



Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat



Delivering the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025

**Translating the 2030 Agenda and
its SDGs at the regional level
through a highly inclusive process**

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Background

- The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established in 1995. It is an advisory body to the Contracting Parties and other regional or local actors to assist them in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in socioeconomic programmes and, in so doing, promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. It is unique in its composition: its 40 members (22 Contracting Parties and 18 stakeholders) participate on an equal footing. The MCSD holds an ordinary meeting on a biannual basis; a Steering Committee oversees the work of the MCSD between sessions.
- The Contracting Parties adopted in 2005 the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, with subtitle: A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Shared Prosperity), which was built under the MCSD coordination. The MSSD 2005-2015 provided an integrative policy framework for achieving the vision of a sustainable Mediterranean region, as well as for the deployment of sustainable development policies of riparian countries. It was a regional response to the global and regional sustainable development agenda (e.g. MDGs, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership).



MSSD Review: COP18 decision (Istanbul, 2013)

“(CPs) Request MAP Secretariat to launch the process of the review of the MSSD with a view to submitting a revised MSSD for consideration and adoption by the Contracting Parties in their 19th Meeting”



A broad and inclusive consultation process (1/4)

- February 2014: MSSD Review officially launched (in Malta)
- April/May 2014: Online consultation on issues/themes and vision (60 stakeholders)
- June 2014: MCSD SC Meeting (structure and vision agreed)
- July-November 2014: Thematic Working Groups (400 participants): online consultations and participatory workshops (strategic directions and actions)
- January 2015: Draft text of the MSSD 2016-2015
- 17–18 February 2015: MSSD Review Conference in Malta
- 9–11 June 2015: 16th MCSD Meeting in Morocco
- 13-15 October 2015: Draft decision discussed and amended at MAP NFPs meeting (Greece)
- 9-12 February 2016: Submission of the new Strategy 2016-2025 for formal approval by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention at COP 19 (Greece)



A broad and inclusive consultation process (2/4)

During the participatory process, a key challenge was to propose suitable means and ways to ensure ownership by regional and national decision-makers and stakeholders.

Phase1 contained a stakeholder consultation (online), which took place between 10 April-9 May 2014, asking feedback on the new MSSD vision and on a set of issues to be addressed in the new strategy. In total 60 detailed responses were received during this consultation, both from individuals and from organizations representing a variety of sectors and geographic division across the Mediterranean



A broad and inclusive consultation process (3/4)

The MCSD Steering Committee at its 15th meeting (Malta, 11-12 June 2014) approved the vision and structure in recommending six cross-cutting themes/objectives:

- 1) Seas and coasts;
- 2) Natural resources, rural development and food;
- 3) Climate;
- 4) Sustainable cities;
- 5) Transition towards a green and blue economy; and
- 6) Governance.

These themes merged the results of the first stakeholder consultation with the SDGs Focus Areas.



A broad and inclusive consultation process (4/4)

Phase 2 of the MSSD Review consisted of establishing six thematic working groups (TWGs), following the six cross-cutting themes approved by the MCSD Steering Committee, each by one thematic expert, plus one Sustainable Development Senior Adviser for coordinating the groups. In parallel to the three online consultation sessions per group, participatory workshops were organized for the TWGs. Having mobilized about 450 participants from March until December 2014, the exchanges and consultations allowed a collective formulation of the main strategic directions for each theme and the identification of the corresponding concrete actions at national and regional scales (as well as Flagship Initiatives), which address recommendations for all categories of stakeholders in the Mediterranean.



Vision of the MSSD 2016-2025

Built upon a broad consultation process, which involved more than 1,000 participants all over the Mediterranean, representing various sectors and geographic areas, the MSSD 2016-2025 was adopted in COP 19 (Greece, February 2016) **as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.**

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. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance”.

The vision of the MSSD 2016-2025 inspired the vision of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan’s *Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021*, also adopted at COP 19.



