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Information note - Development of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean-

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Information note

Development of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean

Purpose of this information note

At their 18th Ordinary Meeting (COP 18) in Istanbul, in December 2013, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a Decision on the Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) for the Mediterranean (Decision IG. 21/10).

This Action Plan is to give SCP tools and instruments *to effectively implement the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols*, in synergy with other Barcelona Convention on-going processes such as the review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

This note is meant to inform the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) members about the development of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean until now, and to engage them in finding synergies in the implementation of the reviewed MSSD and the SCP Action Plan.

SCP in the Global policy processes

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the notion of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production first came to the fore. World leaders acknowledged that “the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production” (UN, 1992). The final declaration of the Rio conference affirmed that in order to achieve sustainable development, SCP needed to be adopted.

At the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), SCP was recognized as a central concept for achieving sustainable development and was identified as one of the overarching objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

At the Rio+20 Summit (Rio de Janeiro, 2012), Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production was an overarching objective of, and essential requirement for sustainable development. They also reiterated that fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. Accordingly, they strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) – as stated in paragraph 226 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”.

Progressive integration SCP in the Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention

The 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention recognise the importance of switching to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production in order to achieve sustainable development. They have been progressively integrating SCP within the regular implementation programmes of the Convention and defining biennial SCP programmes of work. The main milestones of this process are listed in the table below:

2005	Approval of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which establishes SCP as a major cross-cutting objective to attain sustainable development
2008	1st Mediterranean Roundtable on SCP held in Barcelona
2009	SCP identified as one of the six thematic priorities of MAP's Five-Year Programme 2010-2014
2011	Strengthening SCP actions is requested in the 14 th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD)
2012	Reaffirmation of the commitment of the Barcelona Convention to “ <i>support, at Mediterranean level, capacity building and other activities associated with green economy as means to achieve sustainable development, such as the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns</i> ” (COP 17, Paris Declaration)
2013	Request by the Contracting Parties for the preparation of a specific Mediterranean SCP Action Plan The Istanbul Declaration adopted at the 18 th Conference of Parties reiterates the need for the Contracting Parties to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns
2014	“Transition towards a green economy, including Sustainable Production and Consumption” constitutes one of the 6 proposed cross-cutting areas of the MSSD review process

Table 1: Milestones of the recognition of SCP by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention

The above mentioned milestones clearly reflect the forefront position of the Mediterranean region in addressing SCP. Since 2005 many actions have been developed through the main programmes for regional cooperation (e.g. MAP, Horizon 2020, MedPartnership) to raise awareness about SCP and to provide capacity building and technical assistance to the countries of the region.

Moreover, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention acknowledged SCP tools and instruments as means to reach the main objectives of the Convention (Decision IG. 21/10), stating that they:

- are well anchored in the articles of the LBS Protocol, such as Article 5.4, which provides for the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) whose definition in Annex IV of the Protocol provides for SCP tools to phase out inputs of the substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulate; as well as Article 9.(c) according to which countries shall promote access to and transfer of cleaner production technology, a term that now includes Resource Efficiency according to UNEP,
- provide relevant tools for the implementation of Article 5.2 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol according to which Parties shall take all appropriate measures to reduce to a minimum, and where possible eliminate, the generation of hazardous wastes,
- are central to the implementation of Article 9 of the ICZM Protocol on the sustainable development of economic activities in the immediate proximity to, or within, the coastal zones (e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, infrastructure, industry, mineral exploitation, recreational activities, seawater for desalination, tourism), for which planning and management require an appropriate mix of regulatory, technical, economic, and market oriented measures.

During their 18th ordinary meeting (COP 18) in Istanbul, in December 2013, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Decision on the Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production for the Mediterranean (Decision IG. 21/101), with the following statements (excerpts):

- ***Request the Secretariat to prepare [...] with the support of the SCP/RAC and timely and constant involvement of relevant National Focal Points, a Mediterranean SCP Action Plan including the corresponding Roadmap, addressing the Region's common priorities for sustainable development, including pollution reduction; and identifying SCP actions and tools to effectively implement the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;***
- ***Further request that the Action Plan be designed as a dynamic and forward-looking framework, integrating the potential of the different policy instruments and measures addressing targeted human activities which have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment and related transversal/cross-cutting issues;***
- ***Urge the Secretariat to ensure that the Action Plan proposes a set of actions to work in synergy with and complement existing regional and national policy frameworks addressing the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and in particular the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.***

Likewise, the Parties approved the Decision supporting the review of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) (Decision IG.21/11), reaffirming thus the commitment of the Barcelona Convention towards sustainable development. They *requested the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD integrates the strategic orientations of the SCP Action Plan and other relevant policies.*

Finally, the Istanbul Declaration adopted at COP 18 stated the need for the Contracting Parties to “strengthen their commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns by adopting an Action Plan on SCP, which is in line with the commitments adopted at Rio+20 and which aims to reduce the impacts of human activities in the marine and coastal ecosystems”.

