





## **MCS D Programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011**

### **1. Introduction**

The overall objective of the biennial programme is to support MSSD implementation through complementary and coordinated initiatives at the regional and national levels as indicated in the MSSD Implementation Plan.

The proposed activities are in line with the decisions of the Contracting Parties and consistent with the multi-year thematic programme of work for the MCS D (2005-2011) as approved by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, 2005 as well as the recently prepared 5 year and biennial programme of work of MAP.

The programme is structured in three interrelated components that feed three priority themes proposed for the 5 year MAP programme of work: governance, ecosystem management and climate change. Due consideration is given to climate change and sustainable production and consumption issues, which feature prominently also in the Almeria Declaration.

- 1. Organization of efficient MCS D and its Steering Committee Meetings.*
- 2. In-depth assessment of MSSD*
- 3. Mainstreaming sustainable development issues in national policies, including national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs).*
- 4. Thematic issues as indicated in the multi-annual MCS D programme of work for 2010, including climate change*

### **2. Governance**

#### ***2.1 One key activity to be implemented during the next biennium is the in-depth assessment of the MSSD.***

In accordance with the multi-annual MCS D programme of work approved by the Contracting Parties in 2005 and the calls by the MSSD for an in-depth assessment every five years, an overall review of the MSSD should be carried out during the 2010-2011 biennium. The process for this assessment has been discussed by the MCS D Steering Committee and the ECP. The assessment will be carried out by an external entity. The MCS D and the Steering Committee will be involved throughout the process. The Terms of Reference of the assessment, as approved by the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting, are presented as Annex to this document.

#### ***2.2 Organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> MCS D meeting and the MCS D Steering committee meetings***

As per Decision IG 15/5 on the Governance paper and Rules of procedure of the MCS D, two Steering Committee meetings and one meeting of the MCS D will be organized during the 2010-2011 biennium.

The objective is to ensure a successful operation of the MCS D, the monitoring of the MSSD implementation, as well as an efficient, effective and timely delivery of the MCS D programme of work. The content of the MCS D meeting will largely build upon the outputs of the activities contained in this proposal including activities envisaged to be implemented in the framework of the multi annual thematic MCS D programme of work as well as recommendations and issues emerging from different sustainable development fora and meetings, as appropriate.

The Secretariat will develop closer and more continuous interactions with the Steering Committee, instituting a regular dialogue that would contribute to:

- Improving the functioning of the MCSD between two sessions;
- Developing synergies between the MCSD and other regional and international initiatives and processes;
- Identifying and structuring issues that cannot emerge in a one-off meeting, and possibly deciding on the topics and the way of addressing them during the biennial MCSD meetings.

In addition, the Secretariat as described in the Progress report document UNEP ( DEPI) MED WG 339/3, with a view to implementing the Governance paper's chapter on MCSD, intends to prepare a consolidated version of MCSD constituency documents including rules of procedure for MCSD meetings.

The current multi-annual thematic MCSD programme of work covers the period 2005-2011. As required by the Governance Paper, the MCSD should work according to a multi annual working plan that should focus on sectorial issues and cross sectorial issues. The process of the preparation of the new multi annual MCSD programme of work will be strongly based on and linked to the over all MSSD assessment process.

Whereas the MCSD's role and functioning is familiar to MAP, it remains less known in other fora and international policy dialogues. In this regard, the MCSD leaflet (2001) will be updated on the basis of the MCSD mandate approved in Almeria and a specific MCSD brief will be prepared for decision-makers, in particular those outside the ministries of the environment. The activity under this objective is intended to contribute to increasing the visibility of the MCSD throughout the region and beyond, in particular among decision-makers involved in the newly emerging initiatives or programmes that pertain to sustainable development in the region.

Activities will be also undertaken to coordinate and support national studies on the integration of the MSSD provisions in public policies, production of leaflets summarizing key data regarding the MSSD implementation as well as revision of the MSSD priority indicators.

