 Decision IG.19/5 "*Mandates of the Components of MAP*". PoW should also include SMART indicators and targets fully aligned with the MTS ones, in view of monitoring and measuring progress of implementation on a biennial basis.

129. PoW and Budget funds will be transferred to MAP Components, in accordance with the respective COP Decisions, through Project Documents and Legal Instruments signed with each Component. Funds allocated for the implementation of the PoW will be managed through the UN Umoja system. Financial administration of PoW budget is governed by the "*Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures for the Contracting Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean*", adopted by COP 18 through Decision IG. 21/15.

130. The implementation of the MTS is a collective process. The MTS should be used as a common platform for joint actions not only by Contracting Parties and the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, but also for fostering cooperation with other International and Regional Organisations and programmes active in the Mediterranean as well as with the civil society (especially MAP Partners and MCSD members). The MTS needs to be backed by strong political support and promote responsibility, accountability and transparency from all actors involved in its implementation, including who will be responsible for each action. Individual commitments and subsequent actions by Contracting Parties need to contribute to global and regional targets in order to bridge the current implementation gap. In order for the MTS to be flexible enough to respond to emerging challenges, it should be developed and implemented with an adaptive management approach. In a number of cases, the MTS will integrate new concerns by increasing its cooperation with others leading or specialised organisations. Enhanced cooperation is key to improving integrated ocean management and ensuring that all key issues are properly addressed. This will include cooperating with MAP partners to ensure comparative advantage in implementation and the use of existing tools and best-practices. Efforts to enhance the political will in the implementation of the MTS is also essential. Civil society has always been an important group of stakeholders in the MAP system. In the implementation of the MTS, its role remains critical. "*Synergies*" and "*complementarity*" are once more the key words when seeking effectiveness, positive impacts and sustainability. To this end, the private sector could become an important ally and contributor to the implementation of the MTS, given in particular its key role in the transition to the green economy.

131. The MAP system cooperates closely with the EU institutions (in particular the European Commission and EEA), especially since the EU is a Contracting Party. Furthermore, UNEP/MAP has signed individual Memoranda of Understanding with IUCN, the UfM Secretariat, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO/GFCM), ACCOBAMS and Black Sea Commission. Among the International and Regional Organisations, with which UNEP/MAP has long-lasting cooperation, the following – playing already a role in the Mediterranean – are potential important players expected to contribute to the implementation of MTS 2022-2027: EU, FAO, UNCTAD, CIESM, CEDARE, GWP Med,

Birdlife, WWF Med, MedPAN, the Mediterranean Energy Observatory and international financial agents like the FFEM, EBRD, EIB, IFC and WB. Memoranda of Understanding have been also signed in the past with individual Contracting Parties (i.e. Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection) to support implementation of the MAP mandate and common objectives in priority areas.

132. The role of advocacy will also be key to persuade decision-makers, influencers, partners, institutions and communities to support and carry out actions that contribute to achieving the MTS objectives and outcomes, contributing to the 2030 Agenda and other global priorities and the promotion of a post-COVID “*green renaissance*” in the Mediterranean. As noted in the UNEP Ecosystems Division Advocacy Toolkit, “*Advocacy is defined as a process that seeks to influence or change a decision, a policy, a law, a practice, an attitude, or a process.*”

6.2. FUNDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

133. The MTS, having a strategic nature, does not enter into budgetary details. Such details, as well as the actors and components in charge of implementation by activity, are to be found in the PoW of the relevant biennia of the period 2022-2027. The main source of funding for the implementation of the MTS remains the Mediterranean Trust Fund and its components, as established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. [Due to its complexity and high level of ambition there is a need for additional resources].

134. The main challenge to the objectives of Strategy is in the availability of financial resources, in particular taking into consideration the global and regional circumstances. The good practice of the last years, of mobilizing additional funding for specific projects, in line with the PoW and in consultation with the Contracting Parties, is to continue and be further extended to include other donors too. Bilateral cooperation with individual Contracting Parties to support implementation of specific PoW activities in line with the MTS objectives and outcomes should be continued and strengthened, building on successful practices of the previous MTS cycle. The Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted at COP 20 and its revised Appendix adopted at COP 21 will be the guide to this end.