The development of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean: from Istanbul to Athens

Following the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to prepare the SCP Action Plan, a process has been developed in order to elaborate the Action Plan and its implementation roadmap for approval by the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 19th Ordinary Meeting (COP 19). The process includes a consultation phase, in compliance with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties that *a broad participatory process, with active involvement of all key SCP stakeholders and partners, is central to the development of an SCP Action Plan adapted to the reality of the Mediterranean region,*

This phase began on October 1st and 2nd 2014 in Marseille with an on-site consultation involving around 40 international, international and Mediterranean organisations promoting SCP. The participants were invited to elaborate and provide inputs on challenges, possible actions and key stakeholders to be involved in the Action Plan implementation. This meeting was held back to back with the Expert Workshop on Green Economy in the framework of the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, organised by Plan Bleu.

¹ Full text of the decision available at:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/6tlhr7wlf70qhc6/Decision%20COP%20Istanbul_SCP%20Action%20Plan.pdf?dl=0

Following the Marseille Meeting, an on-line consultation corner was set up within the SWITCH-Med platform. The online contributors have been invited to complement the outcomes of the Marseille meeting.

Based on the results of the in-situ and online consultation process described above, SCP/RAC prepared, in close collaboration with the MAP Coordinating Unit and with the support of the Mediterranean SCP Expert Group, a first draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean to be submitted for a first revision by the SCP/RAC National Focal Points, the government-designated representatives competent to deal with SCP related matters under the Barcelona Convention.

The SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean is built around the following vision:

“By 2027 a prosperous Mediterranean region is established, with circular, socially inclusive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, ensuring the well-being of societies and contributing to clean environment and healthy ecosystems that provide goods and services for present and future generations.”

The Action Plan aims at achieving sustainable patterns in four consumption and production priority areas, generating high environmental impacts in the Mediterranean. The priority areas have been selected, as explained in Annex 1, based on the following criteria: (i) their relevance for the implementation of the existing commitments under the Barcelona Convention, (ii) the contribution to the Mediterranean economies and social well-being and (iii) the environmental impacts (pollution, waste, emissions, land degradation, resource depletion, climate change, etc.) associated with them.

The selected consumption and production priority areas are:

- Food, agriculture and fisheries;
- Goods manufacturing;
- Tourism; and
- Housing and construction.

Besides the four consumption and production areas for which the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean is being developed, there are other areas of human activities that can be considered as stand-alone priorities (e.g. sectors of water, waste and energy) or be perceived as sustainability issues to address (energy efficiency, water management, waste reduction). These issues are related to unsustainable use of resources and development models, and associated with major environmental concerns, such as marine pollution and biodiversity loss.

The SCP Action Plan identified the main transversal issues to be tackled under each consumption and production priority area as follow:

- Transportation and Mobility;
- Land use;
- Water efficiency;
- Resource efficiency;
- Energy efficiency; and
- Pollution (generated by wastewater, chemicals, solid waste, etc.)

The first draft of the Action Plan was discussed during an Extraordinary meeting of the SCP/RAC National Focal Points, held in Barcelona on November 25th and 26th, 2014. During this meeting, representatives of 21 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia &

Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey), along with observers from Jordan and Palestine, discussed the structure of the Action Plan and its strategic and operational objectives. MAP components, namely PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu, also attended the meeting to provide insights on their specific areas of expertise. Plan Bleu's attendance was of special importance as it aims to ensure coordination on developing further synergies between the SCP Action Plan and the reviewed MSSD.

During the meeting, the SCP/RAC National Focal Points *supported the proposed structure of the SCP Action Plan*, which develops into strategic and operational objectives and related actions for the four consumption and production priority areas. They *welcomed the first proposal for strategic and operational objectives* and provided their comments and feedback for further elaboration of the document into a second draft. The revised strategic and operational objectives, taking into consideration the comments and recommendations of the Extraordinary Meeting of the SCP/RAC National Focal Points, are presented in Annex 2.

The SCP/RAC National Focal Points requested *to further elaborate the articulation of the SCP Action Plan with the MSSD*. That request derives from the above mentioned COP18 Decisions on: (1) the MSSD review in which the Parties *requested the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD integrates the strategic orientations of the SCP Action Plan and other relevant policies*; and (2) the SCP action plan *requesting to ensure that the Action Plan proposes a set of actions to work in synergy with and complement existing regional and national policy frameworks addressing the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and in particular the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development*.

