



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.383/3
22 May 2013

Original: ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

15th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission
on Sustainable Development

Malta, 10-12 June 2013

Rio+20 follow up for and around Mediterranean Sea
Why and how Mediterranean region should/could be at the forefront?

Rio+20 follow up for and around Mediterranean Sea

Why and how Mediterranean region should/could be at the forefront?

This paper aims at proposing food for thoughts on Rio+20 in the Mediterranean. Based on this paper, other elements and discussion between its members, Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development may issue recommendations on how to implement Rio+20 in the Mediterranean. This paper has been drafted by Plan Bleu and benefited from inputs by other MAP components.

Context

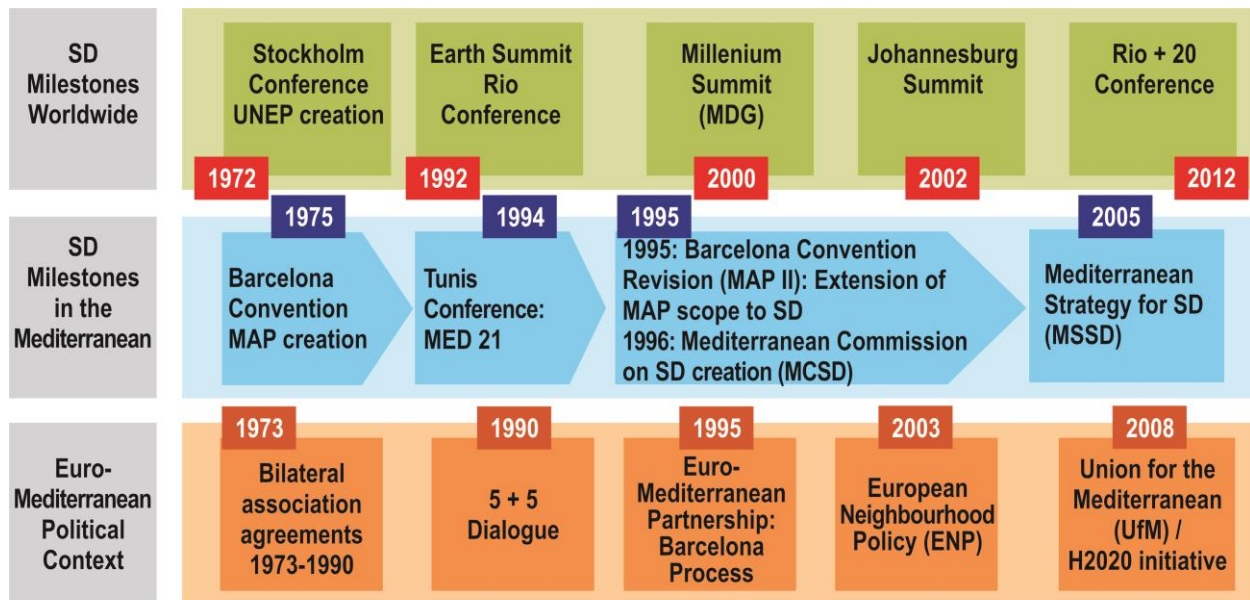
In decision 13 of Paris COP (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG 20/8), Parties :

- *Recognized the role of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in providing a useful multi-partner platform to contribute to regional sustainable development and provide a valuable advice to Contracting Parties in this regard, however emphasizing the need for better focusing the MCSD contribution to the MAP system taking into consideration the results of the discussions to be held in Rio+20*
- *Invited the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) to work, taking into consideration the availability of funds in consultation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and with the assistance of the Secretariat, on reforming the MCSD in particular through (i) revising its composition to ensure greater representativeness and foster a sense of ownership by the entire Mediterranean; and, sharpening its role and further enhancing its contribution to sustainable development in the Mediterranean and the national level as well as the mechanisms of Barcelona Convention and present the results for adoption by the Parties. To this end, the conclusions and recommendations of its 14th meeting (Budva, Montenegro, 2011), as well as the upcoming Results of the Rio+20 Summit (2012) should be considered, as appropriate.*

The conclusions and recommendations of MCSD 14th meeting requested inter alia requested to develop a more detailed programme of work around implementation of MSSD including related activities such as the adaptation to climate change framework, SCP, ICZM and all work of the MAP and its Regional Activity Centers related to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), along with the new activities towards RIO+20, preparation activities towards the revised MSSD etc.

The summarized recommendations of the Assessment on the Implementation of the MSSD (ref to be added) suggested to develop a roadmap for the revision of MSSD.

