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Teleconference, 20 June 2018

Agenda Item 5: Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019

Flyers on the Implementation of the MSSD and the Work of the MCSD

Note by the Secretariat:

This document aims at presenting to the MCSD Steering Committee the flyers prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with MCSD Members, MAP Partners, MAP Components and other stakeholders, as outreach materials for showcasing the implementation of MSSD Flagship initiatives and the work of the MCSD.

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2018

Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

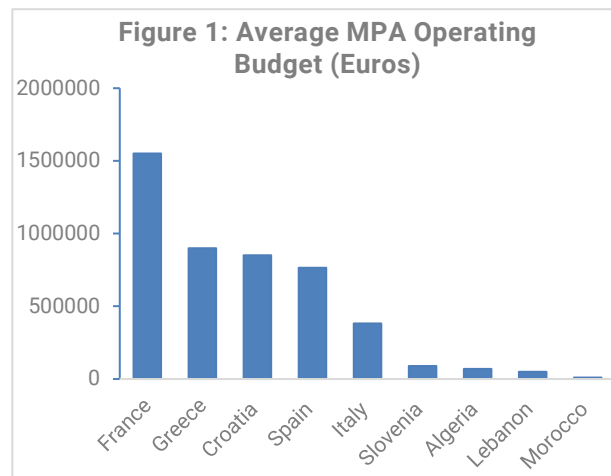
“Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas” is the Flagship initiative under Objective 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 “Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas”. It is also associated with target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals i.e. “by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information”

Background

The effective management of MPAs requires the availability of adequate technical and financial resources, especially for the coverage of operational costs. MPA managers are in urgent need for a sustainable financing tool that will provide access to additional funding to complement government budgets, where appropriate.

As a response to this need, the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs (MPA Trust Fund) was launched jointly by France, Monaco, and Tunisia, during the high-level session of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) held in October 2013 in Ajaccio, France.

The MPA Trust Fund received political support from riparian countries, in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).



Average of all MPAs of the responding countries; 40 MPAs - 50% without information on the operating budget. Source: MedPAN - RAC/SPA. 2012.

Objectives

The MPA Trust fund is a sustainable financing mechanism, which aims at developing and strengthening Mediterranean MPAs for a more sustainable management, contributing to their financial autonomy and their territorial integration.

Leadership and partnership

The Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) was established under Monaco law in 2015 as a cooperation platform bringing together governments, regional organizations and civil society.

Membership in the M2PA is open to States that have confirmed their commitment to implementing an ambitious policy to support MPAs and that have explicitly demonstrated their support to the initiative.

To date, Albania, Croatia, France, Monaco, Morocco, and Tunisia are members of the Association.

The M2PA is also open to regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems, such as the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), the network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF Mediterranean, the International Union for Conservation of Nature - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), Initiative PIM (*Petites Iles Méditerranéennes*), and the French *Conservatoire du littoral*.



Association for the
SUSTAINABLE FINANCING
of **Mediterranean MPAs**

Private donors have joined the initiative, such as the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation. The Basel Zoo and the Monaco oceanographic Museum provide part of their admission fees proceeds to support M2PA.

Main achievements

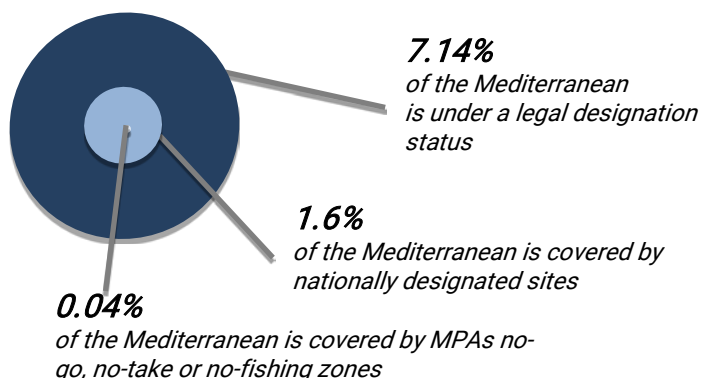
Members of the M2PA have adopted a sound strategy for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs as well as an action plan for implementation during 2016-2017. The initiative was developed with the support of the government of the Principality of Monaco which contributed 500,000 Euros to the fund.

In cooperation with the non-profit environmental organization Conservation International, the M2PA has developed project proposals for submission to the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the design the most appropriate institutional, legal, and financial structure to manage the MPA Trust Fund.