### **3. Mainstreaming sustainable development issues in national policies, including national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs).**

As reported in the Progress report by the Secretariat (UNEP DEPI(MED)WG339/3), the secretariat has supported a number of countries to formulate NSSD. The proposed activities are intended to support national policy processes as well as sub-regional positioning to address two major sustainable development challenges that constitute thematic clusters of the CSD implementation cycle 2010-2011:

- i. adaptation to climate change;
- ii. sustainable production and consumption (SPC)

The activities will be undertaken at national and regional levels. In the three to four pilot countries, the programme will support national process aimed at increasing convergence and coherence of the policies, legal frameworks, economic instruments and institutional frameworks that pertain to climate change and/or sustainable consumption and production.

The experience gained in the pilot countries will be shared throughout the region. For this purpose, one working session on "challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming SD issues in national policies" will be organized in 2010, enabling the pilot countries to exchange experience with those previously involved in NSSD formulation. This working session will also be the opportunity to discuss how to address sub-regional and national commonalities. In addition, a regional workshop on "preparation and implementation of mainstreaming SD issues" will be held in early 2011 and will

involve participants from the entire region and stakeholders representing all groups of interest for the MCSD.

These activities will be implemented in cooperation with the other concerned RACs.

#### **4. Thematic issues**

MAP programme of work 2010-2011 contains a number of outputs related to Climate Change and Ecosystem management priority themes which are in line with the themes of the multi-annual MCSD programme of work for the cycle 2010-2011:

##### Urban mobility and sustainable transport

- *Prepare an overview of the situation of the urban mobility in the Mediterranean*
- *Draft a scenario promoting sustainable transport modes in the Mediterranean*

##### Water

- *Set a regional water saving objective by 2025*
- *Analyze the adaptation to climate change of the Water/Energy sectors*

##### Climate change impact

- *Test Climate change impact indicators*
- *Study the consequences of climate change on coastal zones*
- *Synthesize the hydro geological foreseeable changes in the Mediterranean Basin in a changing climate*
- *Evaluate the impact of climate change on biodiversity in the SPAs and propose indicators and monitoring methods*

##### Tourism

- *Estimate the economic social and ecological footprint of pilot destinations for tourism*
- *Prepare a study on tourism and air traffic in the Mediterranean*

##### Energy efficiency

- *Identify energy efficiency indicators relevant for the Mediterranean*
- *Analyze the potential for improving energy efficiency in buildings*
- *Draft an energy scenario representing a shift towards a low carbon economy*
- *Promote low carbon methodology and sectoral guidelines (industry, tourism, shipping, transport and mobility, agriculture, urban and spatial planning).*

## Annex

### **In-depth assessment on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) for the period 2005-2010 Terms of Reference**

#### **A. Background**

The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established in 1995 in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to assist them in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in their socio-economic programmes and, in so doing, promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. The Commission is unique in its composition in as much as government representatives, local communities, socio-economic actors, IGOs, NGOs, members of the scientific community participate on an equal footing. Eminent experts in the field of topics of the MCSD meeting agenda also take part.

The MCSD is a forum for debate with essentially the following missions:-

1. assist Mediterranean countries and other stakeholders active in the region in the adoption and implementation of sustainable development policies, including the integration of environmental considerations into other policies;
2. ensure the follow-up of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) implementation through appropriate tools, mechanisms and criteria, that would better enhance an efficient follow-up function;
3. promote the exchange of experience and good practices regarding the integration of environmental and socio-economic policies, as well as examples which show the application of international sustainable development commitments at suitable scales in different countries;
4. identify the obstacles encountered and support regional and sub-regional cooperation for the effective implementation of the sustainable development principle;
5. propose recommendations to be adopted by the contracting Parties of the Barcelona convention
6. coordinate the periodical drafting of the report on the state of implementation of the MCSD recommendations;
7. produce opinions of the overall MAP Work Programme and the functioning of the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) with the aim of integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP/Barcelona Convention system as a whole.