135. It is expected that a large number of projects will be implemented during the MTS that will significantly contribute to its objectives. These include:

- i. The GEF-UNEP “*Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security*” (2020-2025);
- ii. The EU IMAP-MPA project “*Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through an Ecologically Representative and Efficiently Managed and Monitored Network of Marine Protected Areas*” (2019-2023);
- iii. The EU EcAp-MED III “*Support to Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and to delivery of data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in synergy with the EU MSFD*” (2020-2023);
- iv. The EU Marine Litter MED II, which will strengthen and support the Contracting Parties to The Barcelona Convention to prevent and effectively manage marine litter through the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (2020-2023);
- v. The EU Second Phase of the SwitchMed Project “*supporting the transition of Mediterranean Countries to Sustainable Consumption and Production*” (2019-2023).

Overview of the MedProgramme

The GEF-UNEP “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security” (2020-2025) will contribute to all seven programs articulated in the UNEP/MAP Medium-term Strategy 2022-2027 through priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in coastal areas, to strengthen climate resilience and water security and to improve the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. It will do so through a robust portfolio of eight Child Projects valued at more than \$905 million (\$43,376,147 in grants and \$861,666,654 in co-financing, including \$610 million in hard loans). More specifically, the MedProgramme will address the root causes of the region’s most pressing environmental challenges by targeted actions in priority areas to reduce pollution, promote the integrated management of land, water and living resources and implement tools to build climate resilient coastal communities. It will furthermore function as a laboratory for the testing of innovative approaches that enhance achievement of environmental objectives through effective use of knowledge assets, monitoring and reporting on results, and mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment across the MedProgramme portfolio. The following text provides a short narrative of the key contributions of the MedProgramme to the seven programs of the MTS, additional contributions from the MedProgramme in terms of knowledge management, gender mainstreaming and reporting on results, as well as a mapping of the MedProgramme outputs against the MTS programs.

6.3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

136. Under the leadership of the Contracting Parties and the subsidiary bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (Coordinating Unit including MEDPOL) and the Regional Activity Centres, will work with Contracting Parties for implementing the Strategy and will ensure coordination of its monitoring and evaluation processes.

137. Monitoring will take place in a combined way for MTS and PoW, under the coordination of the MAP Coordinating Unit and the ECP. The Bureau, the Focal Points and the MCSD will be informed and consulted accordingly. The results of the monitoring exercise will be presented every two years to the COP for information and possible adaptations of the planning, while the evaluation of the MTS will be carried out and presented to the COP at the end of the six-year period.

138. Being able to measure performance is a key step. It is needed to manage performance and provide assurance to Contracting Parties and donors that their investment is contributing to substantial impact. To do this, MAP uses a performance framework as agreed with the Contracting Parties. Central to the performance framework are the strategic outcomes to be achieved. Performance indicators and respective targets enable MAP to measure progress against these expected accomplishments.

139. Implementation of the data-sharing principles on the indicators and data related to the monitoring system for the MTS is needed. As also foreseen in the MSSD, that process will be promoted and facilitated by a consistent platform for the exchange of information, experience and synergies, also considering the European Union’s Shared Environment Information Systems (SEIS) principles on data sharing.

140. Evaluation of progress of the biennial PoW will act as an early warning calling for adaptations whenever necessary to achieve the MTS objectives and outputs. At the same time, the MSSD – having a longer perspective – will present a more effective time horizon to plan for regional impact. The entire MTS exercise will be evaluated at the end of the 6 years period with an independent indicator-based evaluation conducted in 2027.

