





## **DRAFT VISION AND STRATEGIC STATEMENT**

The Mediterranean Action Plan has, since its inception in 1975, constituted a unique approach for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean within the framework of the Barcelona Convention adopted 30 years ago by the twenty-one riparian countries and the European Community.

The main objective of the Mediterranean Action Plan is to contribute to the process of achieving sustainable development by promoting and coordinating the activities of the countries in the Mediterranean region to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and to protect and enhance the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

In the implementation of its activities towards sustainable development, MAP will act in conformity with the fundamental principles and provisions of the Barcelona Convention including the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle, best environmental practice and best available techniques, environmental impact assessment, and integrated management of the coastal zone.

In line with its objective, MAP's vision for the future is of a healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment managed in a sustainable manner based on the ecosystems approach, supporting a variety of economic social and recreational activities with a rich and protected biodiversity, for the enjoyment of all the peoples living in and visiting the Mediterranean region.

In pursuance of its objective and vision MAP has identified the following strategic directions for the period 2008 – 2015:

1. Increase its activities in assisting the Contracting Parties in ratifying and implementing the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols helping them to formulate their national environmental policies while at the same time promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms;
2. Enhance its contribution towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean through local, national, regional, sub-regional and global partnerships and initiatives with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
3. Reduce pollution of the Mediterranean marine environment from land-based sources and conserve biological diversity by assisting the countries in the long-term implementation of the adopted strategic programmes SAP/MED and SAP/BIO and their related measures.

4. Coordinate in an effective manner the activities of the Regional Activity Centres, including their fundraising efforts, to ensure that they are planned and implemented in a mutually reinforcing manner, carrying out also annual evaluations of the implementation of their work plans;
5. Promote, as appropriate, the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities as the basis of its future initiatives including those of its components providing also support to the countries for capacity building to implement the ecosystem approach;
6. Contribute through appropriate partnerships and synergies towards the effective application of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals in particular to ensure environmental sustainability;
7. Establish an effective and mutually beneficial collaboration with the European Union, and in particular the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, for the attainment of common objectives for the benefit of the Mediterranean region;
8. Promote synergies with other Regional Seas Programmes for developing common regional objectives and coordinated regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives and responsibilities of other UN agencies and other international actors, as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment;
9. Establish closer working relationships with donors and international financing institutions in order to develop a strong environmental financing framework for the implementation of sustainable development activities at the regional level;
10. Develop synergy and complementarity with programmes and initiatives of other relevant international global and regional organisations through cooperation and coordination of activities and the participation in relevant national, regional and global fora;
11. Enhance its visibility and political clout at the global and regional level as well as in the countries of the Mediterranean through the development of information and communication policies in order to raise public awareness on the economic, social and environmental importance of coastal and marine resources;
12. Support knowledge-based policy making, enhanced public participation, education, awareness and improved reporting on the state of the coastal and marine environment, its resources and possible threats to them, through amongst others, contributing to appropriate national and regional monitoring activities;
13. Reinforce its cooperation with national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations through their active involvement in its activities in order to give due consideration to the views of civil society and the private sector in its decision making process.