It is important to understand the “history” of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu 22 Note (See http://www.planbleu.org/publications/8p22_20ans_dd_EN.pdf) provides useful insights, for instance the following figure. It shows the articulation between sustainable development milestones at global and Mediterranean levels. Considering this, it seems advisable to build on Rio+20 outputs for MSSD revision.



SD = Sustainable Development; MAP = Mediterranean Action Plan

The Rio+20 declaration “The future we want” mentions green economy in the context of poverty reduction, introduced Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) concept and the fact that they will replace and/or complement MDG after 2015, and adopted Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) program. In Annex II, a table proposes an identification of elements in Rio+20 declaration that are of particular importance in the Mediterranean context. MSSD revision process should make clear how these elements will be taken into account. Inter alia, Aichi objectives, climate change adaptation, green economy, SCP should be introduced and/or consolidated in MSSD revision.

The revision process should also pay a specific attention to the regional organizations that may be involved. In above mentioned decision 13 of the 17th CoP held in Paris, Parties requested “the Secretariat, in prior consultation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, to prepare formal collaboration with the GFCM, CBD, IUCN and UfM and, as stipulated in article 11 of its Terms of Reference and to initiate cooperation and partnership with other relevant regional and global Organizations, as appropriate, and to present the results for adoption by the Parties”.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with some of these organizations have already been drafted or signed. This will be very interesting for MSSD revision insofar as it will facilitate the involvement of those organisations in MSSD revision and implementation.

Consideration about “MSSD 1.0”

MSSD 1.0 was developed thanks to a vast and systemic regional foresight study (A sustainable future for the Mediterranean: the Blue Plan's environment and development outlook: <http://www.planbleu.org/red/main.php?page=6&language=en&hideSm=1>). MSSD 1.0 is available at http://www.planbleu.org/publications/smdd_uk.pdf . The four major objectives are:

1. Contribute to economic development by enhancing mediterranean assets
2. Reduce social disparities by implementing the millennium development goals and strengthen cultural identities
3. Change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources
4. Improve governance at the local, national and regional levels

Basically those are linked to the three pillars of sustainable development and to the governance issues. They remain of course valid now. Similarly the seven priority fields of action are still pertinent:

1. better management of water resources and demand;
2. improved rational use of energy, increased renewable energy use and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
3. sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management;
4. sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector;
5. sustainable agriculture and rural development;
6. sustainable urban development; and
7. sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources.

Concerning the indicators, Plan Bleu produce every two year a MSSD follow up:

http://www.planbleu.org/publications/Indicateurs_SMDD_2011_EN.pdf

The recommendations of the Assessment on the Implementation of the MSSD relate mainly to the indicators and the implementation processes especially the links with regional, national and local processes.

Key points of MSSD revision

It seems necessary to revise MSSD by 2015 according to Rio+20 and to events that took place in Mediterranean since 2005. Thus MSSD 2.0 would probably have to be developed without a specific foresight study as it was done in 2005.

The revision process should build on MSSD strengths and take into account the recommendations of the Assessment on the Implementation of the MSSD and Rio+20 outputs. Hence MSSD objectives and priority fields of action will not be reopened. The revision process may mainly concentrate on the following four issues/tasks:

1. Let MSSD be more effective
2. Better monitoring
3. Consolidating MAP relationships with other regional organizations to improve the implementation of MSSD
4. Looking beyond (Med 2050)

A very preliminary roadmap for MSSD revision is available in Annex 1.

Let MSSD be more effective

For that purpose, MSSD 1.0 may be “kept as it is” and transversal axes that would integrate the structure of MSSD 1.0 may be proposed for MSSD 2.0. In MSSD 1.0, the 7th priority field of action (sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources) is already transversal and is being implemented through MAP ecosystem approach roadmap (see Decision IG.20/4) and Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol (called later in the text ICZM Action plan, see Decision IG 20/2 for more details). MAP ecosystem approach and ICZM Action Plan are good candidates to be MSSD 2.0 axes. MSSD 2.0 transversal axes should allow to focus efforts on specific targets without forgetting the global picture.

Considering Rio+20 declaration, COP decision, existing MAP Programm of Work, MSSD 2.0 axes may be:

1. Aichi objectives / Good environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems. This axis will correspond to MAP ecosystem approach roadmap.
2. ICZM. This axis will correspond to ICZM action plan.
3. Green economy. This axis is not yet as developed as the previous ones. The

roadmap on SCP for the Mediterranean to be developed by Switch Med project will contribute to its development. Other activities may be developed under this axis by MAP components and/or MAP partners.