Annex I. UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 Targets and Indicators per Programme

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

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments developed/updated and implemented addressing pollution and marine litter prevention and reduction.	3
2. Number of technical guidelines and tools on marine pollution and marine litter prevention/ reduction and circular business development developed and implemented.	11
3. Number of countries that integrate common approaches to mainstreaming marine pollution and marine litter prevention/reduction into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes.	At least 6 CPs
4. Number of measures and actions developed and/or implemented to reduce pollution to air, water, soil and the ocean.	[16 measures and actions]
5. Number of new/updated national policies, strategies, legislation or action plans on pollution and marine litter prevention/ reduction adopted in line with MAP legal and policy instruments.	At least 8
6. A) Quantity of priority pollutants removed, replaced and/or reduced; B) reduced trends of pollutants/marine litter discharges at sea; C) statistically proved progress towards GES achievement/maintenance on pollution and marine litter at regional/sub-regional, [and national] level.	A) 1,250 tons of POPs reduction/ prevention 50 tons of mercury B) To be defined C) To be defined

Programme 2: Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments on biodiversity and ecosystems conservation developed/updated and implemented.	9
2. Number of new/updated national [and sub-regional] policies, strategies, legislation or action plans for the implementation of regional instruments, including restoration actions.	22 national; 1 sub-regional
3. Number of countries that Integrate common approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes.	At least 8
4. A) Number of protected areas (MPA, SPAMI and other effective area-based conservation measures) designated; management plans developed and implemented; MPA monitoring data reported; B) % of Mediterranean Sea under protection measures.	A) At least 2,000 area-based conservation measures (baseline 1,137); At least 1 set of data on EO1/EO2 CIs by CPs in selected MPAs B) 20% (baseline 9.3%)

5. Statistically proved progress towards GES achievement/maintenance on biodiversity and NIS cluster at regional/ sub-regional, [and national] level.	At least 6 assessments related to EO1, EO2 and EO3 at national level At least 3 countries with national bycatch data and its impact on biodiversity assessed
6. Number of measures and actions developed and/or implemented on biodiversity conservation, restoration, and monitoring implemented, including on MPA/SPAMI management and monitoring.	At least 21

Programme 3: Towards a Climate Resilient Mediterranean

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments to address climate change-related challenges developed/ updated and implemented.	2
2. Number of national climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and policies developed or mainstreamed into national ICZM and MSP strategies and coastal plans and under implementation].	7
3. Number of national and local actions and targeted measures to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, including nature-based solution actions, developed and implemented.	35
4. Scientific knowledge on climate change and its impacts enhanced through number of thematic publications, targeted assessment products and the sharing of best-practices including on nature-based solutions, climate finance, circular economy business ventures support etc.	5

Programme 4: Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments to support sustainable use of coastal and marine resources developed/updated and implemented.	1
2. Number of regional guidance documents and tools, including recommendations and standards, to support sustainable use of coastal and marine resources developed and implemented.	9
3. A) Number of national and sub-regional ICZM strategies, plans and programmes, mainstreaming MSP and climate action prepared and implemented;	A) 3 national; 1 sub-regional
B) Number of national policies and legal frameworks for green and circular businesses support adopted and implemented.	B) 2
4. Statistically proved progress towards GES achievement/maintenance on coast and hydrography cluster at regional/ sub-regional, [and national] level.	To be defined

5. Number of national and transboundary CAMP and other demonstration projects focusing on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol provisions negotiated, prepared and implemented.	5
6. Number of actions and targeted measures providing innovative services and products and strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations.	4 actions; 100 entrepreneurs supported

Foundational Programme 5: Governance

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of new ratifications of the Barcelona Convention Protocols.	At least 6
2. Number of Contracting Parties complete implementation reports timely submitted to the Secretariat through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS).	22
3. A) Number of actions to support the implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including public institution capacities;	A) 11
B) Number of compliance mechanisms and procedures upgraded, maximizing synergies with the work under relevant MEAs.	B) 3
4. Ecosystem approach regulatory and governance framework reviewed and upgraded to boost the actions for achieving and/or maintaining GES.	To be defined
5. Number of sectoral and intersectoral governance mechanisms and bodies established and operational at national [and sub-regional] level.	At least 10
6. A) Number of partnerships established and/or updated including with relevant scientific networks/ institutions, and the private sector;	A) 30
B) Number of joint actions designed and implemented	B) 25