At their 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, November, 2001) the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided, in line with the WSSD process, to prepare a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and requested the MCSD to undertake this task. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Athens, July 2002) endorsed the initiative. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, during their 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Portoroz in November, 2005 adopted the MSSD.

The MSSD is a framework strategy. Its purpose is to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies and to initiate a dynamic partnership between countries at different levels of development. It has four main objectives established with the aim of promoting progress towards sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental areas and in the field of governance. Seven independent priority fields of action and synergy are identified in which it is essential to make real progress. In the development of the Strategy, valuable input was provided by the various MAP components as well as other Mediterranean cooperation networks. In order to assess its implementation, the MSSD calls for the establishment of a two-year monitoring cycle and an in-depth assessment every five years, the

first of which in 2010 which will constitute a special assessment for the third World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Over the last five years, with the financial support of countries and organizations, the MCSD provided guidance and assistance to a number of Contracting Parties to develop their NSSD. The MCSD also focussed on key thematic issues. Working groups discussed and came up with proposals to the meetings of the MCSD for action on water demand management, Energy, the sustainable management of coastal areas, tourism and sustainable development, agriculture and rural development, urban development, transport and urban mobility and climate change, among others. 34 priority indicators for measuring sustainable development have also been developed.

## **B. Purpose and objectives**

The purpose of this assignment is to evaluate the work done so far and provide the members of the MCSD and the Contracting Parties with an Assessment Document showing the level of implementation of the MSSD since it was adopted in 2005, specifically assessing the following:

1. *the progress made in the achievement of the objectives of the MSSD and for promoting progress towards sustainability in the economic, social and environmental areas and in the field of governance.*
2. *the activities carried out for the attainment of progress in the MSSD seven priority fields of action, assessing also the challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt, and make recommendations for possible amendments and updating of the MSSD.*
3. the performance of the MAP system in supporting the MSSD implementation as well as how resources have been allocated, how the chain of command has been effective, how the different actors have performed and how the implementation process has been monitored.
4. the extent to which the MSSD objectives, in particular the priority fields of action, are integrated in the programme of work of the various MAP components and how the MCSD could integrate new objectives in line with the regional political agenda ( ie the Union for the Mediterranean initiative).

It also is expected to provide with an opinion on the real influential role of the MCSD specially at the policy makers level in the field of sustainable development.

## **C. Scope and tasks**

The main focus of the assessment will be the evaluation of the implementation of the MSSD for the period 2005-2010. It is expected that the evaluation will assess the attainment of the outcomes, identify achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt; and most importantly make recommendations for incorporating the lessons learnt into a planning process for the updating of the MSSD and its method of implementation in particular with regard to the relationship between the MSSD and the programme of work of MAP.

To achieve the purpose and objectives of this assignment, the following tasks should be implemented:-

1. carry out a desk study and review of relevant documents;
2. assess the implementation of the MCSD recommendations;
3. interview selected key actors and stakeholders to assess the authenticity of the findings including representatives of the Contracting Parties, UNEP/DEPI, members of the MCSD from all categories, Directors of the Regional Activity Centres and others who, in the opinion of the Consultant, could provide valuable insight and make valuable contributions to the assessment;
4. evaluate the level of contribution and performance of the MAP components, including the Coordination Unit, the different RACs, the Steering Committee and the MCSD itself in supporting the implementation of the MSSD;

5. undertake an in-depth review of the four objectives of the MSSD to determine whether they have contributed to promoting sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental areas at the regional and national levels;
6. assess the progress made in the activities carried out in the seven priority fields of the MSSD;
7. write a comprehensive and analytical assessment report;
8. propose amendments for the updating of the MSSD to bring it in line with current policies on sustainable development and in synergy with the orientations of the UNCSD and the new international context;
9. present key findings to the Executive Coordination Panel and to the members of the MCSD.