Following this meeting, the second draft is being prepared and will be submitted to the SCP/RAC Focal Points for additional comments by February 13th, along with a first draft of the corresponding roadmap for implementation. Integrating this second round of comments and remarks, the SCP Action Plan will then follow the ordinary governance process of the Barcelona Convention. It will be submitted for endorsement to the ordinary SCP/RAC National Focal Points meeting and to the MAP National Focal Points meeting, in view of its final submission to the Contracting Parties for approval at COP 19 in Athens, Greece.

The SCP Action Plan and the MSSD review

In compliance with the recommendations of COP 18 Decisions regarding the inter-linkages between the SCP Action Plan and the MSSD, the MCSD members are invited to provide their recommendations on:

- how the strategic orientations of the SCP Action Plan can be better integrated in the implementation of the reviewed MSSD;
- ways to harmonized the implementation of the reviewed MSSD and the SCP Action Plan
- how they see the role of the SCP Action Plan in updating the National Sustainable Development Strategies

Annex I
Focus of the SCP Action Plan: priority areas of Consumption and Production

Focus of the SCP Action Plan: priority areas of Consumption and Production

The SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean aims at achieving the shift to sustainable patterns in four priority areas of consumption and production, namely Food, agriculture and fisheries; Goods manufacturing; Tourism and Housing and construction, according to:

- i. Their relevance in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- ii. Their impacts as mainstream drivers of pollution generation and environmental pressures on the marine and coastal ecosystems;
- iii. Their contribution to the Mediterranean economies and to social well-being,

(i) Relevance for the Barcelona Convention Protocols

The *food, agriculture and fisheries* areas are listed as key sector of activity in Annex I of the LBS Protocol (fertilizer production, production and formulation of biocides, agriculture, animal husbandry, food processing, aquaculture, and transport). Similarly, Annex I of the Hazardous Waste Protocol identifies as category of wastes subject to its measures the waste from the production, formulation and use of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals. Finally the Article 9 of ICZM Protocol identified Agriculture, Industry, Fishing and Aquaculture as key economic activities for which planning and management require an appropriate mix of regulatory, technical, economic, and market oriented measures.

The *goods manufacturing* consumption and production area embraces a number of sectors of activity listed in Annex I of the LBS Protocol, such as the paper and paper-pulp industry, the tanning industry, the metal industry, the textile industry, the electronic industry, organic chemical industry, inorganic chemical industry, mining, transport and the recycling industry. Furthermore several of the hazardous waste categories related to the production and consumption of goods are listed in Annex I of the Hazardous Waste Protocol which calls, among others, for appropriate measures to reduce to a minimum, and where possible eliminate, the generation of hazardous wastes.

Tourism is of utmost importance for the ICZM Protocol as most of the tourism activities are taking place in coastal areas. Article 9 identifies tourism, sporting and recreational activities as key economic activity in the framework of the Protocol. Annex I of the LBS Protocol also lists tourism and shipbuilding and repairing industry as sectors of activity to be primarily considered. Furthermore, sustainable tourism is of special relevance for achieving the sustainable use of coastal and marine areas of interest for the SPA/BD Protocol.

Finally, *housing and construction* activities are also targeted in Annex I of the LBS Protocol with focus on cement production, metal industry, mining, waste management industry, treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater, and transport. Likewise, this priority area is of utmost importance for ICZM Protocol as one of its objectives, under Article 5, is to facilitate, through the rational planning of activities, 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. Finally the deconstruction of building entails the generation of hazardous waste to be carefully managed in the framework of the Hazardous Waste Protocol.

(ii) Impacts on the environment

The four consumption and production priority areas are main upstream drivers of pollution generation and environmental pressures on the ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

Food, agriculture and fisheries - Current agriculture practices affect heavily natural resources, especially water and land resources, and exert great pressure on the local biodiversity. For instance, the nutrient load from intensive agriculture and/or large consumption of chemicals are linked to nutrient over-enrichment of the sea and the introduction of heavy metals, oils and POPs into the marine and coastal environment. The food processing industry is also characterized by high levels of freshwater and energy consumption, the production of wastewater with excessive organic load and contaminants and the generation of by-products and residues which require specific management. As regards to fisheries, new consumption and production patterns have increased the pressure on fish stock, altering fish populations and destroying sensitive habitats while aquaculture still faces a number of important unresolved environmental challenges (degradation of the sea-floor, release of metabolic waste, etc.).

Goods manufacturing - The manufacturing of goods in a context of strong industrial growth is directly linked to the release of polluting substances in the air, soil and water, contributing to the chemical contamination and eutrophication of the Mediterranean Sea and coasts. It involves processes that are resource intensive (water, energy and raw materials) and is directly linked to climate change. Consumption habits and especially the treatment of goods in their end of life is the major source of marine litter with plastic amounting up to 83% of marine litter floating on the sea and deposited on shorelines. Yet, consumption and production patterns tend to increase the rate in which people consume products which have shorter lifespan.