Enabling Programme 6: Together towards a shared monitoring, assessment, knowledge and foresight [vision] of the Mediterranean Sea and coast

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of assessment products, analyses, scenarios and reports on the status of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, including socioeconomic aspects, prepared and published.	6 regional; 9 national
2. Network of Mediterranean scientific experts strengthened through:	
A) number of established/updated partnerships with scientific institutions;	A) At least 5
B) Number of strategic, knowledge sharing and SPI meetings.	B) At least 3
3. A) Number of IMAP Indicators fully developed with assessment criteria, with operational scales of monitoring and assessment in place;	A) At least 13
B) Number of NAP/H2020 Indicators populated and assessed	B) At least 10
C) Number of upgraded MSSD Dashboard indicators updated and assessed and aligned with SDGs.	C) At least [XX]

4. A) IMAP InfoSystem fully operational for the submission of quality assured data for all IMAP Common Indicators;	A) IMAP Info System hosting quality assured data for all IMAP Common Indicators;
B) Number of Contracting Parties timely submitting IMAP monitoring data through the IMAP InfoSystem.	B) 21
5. Number of thematic data/information collection and sharing platforms established and operational.	12

Enabling Programme 7: For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education and communication

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. A) Number of events organised raising MAP visibility and supporting renewal of commitment to the Barcelona Convention;	A) At least 22
B) Number of international and regional fora where the role and visibility of the BC and UNEP/MAP is promoted.	B) At least 24
2. Number of actions implemented regarding the Advocacy programme including through the use of new communication and digital tools ensuring a consistent One-MAP system communication.	30
3. Number of educational and awareness raising programmes and actions, with a particular focus on civil society engagement, developed and implemented.	70
4. Number of actions to support gender mainstreaming into MAP-Barcelona Convention system in line with SDG 5 developed and implemented.	At least 20
5. Number of tools and products to enhance knowledge management and internal communication delivered.	50
6. A) Positive shift in public opinion, attitudes, and actions, in support of the MTS Programmes;	A) To be defined
B) Positive change in private sector in support of the MTS Programmes.	B) To be defined

Annex III

**Methodology and Main Considerations of the Systemic Analysis to accompany the UNEP/MAP
Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027**

Assessment of capacity and operational costs to implement the MTS 2022-2027: Methodology and preliminary considerations

JUNE 7, 2021

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) is supporting the MAP Secretariat to prepare a systemic analysis and assessment of the required capacity and operational costs of the MAP Components to implement the new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and its respective Programmes of Work.

Objectives and focus of the assessment

The assessment seeks to identify the MAP systemic needs to deliver the new MTS in line with the mandate of: (a) Coordinating Unit, including MED POL, and (b) the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) considering the following elements:

- Coordinating Unit core and other functions, staffing, and levels;
- MAP Component mandates, including identification of the need for possible adjustment;
- MAP Components functions, staffing, and levels;
- Operational needs of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components;
- Relationship between the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components; and
- Effective decision-making process of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

Furthermore, the wider governance arrangement of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system needs to be part of the background analysis, including the role of the MAP and Component Focal Points and the way the existing structure currently facilitates or hinders the operational capacity of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components; such analysis will facilitate the Secretariat to prepare proposals for effective functioning, including of the Contracting Parties/National Focal Points system.

Methodology

The assessment will comprise three main parts: (1) identification of needs and best practices; (2) assessment of current capacities and resources; and (3) elaboration of assessment report.

As of June 7, 2021, we have developed our research, interview, and survey questions; reviewed documents provided by the Secretariat; had multiple consultations with the Coordinating Unit; and developed and circulated a survey to Secretariat staff and management, including MAP Components.