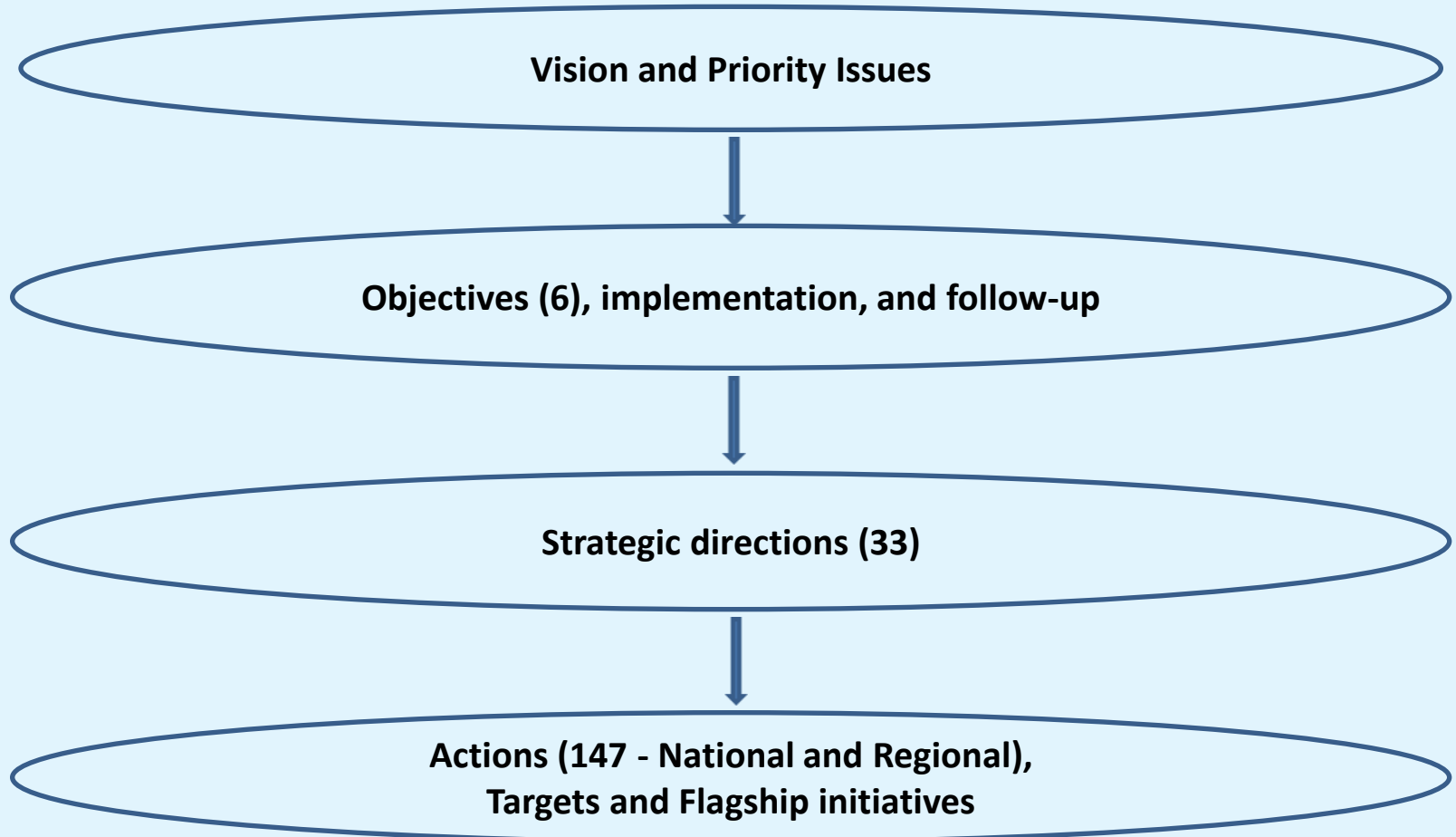
Guiding principles of the MSSD 2016-2025

A set of guiding principles also informs the Strategy:

- the importance of an integrated approach to environmental and development planning;
- an openness to a plurality of future development models;
- a balanced approach to territorial development;
- the precautionary and polluter pays principles;
- a participatory approach to policy and decision-making;
- the importance of evidence-based policy;
- the reconciliation of long- and short-term in terms of planning and evaluation;
- transparency; and,
- the partnership between the MAP system and other international and regional organizations.



Structure of the MSSD 2016-2025



Linking the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 to the SDGs (1/2)

MSSD Objectives	UN-SDGs
1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas	14. LIFE BELOW WATER - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development	2. ZERO HUNGER - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 15. LIFE ON LAND - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all



Linking the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 to the SDGs (2/2)

MSSD Objectives	UN-SDGs
4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean	13. CLIMATE ACTION - Take urgent action to mitigate climate change and its impacts
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
6. Improving governance in support of sustainable development	16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 (1/2)

Implementation of the MSSD is a collective process.

Although facilitated by MAP and the MCSD, it is the participation and active role of all stakeholders, either those involved in the development of the Strategy, or those that will become involved in its implementation through activities that will play a decisive role for successful delivery of the Strategy:

- ✓ MAP Secretariat and components (RACs)
- ✓ MCSD
- ✓ Contracting Parties
- ✓ Intergovernmental and regional and sub-regional institutions
- ✓ The private sector
- ✓ Science/Academia
- ✓ Civil society, including MAP partners



Implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 (2/2)

- **Simplified Peer Review Mechanism:** Based on a voluntary principle, it aims at engaging a dialogue between two or more Mediterranean countries, on equal participation, for a mutual improvement and learning process on National Sustainable Development Strategies. The pilot phase has started involving three Contracting Parties (France, Morocco, Montenegro).
- **The Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard:** Follow-up and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation. Following two regional technical workshops (France, March 2016 and Spain, October 2016), gathering several Contracting Parties and stakeholders, Plan Bleu / RAC prepared a first draft with 48 indicators, currently under review by the MCSD Steering Committee.
- **Flagship initiatives:** Science – Policy Interface, Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, Green List initiative, Urban Toolbox, etc., implementation with the strong involvement of stakeholders.



Thank you



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