4. Adaptation to climate change. This axis will be the Mediterranean climate change adaptation strategic framework requested by the Parties. Work on this axis will include: building synergies between existing climate change adaptation project, developing or disseminating tools and methods to facilitate adaptation, and promoting development that would cope with expected climate change impacts. The project "Integration of Climate Variability and Change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol" will contribute to this axis. Beyond climate change adaptation issues, this axis may tackle "Resilience" issues.

Above mentioned axis are not meant to be exhaustive and to tackle all sustainable development issues at the Mediterranean level. Other axes may be later defined and taken up by partner organization.

Parties may validate through a CoP decision those 4 axes (or amended axes following discussion in MCSD and MAP focal point meetings. In 2014 and 2015, MAP system together with its partners would develop MSSD 2.0 along those axes. For axes 1 and 2, the way ahead is relatively clear since it has been already discussed in Paris CoP. For axis 3 and 4 dedicated work is needed. This development would use outputs of foresight studies (for instance MedPro, <http://www.medpro-foresight.eu/fr>). Depending of Parties' wishes, MAP system may concentrate his efforts on the marine aspect of the first axis without forgetting the links between axes.

Better monitoring

MSSD 1.0 indicators (http://www.planbleu.org/publications/Indicateurs_SMDD_2011_EN.pdf) will have to be modified according to recommendations made by the Assessment on the Implementation of MSSD and to MSSD evolution described ahead. This monitoring part may be in way the Axis 0 of MSSD 2.0.

Axis 0 development could contribute to SDG development at global level (bottom up approach). For instance water efficiency indicator used in Mediterranean basin could be of great interest at the global level. Conversely it will be necessary to see how to adapt global SDG at the Med level (top down approach). One component of this better monitoring may be an update of the state of environment and development that was published in 2009.

MSSD monitoring will also have to encompass ECAP Targets and indicators under SCP Roadmap to be developed. Beyond indicators it would also important to better identify actions and projects that contribute to sustainable development. This should be made with partners.

MSSD implementation beyond MAP

For MSSD to be implemented, MAP should reinforce partnerships with other regional organizations and develop new ones. Some organizations may take responsibility for the follow up of MSSD implementation along one axis. MCSD reform may also be a way to involve new partners.

Looking beyond (MED 2050)

As mentioned before, MSSD 2.0 will not be built on a regional foresight study as it was done for MSSD 1.0. Nevertheless in parallel with MSSD revision, it seems important to think about such a study that would be necessary for MSSD 3.0.

“MED 2050 - Possible paths from now to 2050 for Mediterranean area” main purpose would be to explore possible futures from now to 2050 for the Mediterranean area demonstrating properly:

1. the risks and the costs of ‘non-implementation’ of measures aiming to protect the marine and coastal environment and prevent its degradation.
2. the benefits of ‘implementation

Med 2050 would feature few scenarios. Preliminary thoughts would lead to five scenarios. One would be business as usual and four would come through the combination of 2 parameters:

1. Cooperation between med countries (at political and economic levels) vs. No cooperation
2. Pro-active environmental policies vs. no more environmental policies

It would also be of crucial importance to articulate scales of analyses:

1. to explore possible futures in the Mediterranean area, it is not possible to work only at the regional level
2. links with IPBES and IPCC to be also sought.

Med2050 would be an occasion to strengthen links between MAP and academic institutions working on sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean. It may play for MAP the role played by IPCC for UNFCCC.

In 2014-2015, Med 2050 may be further defined: partners (especially academic), funds... If MCSD finds Med 2050 pertinent and if Parties wish so, Med 2050 may be officially launched at Barcelona Convention COP in 2015.

Annex I

MSSD revision preliminary roadmap

Spring 2014

Electronic consultation of MCSD members to constitute an expert group that will help MAP components to draft the MSSD 2.0 along the axes decided by Istanbul COP. This group should be geographically and thematically balanced. MAP components and main MAP partner organization will take part to this group. It may be limited to 20 members to keep it manageable. Sub groups may be defined to work on specific axis.

Between May and February 2014

3 to 5 expert group meetings to draft MSSD 2.0. MSSD to be consulted for guidance / comments electronically during the process. Virtual platform will be put online to facilitate collaboration.

April 2014

Draft MSSD 2.0 submitted to MAP Focal Points meeting for initial comments.

May 2014

Expert group meeting to integrate comments and propose a new MSSD 2.0 draft

June 2014

MSSD 2.0 Draft submitted to MCSD meeting for finalization.

September 2014

MSSD 2.0 submitted to MAP focal point meeting

January 2015

MSSD 2.0 submitted to CoP for endorsement.