Financial support for implementation on the ground has been provided through the M2PA for the improvement of management of two MPAs:

- Al Hoceima National Park, implemented through the Moroccan NGO AGIR, in partnership with the *Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification* (Office of the High Commissioner for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, a governmental agency);
- Kuriat Islands implemented through the Tunisian Governmental agency *Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral* (APAL - Coastal Protection and Planning Agency) and NGO *Notre Grand Bleu*.

Challenges and the way forward



According to data available at the end of 2017, 1,231 MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures covering an area of 179,798 km² are in place in the Mediterranean Sea. This means that 7.14% of the total surface of the Mediterranean is under a legal designation status.

However, for most sites, there is little available information on the implementation of management measures and on the effectiveness of such measures towards reaching the site's conservation targets.

A second round of investments will be launched by the M2PA in 2018 aiming to support the improvement of management effectiveness for selected MPAs.

About the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)

The UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas was established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in order to assist Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). Tunisia has been hosting the Centre since its establishment in 1985.

The SPA/BD Protocol is the Mediterranean's main tool for implementing the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, as regards the in situ sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Barcelona Convention adopted the Protocol in 1995.

Resources

Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs: <https://tinyurl.com/zd93uuw>

SPA/RAC: www.spa-rac.org

MedPAN: www.medpan.org

WWF Med: <http://mediterranean.panda.org>



United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat
www.unepmap.org

IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

“Promote the “Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies created” is the Flagship initiative under the Objective 2 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD): “Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development”.

Background

The development of the IUCN Green List was supported by Resolution WCC-2012-41 of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012, in response to calls for more focus on the quality of protected area sites and systems, especially effective management and equitable governance that can help secure conservation outcomes. Such concerns about protected area effectiveness date back to at least the World Parks Congress held in Bali in 1982.

At the global level, IUCN coordinated a Green List pilot phase in eight countries between 2012 and 2014 and announced the first protected areas to meet the criteria during the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014. Seven of the total 25 areas recognized across the world were located in Mediterranean countries (France, Italy, and Spain) which are also Contracting Parties to the

Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol. In 2017, the IUCN Council formally approved the Green List Standard Version 1.1 and mandated its further implementation by IUCN, members, and partners, worldwide.

IUCN-MED is officially accredited as a UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan Partner and MCSD Member. The Centre’s mission is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region and work with IUCN members and cooperate with all other agencies that share the objectives of IUCN. As such, IUCN Med is collaborating with the Mediterranean Action Plan and has played an active role in the process of mainstreaming environment into the MSSD.

Objectives

The IUCN Green List is a global programme aiming to achieve and promote effective, equitable, and successful protected and conserved areas by highlighting best practices, and providing a benchmark for progress towards effective and equitable management.

Its overarching objective is to increase the number of protected and conserved areas that are effectively and equitably managed and deliver conservation outcomes, contributing to sustainable development and towards meeting Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.”

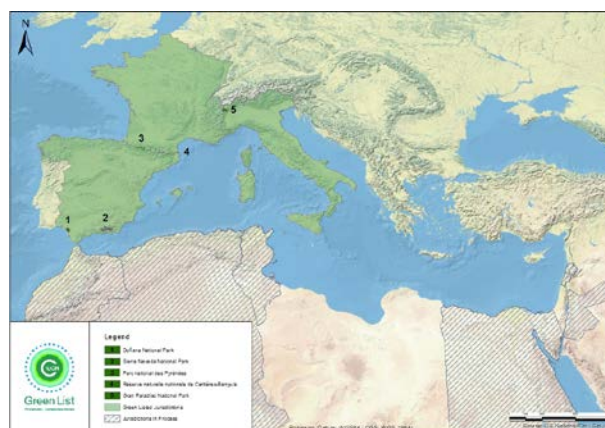
Leadership and partnership

IUCN implements the Green List programme with many partners around the world, including the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre and WWF. The programme is supported by multiple donors including Germany’s Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and the European Life Programme.

In the Mediterranean area, IUCN supports the Green List through its regional offices: IUCN-MED, IUCN-Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), IUCN-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECARO). The programme is implemented in collaboration with several institutions that are committed to coordinate the process at the respective national level, among which Europarc Italy, Europarc Spain, the IUCN French Committee in Europe and the World Commission of Protected Areas in the North Africa region.

IUCN is also promoting the application of the Green List Standard to Natura 2000 sites and supporting the programme's implementation in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Relevant training has been provided in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. The four countries have committed to creating a regional group of experts for launching the initiative at regional scale and trainings with national stakeholders will be conducted in 2018.

New Green Listed sites in the Mediterranean region are expected to start the process in 2018. A Green List session will be organized during the CBD COP 14 in November 2018 in Egypt, in collaboration with the IUCN member states, and will focus on partners and IUCN members from the Middle East and North Africa regions. Support will also be provided to Arabic countries in joining the Green List programme, focusing on Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates.