Tourism - The diversity and fragility of the coastal and marine ecosystems suffer greatly from tourism-related impacts. Coastal tourism induces a rise in the coastal population, which increases demand for resources such as water, food, energy and construction material, and also worsens waste and wastewater generation. Tourists' activities (e.g. yachting, diving, recreational fishing) may also cause damage to habitats and species while the transport of passengers contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

Housing and construction - The urbanisation rate in the coastal areas is expected to grow to 72% by 2025, increasing significantly the pressure in the environment. The extraction of raw material and production of construction material (cement, bricks, etc.) are directly associated with the deterioration of the natural landscape, with atmospheric emissions (dust, NO_x, SO₂, CO₂, COV, etc.), as well as noise and vibrations. They involve considerable energy and water consumption and are responsible for huge wastewater and solid waste production. The growth in the coastal population increases demand for domestic water, food, energy and construction material, leading to further challenges in terms of atmospheric pollution and treatment and disposal of solid waste and effluent. Housing and construction is seen as the consumption and production area with high potential for delivering significant and cost-effective GHG emission reductions (UNEP/SBCI, 2009).

(iii) Contribution to the Mediterranean economies and to social well-being

The four consumption and production priority areas are major socio-economic contributors in the Mediterranean region, namely in terms of employment and wealth generation. For instance, with regard to employment opportunities, Agriculture is the second largest source of jobs, and tourism is contributing an overall 13% of total employment in the Mediterranean economies. Regarding Mediterranean economies, while the manufacturing sector accounts for 20 to 33% GDP, the construction, renovation and maintenance of buildings sector contributes 10 to 40% global GDP.

Annex II

Current version of the Strategic and Operational Objectives for the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, integrating the comments of the SCP/RAC National Focal Points (26/01/2015)

Current version of the Strategic and Operational Objectives for the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, integrating the comments of the SCP/RAC National Focal Points (26/01/2015)

Strategic objectives:

- **Strategic objective 1:** Establish a regional SCP framework to ensure coherence, coordination and implementation of SCP activities at the regional and national levels, and thus translate the global commitments on SCP to the Mediterranean Region.
- **Strategic objective 2:** Develop and implement SCP Operational Objectives in the Mediterranean in order to promote circular and green economy and support the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and Regional Plans, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable development (MSSD), and other regional policy frameworks for sustainable development.
- **Strategic objective 3:** Engage key stakeholders (international organisations, national and local public authorities, business sector, consumers, civil society, universities and research organizations) in Sustainable Consumption and Production models and circular economy measures leading to high resource efficiency, reduced pollution, and decoupling the development process from environmental degradation and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

Operational Objective Category	Food, agriculture and fisheries	Goods manufacturing	Tourism	Housing and construction
Establish strong knowledge base, research and development, and use of best available / innovative technologies and best practices to promote sustainable resource use and development	Establish innovation and knowledge and promote Best Environmental Practices, Technologies and Innovation in growing and harvesting, allowing efficient management of resources, minimizing environmental impacts of food in all its life cycle	Promote sustainability-driven innovation and knowledge and the integration of Best Available Technologies and Best Practices through the entire value chain of goods production, including the upstream and downstream flows of resources and waste, paying particular attention to the life-cycle of manufactured goods	Develop and promote practices and solutions to ensure efficient use of natural resources and reduce environmental impacts of tourism, respecting physical, ecological, and socio-cultural carrying capacities of the destination	Promote the development and implementation of practices and solutions that enhance resource efficiency throughout the entire lifecycle of a building
Promote good governance, policy and institutional framework to support practices and adaptation to SCP with the objective of achieving sustainable development	Develop the policy and legal framework to promote sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food production and consumption, with special focus on the Mediterranean Diet, engaging local communities and small-medium scale quality production	Develop integrated policy making and the legal framework to promote sustainable consumption and production in the goods manufacturing area aiming to move towards a circular economy	Promote regulatory, legislative and financial measures to mainstream SCP in the tourism consumption and production area to reduce tourism seasonality creating green and decent jobs and to promote local community engagement and empowerment	Enhance the contribution of the housing and construction area to sustainable economic development, social integration and cohesion, and environmental integrity
Sensitize and raise awareness of all stakeholders, including consumers, build capacities to support marketing processes and market development tools aimed at promoting sustainable consumption and livelihood models	Sensitize and educate food producers, retailers and consumers, and support the development of appropriate market tools and information, to promote sustainability throughout the value cycles of agriculture, fisheries, food processing and food distribution	Educate and raise awareness of consumers and other stakeholders and support the development of market structures increasing the visibility and market share of sustainably manufactured, used and disposed-of goods and alternative services	Raise awareness, capacities and technical skills to support sustainable destinations and green tourism services, and promote the development of appropriate marketing and communication tools to ensure a competitive sustainable Mediterranean Tourism	Promote the efficient functioning and management of the housing and construction area