Annex II

Structure of the declaration "the future we want"	Key points. Remarks and/or possible work lines for MAP
I. Our common vision	Overarching objectives of SD: poverty eradication, SCPs, NRM and protection as base for economic and social development
II. Renewing political commitment	
A. Reaffirming the Rio Principles and past action plans	Common but differentiated responsibilities: only Rio principles explicitly mentioned. Compare to texts mentioned here, BC Protocols, MSSD, SAP Med, SAP Bio are relatively operational.
B. Advancing integration, implementation and coherence: assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges	Beyond GDP. Restore ecosystems' health. MSSD indicators, Med Footprint, Good environmental status (GES) to be reached through ECAP project.
C. Engaging major groups and other stakeholders	Major groups, private sector, women. Need to reinvigorate MCSD (particular attention should be paid to scientific community and local authorities)
III. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication	Green economy to help the transition towards SD. Possible dedicated chapter in the MSSD 2.0 with focus on jobs and finance.
IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development	
A. Strengthening the three dimensions of sustainable development	Strengthening coherence. Build stronger partnerships with other regional actors (UfM, GFCM, CIHEAM, CMI, UICN, FAO/Silva Mediterranea,...)
B. Strengthening intergovernmental arrangements for sustainable development	
General Assembly	No change
Economic and Social Council	No change
High-level political forum	Replace UNCSD, could be an example for MCSD
C. Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development	Better articulation between MEAs. Build stronger link between MAP environment report and GEO Outlook, consolidate links with global MEAs
D. International financial institutions and United Nations operational activities	"Delivering as one". Build stronger link with UNDP and World Bank at Med Level.

Structure of the declaration "the future we want"	Key points. Remarks and/or possible work lines for MAP
E. Regional, national, subnational and local levels	Focus on UN regional commissions, Green Bridge Partnership. Med key location between Europe, Africa and Middle East, Extension of Green Bridge Partnership to Med
V. Framework for action and follow-up	
A. Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues	
Poverty eradication	MDG. Job creation is the key, thus socio-economic impacts of environmental policies and measures are key.
Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture	Pertinent for Med, CIHEAM may propose an axis in MSSD 2.0
Water and sanitation	JPOI, Flood. Med Water demand management forum under preparation. Should something on risks (flood, drought, ...) be open ?
Energy	Energy access, energy efficiency. Energy efficiency indicators, Maritime Spatial Planning, Marine energy
Sustainable tourism	Med Sustainable Tourism Label or Charter
Sustainable transport	Maritime highways (UfM project)
Sustainable cities and human settlements	Waste included here. Urban framework strategy in preparation by UfM.
Health and population	"Environmental health" not highlighted here...
Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protections	ILO. Corporate social responsibilities among Med Companies, opportunity with ASCAME under Green Econol.
Oceans and seas	RFMOs mentioned, not Regional Sea Program, beyond national jurisdiction, regular process, Maximum Sustainable Yield, Aichi (10 % MPA). Consolidate link with GFCMs, GES through ECAP project, SAP BIO revision
Small island developing States	
Least developed countries	
Landlocked developing countries	
Africa	NEPAD. Mediterranean as a bridge between Europe and Africa not a fence.
Regional efforts	Med not explicitly mentioned. However MSSD is such an effort...

Structure of the declaration "the future we want"	Key points. Remarks and/or possible work lines for MAP
Disaster risk reduction	Early warning system may be developed in Med.
Climate change	Nairobi Action Plan. Climate Adaptation Framework Strategy to be included in MSSD 2.0.
Forests	UNFF, CPF. MCPF, new strategy in preparation, state of Med Forests published by FAO with Plan Bleu Collaboration.
Biodiversity	CDB, benefit sharing, CITES, IPBES. Whereas IPCC was relatively to down, IPBES may be bottom up. In this context, what contribution of Med?
Desertification, land degradation and drought	UNCCD. Real stake in Med, nothing really done at the Med level for the time being.
Mountains	?
Chemicals and waste	SAICM. To be discussed with MEDPOL and CP/RAC
Sustainable consumption and production	10YFP adopted. Switch Med, SCP to be a sub-axis of MSSD 2.0
Mining	?
Education	?
Gender equality and women's empowerment	?
B. Sustainable development goals	To "replace" and/or "complement" MDG after 2015. Develop Med SDG to monitor MSSD 2.0.
VI. Means of implementation	
A. Finance	Prioritize SD in resources allocation, ODA, GEF.
B. Technology	Technology Transfer, Space-technology-based data, Strengthen Science Policy Interface. More GMES in Med ?
C. Capacity-building	Horizon 2020 follow up.
D. Trade	WTO. Assess the impact of trade liberalization at Med level?
E. Registry of commitments	To be articulated with UfM label