The Green List programme in the Mediterranean region

Main achievements and the way forward

At the heart of the Green List programme is the voluntary global Sustainability Standard providing a global benchmark for effective management and governance quality that motivates improved performance and successful achievement of conservation objectives. The Standard includes seventeen guiding criteria that describe successful conservation and equitable governance in protected and conserved areas, addressing four themes: good governance, sound design, sound planning, and effective management.

The Green List Standard is implemented through a jurisdictional approach, tailored to each country or region where it is adopted. The programme allows for flexibility for each jurisdiction to implement the global standard while reflecting local contexts. It also assures that mechanisms and procedures in

place ensure independence and credibility of decision-making, through an independent assurance services provider (Accreditation Services International) tasked with providing assurance of the programme globally.

Areas that voluntarily commit to achieving IUCN Green List status must demonstrate and maintain successful implementation of the global Sustainability Standard throughout three defined phases: the application phase, the candidate phase, and the green list phase. Progression to each phase is independently evaluated by a technical Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) and a process reviewer, typically established at the national level. In each phase, the views and consensus of stakeholders and public opinion are factored into the area's ongoing performance.

The Green List is an important instrument for Protected Areas:

- It requires the demonstration of measurable conservation outcomes that should be appropriate to the site level and its natural values;
- It represents an approach through which an area can define an appropriate, shared and adaptive management plan that engages with stakeholders;
- It includes periodical monitoring obligations and can therefore help determine whether conservation outcomes are being achieved;
- It allows working and comparing in different contexts, both at site and biogeographic level, as it is a shared and transparent methodology.



Resources

IUCN 'Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas': www.iucn.org/greenlist

2017 Overview Brochure: <https://tinyurl.com/y8fwodpe>

Green list user manual version 1.0: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8sut2m>

Standard: <https://tinyurl.com/y9nvez4x>

LIFE Green List for Natura 2000 project: <https://tinyurl.com/y8hq17so>

Barcelona Convention SPA/BD Protocol: <https://tinyurl.com/y8mreueg>

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Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (IEFCA) – 2017 pilot edition

The Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award is a Flagship initiative under the Objective 3 “Planning and managing Mediterranean sustainable cities” of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025. Funded by the Government of Turkey, the Istanbul Award is managed by the MAP Coordinating Unit with the assistance of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre and the support of the other MAP Components.

A coastal environment friendly city is a city in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.

A sustainable coastal city is a coastal city in harmony with the sea, utilizing its resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably, reducing its impact on marine and coastal environment and climate change, and managing the environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

Background

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, at their 19th Meeting held in Athens, Greece, in 2016, decided to establish the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, to be conferred to Mediterranean coastal cities according to defined process and criteria.

Local authorities were encouraged to support and participate in the award process and to the promotion of sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean region.

Objectives



The Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award aims to provide recognition to the efforts of local authorities to improve the environment and the quality of life and promote sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal towns and cities.

It also aims to encourage Mediterranean coastal towns and cities to move towards a more environment-friendly future and to enable them to serve as model-cities and inspire sustainable urban development in the region.

The Award is also an opportunity to promote public awareness of the importance of coastal cities and communities and encourage efforts in addressing the pressures to the marine and coastal environment associated with urban development.

Application

Small towns and metropolitan cities were invited to submit their applications to the IEFCA in partnership with NGOs, the scientific community, the private sector or other stakeholders. The call for applications was open from 15 May to 30 June 2017 and was promoted through a specific communication campaign.

The Secretariat received 17 applications which were submitted by local authorities of coastal towns or cities from the Mediterranean region.

Evaluation

The evaluation of applicant cities was undertaken applying various criteria classified under four main categories: Nature and Biodiversity Protection; Built Environment; Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability; and Governance.

The historical perspective of each candidate city was also considered given the importance of improvement towards sustainability, the progress achieved, as well as the city's efforts and perspectives for further improvement in the future.

Selection

The selection of the winner of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award was carried out through a rigorous, inclusive and transparent process in three phases:

1. **Initial screening** by the Secretariat of the MAP-Barcelona Convention to ensure that the candidate cities fulfilled the eligibility criteria and that the submission forms were correctly filled. Seven applicant cities were preselected in this phase: Two large metropolitan areas (Izmir, Turkey and Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel) with a well-defined vision on future development; and five “seaside resorts” (Bodrum, Turkey; Chios, Greece; Crikvenica, Croatia; El Haouaria and Nabeul, Tunisia), with environmental sustainability projects focusing especially on sustainable tourism development.
2. **Short-listing** of three candidate cities for the Award by the Technical Committee comprised by one representative of each MAP Component supported by three qualified independent experts. The committee prepared an evaluation report, which was submitted and approved by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
3. **Selection of the winning city including through a public voting process** which was open for a period of three weeks to derive a ranking between the three short-listed cities. Based on this ranking, the Jury (Bureau Members and President of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development) unanimously selected the winning city.