Identification of needs and best practices

To identify the capacity and operational costs needed for the draft MTS, we will compare the draft MTS with the existing MTS, and with other global and regional MEAs. The comparison with other organizations will let us identify best practices and typical resource needs, as well as common challenges that can inform projection of capacity needs under the draft MTS. Key sources of information include:

- Documents provided by the Secretariat, including the MTS draft, the existing MTS, 2-year programmes of work, and decisions relating to Mandates of MAP Components and Governance;
- Publicly available information and records from other global and regional MEAs, such as other Regional Seas Conventions, chemical conventions, and other organizations with structural similarities to MAP such as UNEP-WCMC;
- Interviews with contacts in other relevant organizations.

Assessment of current capacities

To determine capacity of the MAP system to implement the draft MTS, we will assess current capacities and operational expenditures as well as the relationship between administrative structure and mandate. Key sources of information include:

- Documents and reports provided by the Secretariat, including MAP decisions and information related to staffing and budgets;
- Survey of Secretariat staff and management including Coordinating Unit and RACs, and a survey of MAP focal points;
- Interviews with Secretariat staff and management, MAP focal points, and key partners and other stakeholders.

Assessment report

From the assessment of needs and current capacities we will elaborate a gap assessment. On the basis of this assessment, we will elaborate a report detailing the capacities and resources required to implement the MTS 2022-2027 and providing recommendations.

Key questions

As a first step to evaluating the capacity and operational costs required for implementing the draft MTS, we have developed an evolving set of questions that will focus and guide the assessment. These are oriented around three big picture questions:

- 1) What is the current capacity of the MAP?
- 2) What are the requirements of the new MTS?
- 3) What are the options for the MAP to meet the requirements of the new MTS?

Current capacity

We will examine the current capacity of the MAP in terms of funding, staffing, and administrative structure. Through staff surveys, interviews, and review of documents provided by the Secretariat, we will endeavor to understand the capacity of the MAP to deliver on the current MTS in order to estimate its capacity to deliver on the draft new MTS. Indicative questions include the following:

- **Staffing.** Are current staff able to handle their existing workload? How efficiently is staff time used? What is the staff turnover rate in different components? What is the ratio of time spent on substantive work in relation to administrative processes? What are the main challenges staff face in delivering their current work? How does understaffing or inefficient use of staff time impact delivery of the MTS?
- **Funding.** Are current funding levels sufficient to implement the existing MTS? What are the main sources of funding? How are budgetary funds allocated among projects and components? What is the cost recovery rate for projects? What is the proportion of restricted funding (e.g. project funding) to unrestricted funding (e.g. core funding)?
- **Administration.** How well-suited is the administrative structure to delivering the MTS? How does performance monitoring work and how is it taken into account? How does the relationship between UNEP, the Secretariat, the RACs, and the Contracting Party Focal Points work with regards to delivery on the MTS? Are there any challenges raised by the structure of the system?

Requirements of the draft MTS

We will evaluate the requirements of the draft MTS with reference to the existing MTS to determine potential needs and gaps in terms of capacity and operational costs. We will not attempt to put a specific monetary value on the elements of the draft MTS, but instead will assess whether the available financial resources and capacity are likely to be sufficient, and identify potential challenges and problem areas. For this, we will compare the draft new MTS to the existing MTS, and also to the work of other organizations to better understand the resources required. Indicative questions include the following:

- **How does the draft new MTS compare to the existing MTS?** In terms of **scope**, is it more expansive than the current program? In terms of **ambition**, how much work is envisioned and how achievable are the targets given available resources? In terms of **coverage**, does it include topics or activities not currently addressed that might require different skill sets, equipment, or expertise?
- **How does the work envisioned in the draft MTS compare to the work of other organizations?** What capacity is required for other organizations to undertake similar work, and how does that compare to the capacity of MAP? How does the scope and ambition of the MTS compare to work programs of other MEAs with similar resources? How does the structure of MAP compare to that of other MEAs?