Awarding

The Award was conferred to the winning city, the Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir, during the Ministerial session of the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP20) held in Tirana, Albania, on 19 December 2017.

The Mayor of Izmir, Mr. Aziz Kocaoğlu received the award from H.E. Ms. Ornela Çuçi, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment of Albania, who congratulated the municipality on its exemplary implementation of the sustainable urban political agenda in the region. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Kocaoğlu described Izmir as a vibrant, multicultural city, steeped in history, where living in a clean and healthy environment was viewed as a fundamental right.



Challenges and the way forward

Based on the lessons learned through the successful 2017-pilot edition of the IEFCA, the initiative will be sustained, focusing on improving the process.

Communication and outreach efforts should be increased, with the support of the MCSD Members, MAP Partners, and other stakeholders. The role of the awarded city is also important to support visibility and inspire a peer learning approach.

Guidelines for applicants should be provided with an improved application form in order to facilitate homogeneous applications. Submissions should present a systematic quantitative analysis based on existing indicators (SDG 11, MSSD, SCP Action Plan, etc.). In addition, the method of evaluation should be revised and a relevant assessment grid developed.

Finally, the possibility of granting separate awards for large and small cities should also be considered.

Resources

IEFCA 2016-2017: <https://tinyurl.com/ycg3bwpw>

IEFCA: Izmir Metropolitan Municipality is the Winner: <https://tinyurl.com/ya3jncbl>
An Award only for Mediterranean Environment Friendly Cities:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7bt08z2>

Decision IG.22/19 - IEFCA: <https://tinyurl.com/yanp5uy5>



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MedUrbanTools: A sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean

“Create a sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean, with a view to planning cities that will work for everyone, in order to make them inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” is one of the Flagship initiatives under the Objective 3 “Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities” of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025.

Background

The proposal for the creation of a toolkit on urban development addressed to decision-makers, notably local authorities, and experts in the Mediterranean region was led by the Mediterranean Cities Network (MedCities), in cooperation with different regional actors participating in the Urban Hub of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). It was first presented during the 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in July 2017 and is the first such initiative to have successfully addressed the topic from a Mediterranean perspective.

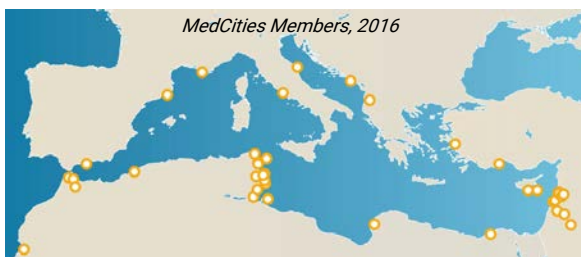
MedCities is committed to the development of the toolkit, building on its own capacities as well existing partnerships on urban issues at the regional level. The process involves the strengthening of existing regional networks of cities, as well as the development of new ones, that will contribute to the creation of the sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean.

Objectives

The Sustainable Urban Toolbox aims to provide the necessary resources to ensure that Mediterranean cities are planned cities, inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. It also aims to contribute to creating a common understanding among practitioners and decision-makers of the challenges faced by Mediterranean cities and provide local decision-makers with knowledge on relevant successful experiences from the region that can be used, adapted and updated to inspire sound policymaking.

Leadership and partnership

MedCities leads the Mediterranean sustainable urban toolbox project, which associates different actors working on sustainable urban development in the region, including members of the Urban Hub of the CMI which brings together urban experts from institutions such as the World Bank, Cities Alliance, GIZ, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), IEB, UNDP, Agence des Villes et Territoires Méditerranéens Durables (AVITEM), CODATU and MedCities. The process is also open to the participation of MCSD members and other partners, considering the added value of mutualising efforts in a knowledge-sharing activity.



MedCities is financing the pilot phase of the initiative which mainly involves the members of its own network. The objective for the second phase of the project is to diversify donors and to enrich the process with the academic and technical expertise of additional Mediterranean local authorities, urban experts and other stakeholders.

During the pilot phase of the toolbox development, 37 cities have contributed their successful experiences to the knowledge base:

- Albania: Tirana
- Croatia: Dubrovnik
- Cyprus: Larnaka, Limassol
- Egypt: Alexandria
- France: Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier
- Greece: Thessaloniki
- Italy: Ancona, Bari, Genoa, Roma, Taranto
- Jordan: Amman, Ramtha
- Lebanon: Byblos, Jezzine
- Morocco: Agadir, Casablanca, Chefchaouen, Tanger, Tetouan
- Palestine: Hebron, Ramallah
- Spain: Barcelona, Cornellá, El prat de Llobregat, Malaga
- Tunisia: Bizerte, Gafsa, Nabeul, Sfax, Sousse, Tunis
- Turkey: Bodrum, Izmir

Main achievements

The pilot phase of the initiative has identified eleven topics under which 50 best practices from Mediterranean cities have been shared: 1) Environment and Climate Change; 2) Waste; 3) Water; 4) Energy; 5) Strategic Planning; 6) Economic Development; 7) Housing, Urban Planning and Mobility; 8) Innovation; 9) Ports and Tourism; 10) Culture and Identity; 11) Health and Social Rights. A “project sheet” to ensure consistent structure in the presentation of Best Practices has also been elaborated.

In addition, ten experts from the region have been interviewed for the production of 40 video clips included in the knowledge base – which contribute to the debate while increasing visibility of the initiative.

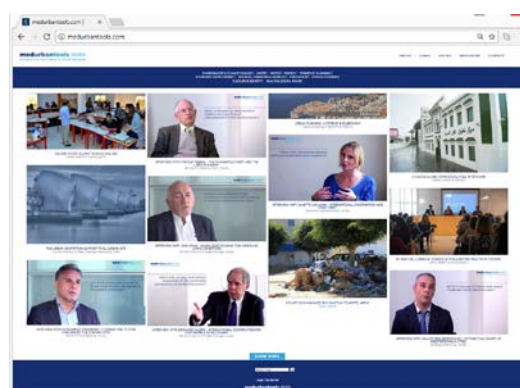
The digital platform that will host the toolbox is currently being developed and a communication strategy to promote awareness of the initiative is being drafted.

MedUrbanTools web-based Knowledge Sharing Platform

Knowledge collected for the creation of the sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean is organized in a database accessible through the MedUrbanTools knowledge sharing platform.

The platform’s user-friendly and appealing interface is designed to allow the user to progressively discover content of interest by selecting among thematic categories (topics) or among the three types of records held in the database:

- Cases: best practices developed in Mediterranean cities;
- Voices: video clips from Mediterranean experts;
- Resources: Material developed under previous projects, grouped under:
 - Methodologies: Thematic documents and plans;
 - Tools: Specific instruments for city planning and management;
 - Technological solutions: Innovative responses to existing challenges.



medurbantools 
RETHINKING CITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Challenges and the way forward

- To successfully complete the pilot phase 1 of the initiative after the recent launch (May 2018) of the MedUrbanTools web-based Knowledge Sharing Platform;
- To mobilize the involvement of additional actors in the project, both international organizations and local authorities;
- To further develop the “Resources”, capitalising on on-going and past projects developed by MedCities and other actors;
- To implement the communication strategy and significantly raise awareness of the toolbox, including thorough events and workshops;
- To open the platform to more expert contributions and to offer a floor for debates through a specific forum.

Resources

Med Cities: www.medicities.org

Urban Hub of the Center for Mediterranean Integration: <https://tinyurl.com/yd7azyuk>

MedUrbanTools: www.medurbantools.com



United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat
www.unepmap.org

MedECC: Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change

“Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism, including the social and behavioural sciences, endorsed by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options”, is the flagship initiative under the Objective 4 “Climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean” of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025.

Background

The network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) was formed in 2015, with the aim of providing sound scientific information about environmental and climate change issues of concern for the Mediterranean.

MedECC is an open and independent international scientific expert network providing support for decision-makers and the general public on the basis of available scientific information as well as on-going research. The network includes more than 380 scientists from 31 countries, working on climate and environmental changes from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities perspectives.



The creation of MedECC responds to needs and intentions expressed by the UN Environment/MAP through the MSSD and the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean, as well as the Expert Group on Climate Change of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM CCEG).

Objectives

MedECC builds on a community of scientific experts providing their expertise on a voluntary basis. The objective is of supporting decision-making in the Mediterranean with accurate and accessible information on current and future impacts of climate and environmental changes.