Options for delivering the draft MTS

We will survey options for the MAP to overcome any challenges or gaps related to capacity requirements for the MTS. Here again we will examine experiences with the administration of other MEAs for practices and approaches that are effective as well as indications of what may be problematic. We will base our recommendations on discussions with Party Focal Points and interviews with staff from different components of the MAP Secretariat. Indicative questions will include:

- **Resources.** Is there potential for increasing resources (e.g. negotiating with funders, reviewing fundraising approaches) to improve delivery of the MTS? Is there a way to better allocate resources or improve efficiency to better use existing resources to deliver the MTS (e.g. reducing administrative burden, strengthening coordination among units, internally reallocating among units)?
- **Structure.** Are there more effective models for dealing with geographically and programmatically distributed programs? Is there potential for improving the overall structure of the MAP, including its relationship with UNEP?
- **Ambition.** How can high ambition be reconciled with limited resources? If additional resources are not forthcoming, is there a need to revise or refocus the MTS to ensure effectiveness?

Preliminary considerations

It is too soon to draw any conclusions or discuss any potential findings from the assessment. However, discussions with the Secretariat Staff and an initial document review have revealed potential challenges on three axes: (1) availability of resources; (2) distribution of resources; and (3) efficiency and effectiveness of resource use.

Availability of resources

A preliminary assessment indicates that there may be insufficient capacity and financial resources to deliver the ambition of the new MTS. We will test this first by evaluating the adequacy of existing resources to deliver the current MTS, through an examination of budgets, staff surveys, and interviews. We will compare the ambition, scope, and subject matter of the draft MTS to the current MTS to understand what additional resources may be needed.

If we find that insufficient resources and capacity are problems in delivery of the current MTS we may conclude that it is likely they will continue to be problems for delivery of the new MTS unless new financial resources are secured. If we further find that the draft new MTS represents a significant increase in ambition or scope, or that it covers topics or activities not currently covered, we may conclude that the current level resources and capacity will not be sufficient for adequate delivery.

Distribution of resources

Preliminary discussions suggest that resources are not equally distributed across MAP Components or program areas, and that this distribution creates inefficiency and unevenness in delivery of the MTS. We will test this by comparing the available budgets to the current and

prospective workloads of the different Components, under both the current and draft new MTS, and supplement that comparison with interviews.

We will also look at potential causes of inefficiency in distribution of resources, including sources of funding. We will particularly examine the sources of funding for RACs and the Secretariat. We will look at the relationship between restricted funding (e.g. project funding that can only be used for specific activities and costs) and unrestricted funding (e.g. core funding that can be allocated and used wherever needed). We will also look for geographic and programmatic discrepancies in allocation of resources.

Efficiency/effectiveness of resource use

There is some indication that circumstances related to the structure, administration, and coordination of the MAP lead to inefficient or ineffective use of existing resources.

Through staff surveys, interviews, and review of documents we will try to identify inefficiencies in use of time and funding. We will try to determine how staff balance their time, for example between substantive work and administrative processes, or between fundraising, project implementation, and delivery of core mandates. We will also look for options to improve integration and communication, particularly with reference to examples from other MEAs.

Annex IV

List of proposed draft Decisions for COP 22

Preliminary list of COP 22 decisions

No.	Decision	Comments/Questions
1	UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027	
2	Governance	Including: MoUs, spatial-based protection, MAP Partners, MCSD Membership, Common Operational Principles for MAP Components, strengthening of the MAP policy and technical decision-making bodies
3	Compliance Committee	
4	MedECC MAR1 “Summary for Policy Makers”	
5	MED QSR 2023: Approach and Communication	Possible decision
6	Amendments to Annexes I, II, III and IV to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities	Possibility for combining with proposal 7 below
7	Amendments to the Annex to the Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea	Possibility for combining with proposal 6 above
8	Regional Plans in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol on WWTP, Sludge and Marine Litter management in the Mediterranean. (There is a possibility to include the SUP guidelines in the Annex to ML RP, further to discussion and adjustment of the text by SCP/RAC)	There are two options: (a) one Decision for the adoption of all three Regional Plans (noting though that the Plans are of different nature) (b) two Decisions, one for the Regional Plans on urban wastewater and on sewage sludge management (which are of similar subject) and one for the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management
9	Amendments to the Annexes to the Offshore Protocol	This could be combined with proposal 15 below on the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
10	MAP General Data Policy	
11	Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)	
12	Establishment of Sites of Particular Ecological Interest in the Mediterranean, including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance	
13	Strategies and Action Plans for the conservation of species and habitats under the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean	
14	Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides, pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI	
15	Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Offshore Protocol (Article 23)	This could be combined with the Decision on the Annexes to the Offshore Protocol (proposed decision 9 above)

16	Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action	
17	Plan Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027)	
18	Set of Regional Measures to Support the Development of Green and Circular Businesses and to Strengthen the Demand for more Sustainable Products	
19	Programme of Work and Budget for 2022 – 2023	

Annex V

MAP Partner Applications Evaluation Table

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
	Ona Futura Foundation	Spain	To promote actions for the protection and regeneration of the shoreline and sea, especially the Western Mediterranean, from the perspective of the tourism sector among economic actors, particularly the hotel sector, and the general public through research and the undertaking of studies, teaching and training activities.
	Fondation Ona Futura	Espagne	Promouvoir des actions de protection et de régénération du littoral et de la mer, en particulier celui de la Méditerranée de l'ouest, du point de vue du secteur touristique parmi les acteurs économiques, en particulier le secteur hôtelier, et le grand public à travers la recherche et la réalisation d'études d'activités, d'enseignement et de formation.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

Ona Futura Foundation	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

Ona Futura Foundation	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√

be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√
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Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques
Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

Ona Futura Foundation	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	-
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	-
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

Ona Futura Foundation	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
ETC-UMA	European Topic Centre – University of Malaga	Spain	The ETC-UMA is an international research centre within the University of Malaga supporting since 2011 the development of knowledge to feed evidence-based policy at multiple-scales with special focus on Europe and the Mediterranean region. The ETC-UMA team has a wide expertise in a range of environmental and socio-economic assessments. Its major areas of expertise include ecosystem condition evaluation and its links to ecosystem service provision, land management, urban sustainability, coastal and marine studies, environmental conservation, territorial development, resource efficiency, and cooperation.
ETC-UMA	Centre thématique européen / Université de Malaga	Espagne	L'ETC-UMA est un centre de recherche international au sein de l'Université de Malaga qui soutient, depuis 2011, le développement des connaissances pour alimenter des politiques factuelles à plusieurs échelles en mettant un accent particulier sur l'Europe et la région méditerranéenne. L'équipe ETC-UMA possède une vaste expertise dans une série d'évaluations environnementales et socio-économiques. Ses principaux domaines d'expertise comprennent l'évaluation de l'état des écosystèmes et ses liens avec la fourniture de services écosystémiques, la gestion des terres, la durabilité urbaine, les études côtières et marines, la conservation de l'environnement, le développement territorial, l'utilisation efficace des ressources et la coopération.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

ETC-UMA	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

ETC-UMA	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√

be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

ETC-UMA	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

ETC-UMA	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
	Cittadini per l'aria onlus Citizens for air	Italy	Cittadini per l'aria onlus works on the reduction of air pollution in Italy and Europe and has been active in a European network group of various NGOs working to support the adoption of a Mediterranean Emission Control Area. It has created a network of Italian committees and NGOs made by citizens that are active in the various Italian port towns to achieve and support the reduction of polluting emissions from the shipping industry. It is also active at EU level supporting the EU legislative process in the domain of reduction of air pollutants and GHG from shipping.
	Citoyens pour l'air	Italie	Cittadini per l'aria onlus travaille sur la réduction de la pollution atmosphérique en Italie et en Europe et est active dans un groupe de réseau européen de diverses ONG travaillant à soutenir l'adoption d'une zone méditerranéenne de contrôle des émissions. Cette dernière a créé un réseau de comités et d'ONG italiens composé de citoyens actifs dans les différentes villes portuaires italiennes pour atteindre et soutenir la réduction des émissions polluantes de l'industrie du transport maritime. Ils sont également actifs au niveau de l'UE en soutenant le processus législatif de l'UE dans le domaine de la réduction des polluants atmosphériques et des GES provenant du transport maritime.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