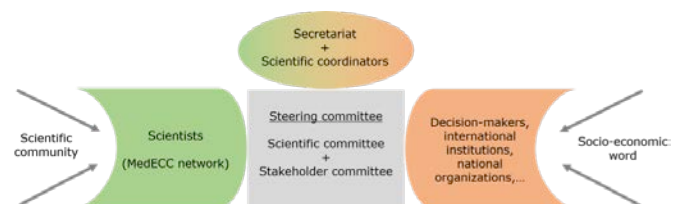
The network aims to consolidate and update the best scientific knowledge on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean basin, identifying possible gaps in current research and supporting capacity building of scientists from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries.

By rendering this knowledge accessible to all stakeholders, MedECC also aims to bridge the gap between research and decision-making, contributing to the improvement of policies at all levels such as future Mediterranean assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

MedECC works in two complementary directions of interest for the implementation of the MSSD, namely: Publishing improved assessments and comprehensive synthesis of global change knowledge in the Mediterranean region; and Building a relevant regional science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean.

Leadership and partnership

MedECC is governed by a Steering Committee that decides on its functioning and focuses on strengthening the science-policy dialogue, as well as the visibility and credibility of the Mediterranean science-policy interface. It also reviews the evolution of membership in the network ensuring a wide and balanced thematic and geographic coverage.



Governance and functioning of MedECC

MedECC is supported by regional, national, and local organizations and individual experts. These currently include: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM); Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre of UN Environment/MAP; *Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie* (ADEME), France; Mediterranean Integrated Studies at Regional And Local Scales (MISTRALS); Principality of Monaco; *Métropole Aix-Marseille Provence*, France; Aix-Marseille University, France; Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS), Spain; Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France; Laboratory of Excellence OT-Med, France; Government of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, France.

Main achievements

MedECC has succeeded in building and mobilizing a network of scientific experts and in gaining political recognition from Mediterranean countries and IGOs. MedECC featured in several international and regional events, including:

- The Mediterranean Climate Conference (MEDCOP21) (Marseille, France, 4-5 June 2015) which listed the initiative as one of the 36 proposed solutions of the Mediterranean Positive Agenda;
- UNFCCC-COP21 (Paris, France, 4-5 December 2015), featured in various round tables and side events;
- MEDCOP Climat 2016 (Tangier, Morocco, 18-19 July 2016);
- COP22-UNFCCC (Marrakech, France, 14 November 2016) as organizer of a side event;
- UfM meetings on Environment and Climate Change in March 2017 and April 2018 in Barcelona, Spain.

The MedECC Scoping Workshop (Aix-en-Provence, France, 10-12 October 2016), co-organized by the Principality of Monaco was an important step towards the preparation of the first MedECC report on the current state and risks of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean. The workshop gathered 68 participants from 16 countries, with the objective of defining the report's thematic scope and structure.

MedECC has also organized a series of scientific and technical workshops in order to produce the detailed outline of the report which is planned to be published in the end of 2019:

- MedECC WG1 Workshop "Water, food, energy", 10-12 May 2017, Rabat, Morocco;
- MedECC WG3 Workshop "Development, health, human security", 19-21 June 2017, Palermo, Italy;
- MedECC WG2 Workshop "Ecosystems and ecosystem services", 17-19 July 2017, Marseille, France;
- MedECC Workshop on drivers, 7-9 March 2018, Aix-en-Provence, France.

The Regional Workshop on human impacts on Mediterranean marine ecosystems and the economy (18-19 October 2017, Monaco) which was co-organized by Plan Bleu and the Scientific Centre of Monaco helped to establish recommendations, governance actions and practices to be implemented at the local and regional levels in order to mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic threats on the services provided by marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

Challenges and the way forward

MedECC will support the preparation of the UN Environment/MAP 2019-State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019) and MED2050 foresight study.

The challenge is now to institutionalize the network and to strengthen stakeholder dialogue by confirming governance and publishing the first MedECC report by end of 2019.

Resources

Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC): www.medecc.org

UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG): <https://tinyurl.com/qg8nkpx>

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre: www.planbleu.org



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Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 promotes education, awareness-raising and research for sustainable development. It also encourages the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), which is also referred to in the Athens Ministerial Declaration of the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by which they “resolve to enhance public awareness and the role of education promoting sustainability and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean”.

Background

The MSESD is the first regional strategy on ESD prepared on the basis of the ESD Strategy of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), adopted in 2005.

The Strategy was drafted through a participatory process carried out under the scientific and technical coordination of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean, with the support of the Mediterranean Educational Initiative on Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES) of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE).

The process involved experts from Universities, Governments, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations, from the North and the South of the

Mediterranean. Many of the consultations for the development of the MSESD were organised under the EU-funded Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme.

The MSESD was endorsed in 2014 by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change.



Objectives

- Ensure that policy, legislation and other regulatory and operational frameworks support ESD;
- Promote sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning;
- Equip educators with the competence to include sustainable development in their teaching;
- Ensure that adequate tools and materials for ESD are accessible
- Promote research on and development of ESD;
- Strengthen cooperation on ESD at all levels, including exchange of experience and technologies within the Mediterranean region.



The implementation of the MSESD is driven by countries’ priorities and initiatives addressing their specific needs and circumstances and serves as a flexible framework for the fulfillment of their regional/global but also national agendas.

Leadership and partnership

- National focal points to ensure efficient regional governance and communication;
- Mediterranean Committee for ESD created in 2016 to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy;
- Members: Cyprus (Chair), Croatia, Greece, Jordan, Malta, Portugal, the League of Arab States, UfM, UNESCO, UN Environment/MAP, and UNECE.



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



UNECE



Main achievements

The MSED Action Plan was adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Education (Nicosia, Cyprus, 8-9 December 2016) co-organised by the Government of Cyprus and the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 support mechanism Programme. The Action Plan mobilizes the Strategy through concrete activities and strategic directions, identifying four implementation areas in a comprehensive and concise way:

1. The priority areas for institutional and operational interventions, with recommended activities and an indicative roadmap;
2. A set of identified common regional programmes and projects of institutional and non-thematic nature;
3. The priority thematic areas for region-wide programmes;
4. Proposed indicators for monitoring the progress.

During the Conference, UNESCO, UfM, UN Environment/MAP, the League of Arab States (LAS) and UNECE, further committed to promoting and streamlining the MSED and the Action Plan priorities and actions in their respective agendas and work programmes:

- The Action Plan is included among the Flagship Projects of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019). UNESCO acknowledged its importance in the Review Forum for GAP on ESD (March 2017).
- The 1st meeting of the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (March 2017) agreed to “Stress the importance of working to increase awareness and education on environmental and Climate Change issues, including by supporting the implementation of the Action Plan of the MSED”.

The EU SWIM-H2020 project supported capacity-building activities related to the promotion of the Action Plan, including four training-of-trainers sessions held in 2017 in Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, and Algeria, and a major regional workshop on ESD in Cyprus (22-24 November 2017) which provided senior educators with the opportunity to meet and exchange views with the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), the media, and other stakeholders from the Mediterranean countries. Significant achievements are observed also in Malta where the National Plan on Sustainable Management of Water has taken into account the MSED and, in Cyprus where the overall National ESD Plan has been effectively linked with the Strategy.

Challenges and the way forward

- ESD although widely recognized as a prerequisite for the promotion of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), does not yet receive the needed political backing and therefore, is still not fully and homogeneously developed throughout the Mediterranean region.
- Appropriate integration of ESD messages and content into the curricula of Primary and Secondary Education is needed, albeit they are frequently overloaded.
- Better coordination is needed between formal and non-formal/informal ESD initiatives which are frequently supervised by different Ministries: Education, Environment, Health, etc.
- Availability of adequate human and financial resources is lacking: needs for training and retraining a critical mass of educators.

Resources

MSED: <https://tinyurl.com/yce58r4t>

Nicosia Declaration: <https://tinyurl.com/y77a3xnh>

MSED Action Plan: <https://tinyurl.com/yecwaokje>

SWIM-H2020: www.swim-h2020.eu

MEdIES: www.medies.net

Ministerial Conference: www.esdmedcyprus.pi.ac.cy



United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat
www.unepmap.org

SIMPEER: Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of National Strategies for Sustainable Development – Pilot Edition 2016-2017

The SIMPEER Pilot Edition 2016-2017 was carried out according to Decision IG.22/17 of the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016).

Through Decision IG.23/4 adopted at their 20th Meeting (Tirana, Albania, December 2017), the Contracting Parties are encouraged to participate in SIMPEER future editions, taking into account the lessons learned from the 2016-2017 exercise and with a view to enhancing the interlinkage with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). A number of Contracting Parties have expressed their interest in participating in the SIMPEER during the biennium 2018-2019.