Cittadini per l'aria onlus	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

Cittadini per l'aria onlus	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√

be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

Cittadini per l'aria onlus	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

Cittadini per l'aria onlus	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
CMN	Cercle Mallorquí de Negocis	Spain	To promote project and actions for the protection of natural resources and regeneration of the shoreline and sea areas. The CMN organization intends to promote sustainable development and to preserve the maritime environment and the culture based on contact with the Mediterranean Sea.
CMN	Cercle Mallorquí de Negocis	Espagne	Promouvoir des projets et des actions pour la protection des ressources naturelles et la régénération des zones littorales et maritimes. L'organisation CMN entend promouvoir le développement durable et préserver l'environnement maritime et la culture basée sur le contact avec la mer Méditerranée.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

CMN	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

CMN	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

CMN	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

CMN	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
	SUBMON	Spain	SUBMON works to preserve marine biodiversity and to reach a sustainable use of the marine environment through promoting a change in the relationship between society and the ocean, conducting actions in situ and sharing knowledge.
	SUBMON	Espagne	SUBMON œuvre pour préserver la biodiversité marine et parvenir à une utilisation durable du milieu marin en favorisant un changement dans la relation entre la société et l'océan, en menant des actions in situ et en partageant les connaissances.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

SUBMON	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

SUBMON	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

SUBMON	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

SUBMON	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

SUBMON	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

SUBMON	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√

be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques
Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

SUBMON	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:
Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

SUBMON	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
	Marevivo	Italy	Based on volunteering and fundraising Marevivo fights for the respect of the marine ecosystem, for its cleanliness, for educational purposes, sustainability, development cooperation and social solidarity especially in the regards of the third world.
	Marevivo	Italie	Basé sur le bénévolat et la collecte de fonds, Marevivo se bat pour le respect de l'écosystème marin, pour sa propreté, pour finalité éducative, durabilité, développement coopération et solidarité sociale notamment en ce qui concerne du tiers monde.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

Marevivo	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

Marevivo	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques
Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

Marevivo	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

Marevivo	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
	All For Blue	Greece	All For Blue's mission is to connect people to the ocean through educational outreach programs and community cleanups. Also, raise awareness about sharks and the reason why a healthy marine ecosystem is vital for all. It also aims at directly reducing ocean pollution by actively removing litter from the ocean and beaches and encouraging ocean- friendly sustainable lifestyle choices.
	Tout pour le bleu	Grèce	La mission de Tout pour le bleu est de connecter les gens à l'océan par le biais de programmes de sensibilisation et de nettoyages communautaires. Sensibilisez également aux requins et à la raison pour laquelle un écosystème marin sain est vital pour tous. Il vise également à réduire directement la pollution des océans en éliminant activement les déchets de l'océan et des plages et en encourageant des choix de vie durables respectueux de l'océan.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

All For Blue	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

All For Blue	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√

be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√
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Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques
Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

All For Blue	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

All For Blue	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
WOC	World Ocean Council	U.S.A	The World Ocean Council – the Global Blue Economy Business and Investment Organization - brings together the multi-sector Ocean Business Community to catalyze leadership, collaboration and action in ocean sustainable development and “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”.
WOC	World Ocean Council	États-Unis	Le World Ocean Council – l’Organisation mondiale des entreprises et des investissements de l’économie bleue - rassemble la communauté multisectorielle des entreprises océaniques pour catalyser le leadership, la collaboration et l’action en faveur du développement durable des océans et de la « responsabilité océanique des entreprises ».

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l’accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d’ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d’observateur

WOC	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	√
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

WOC	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d’action dans le cadre du Plan d’action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d’appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d’un projet ou d’un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d’activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d’un événement ou d’une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d’activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d’expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan’s different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

WOC	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√ [WOC is based in U.S.A., but has members with headquarters or regional offices in a Mediterranean country (e.g. Orange), as well as MoUs with Mediterranean organizations (Tunisian Maritime Cluster (CMT), SETAP Tunisia (Studies and Pilotage Company), Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV))]
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

WOC	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√