Background

The 15th Meeting of the MCSD (Floriana, Malta, June 2013) on the Reform of the MCSD and its mission, recommended the upgrade of the role of the MCSD as a regional platform for exchanges of experiences through the design of a simplified peer review mechanism to encourage the exchange of good practices on national implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

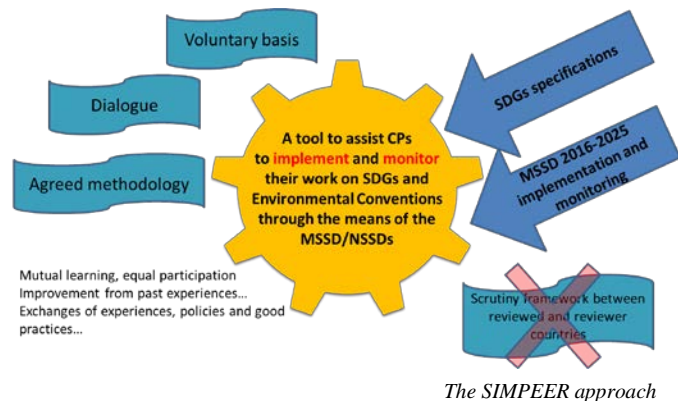
Based on this recommendation, Decision IG.21/12 of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Istanbul, December 2013) mandated the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the MCSD on how a simplified peer review process could be put in place.

Objectives

SIMPEER is a framework for mutual learning and improvement of sustainable development structures and processes among Mediterranean countries, based on their voluntary and equal participation in sharing experiences and best practices through an agreed methodology. It aims to serve as a tool for streamlining the processes related to international commitments and their transposition in national legislations.

SIMPEER contributes to the development and review of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) and the monitoring of the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 as a regional translation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It also supports the preparation and follow-up of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) annually presented at the HLPF, and that will serve as input for the better alignment of the SIMPEER process with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

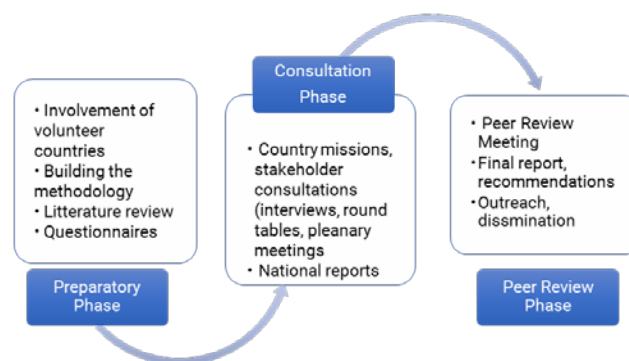


Main achievements, conclusions and recommendations

France, Montenegro, and Morocco participated in the SIMPEER pilot phase and confirmed that the process was beneficial for the fine-tuning of national processes and mechanisms for sustainable development, making them more effective in pursuing the active engagement of stakeholders and in maintaining the momentum for the follow-up of the VNRs they presented at the HLPF in July 2016.

- **Effective political leadership:** Environmental protection and sustainable development are reflected into the three countries' Constitutions. NSSDs are politically appropriated by the highest levels of the State and that represents a sufficient pre-condition. However, interlinkages between national administrations and the private sector need to be strengthened.

- **Integrated approach:** NSSDs are considered as “umbrella strategies”, guiding or comforting sectoral strategies. That ensures the integration of sustainable development into public policies, providing a common and shared vision of sustainability. However, much more is needed to break the “silo effect”.
- **Inclusive governance:** SIMPEER developed dialogue among stakeholders and between countries, achieving mutual improvement and learning process, and leading to the exchange of best practices.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Monitoring structures and agreed methodologies to follow progress on MSSD/SDG implementation are still lacking, necessitating agreed models, reliable data, and significant resources.



The three phases of the SIMPEER process

Best practices and lessons learned

In France, the Annual Environmental Conference is effective in mobilizing stakeholders and public participation in environmental dialogue. The annual submission to the Parliament of the report on NSSD implementation strengthens stakeholders’ participation. An effective institutional, technical and scientific environment supports the monitoring of the NSSD. For instance, the appointment of Senior Officials for Sustainable Development in each ministry plays an important role in integrating sustainability considerations into sectoral policies.

In Montenegro, the NSSD is structured around four resources, human, social, natural and economic, with governance and financing as cross-cutting dimensions. The NSSD was the first strategic document to incorporate and transpose the 17 SDGs to the national level, including monitoring and evaluation indicators. At the local level, the transposition of the NSSD in the 13 municipalities is an important challenge.

In Morocco, the NSSD provides the legal basis and mandate required to mobilize the necessary funding for its implementation. It has managed to incorporate sustainable development principles in sectoral policies related to major economic activities. For instance, cross-sectoral agreements have been established between the various ministries. National and local Environment Observatories also facilitate monitoring NSSD implementation.

Global/Regional interactions on sustainable development in the Mediterranean	
Global processes	Mediterranean regional processes
2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
Volunteer National Review (VNR)	Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)
SDG Index and Dashboards	Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

Resources

SIMPEER: <https://tinyurl.com/y749et5v>
MSSD 2016-2025: <https://tinyurl.com/yb2whxcp>
PB-RAC: www.planbleu.org

