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Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019

Promoting the Work of the MCSD: Relevant Initiatives

Note by the Secretariat

This document includes:

1. Seven MAP Factsheets focusing on MSSD Flagship Initiatives and Regional Actions;
2. Summary Report of the MAP side-event “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: the Model of the Mediterranean” co-organized with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative on the occasion of the international Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 28 November 2018);
3. Summary Report of the MAP side event “Voluntary Peer Review Mechanisms in support of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean” co-organized with the Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy on the occasion of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 March 2019).

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

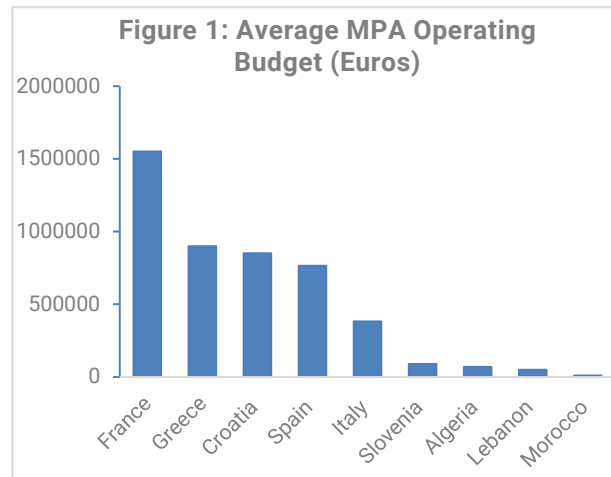
“Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas” is the Flagship initiative under Objective 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 “Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas”. It is also associated with target 14.5 of the Sustainable 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*.

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



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

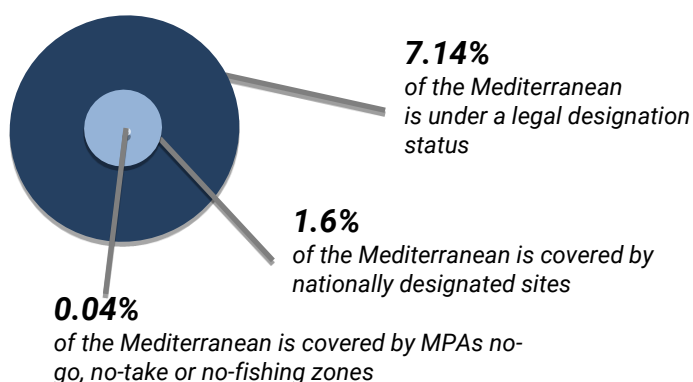
Members of the M2PA have adopted a sound strategy for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs as well as an action plan for implementation during 2016-2017. The initiative was developed with the support of the government of the Principality of Monaco which contributed 500,000 Euros to the fund.

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>



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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.”

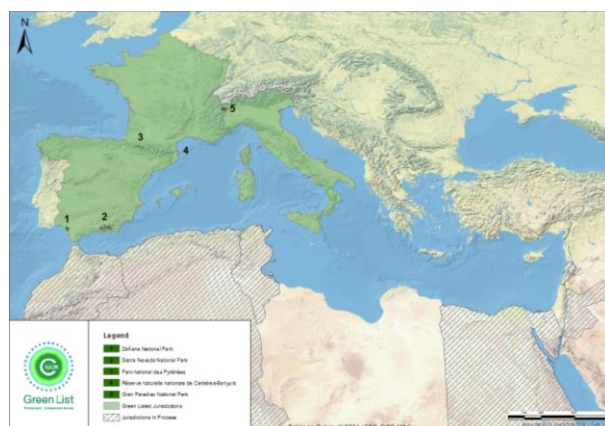
Leadership and partnership

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/y7bto8z2>

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.

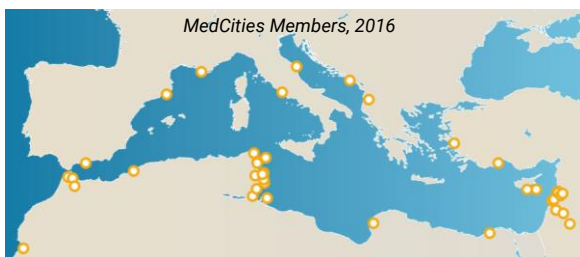
MedCities is committed to the development of the toolkit, building on its own capacities as well existing partnerships on urban issues at the regional level. The process involves the strengthening of existing regional networks of cities, as well as the development of new ones, that will contribute to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

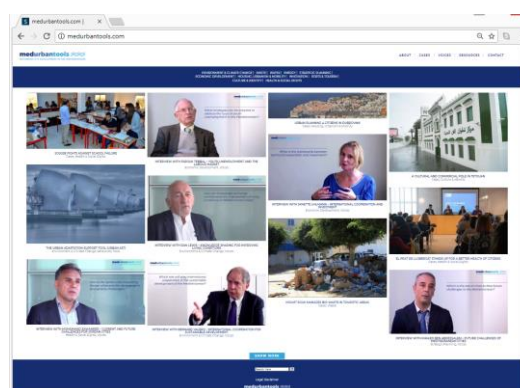
The digital platform that will host the toolbox is currently being developed and a communication strategy to promote awareness of the initiative is being drafted.

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.medcities.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 www.medecc.org) was established in 2015 as an open and independent international scientific expert network providing support to decision-makers and the public on the basis of available sound scientific information and ongoing research. The network includes more than 600 scientists from 35 countries, including 19 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities perspectives.

The creation of MedECC responds to needs and intentions expressed by UN Environment/MAP through the MSSD and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean. It also responds to the needs expressed by the Expert Group on Climate Change of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM CCEG). Both UN Environment/MAP and UfM are members of the MedECC Steering Committee.

Objectives

MedECC builds on a community of scientific experts providing their expertise on a voluntary basis. The objective is to bridge the gap between scientists and decision-makers and contribute to the improvement of policies at all levels by supporting decision-making with accurate and accessible information on current and future impacts of climate and environmental changes. MedECC also aims to contribute to future Mediterranean assessments through 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.

Supporting institutions

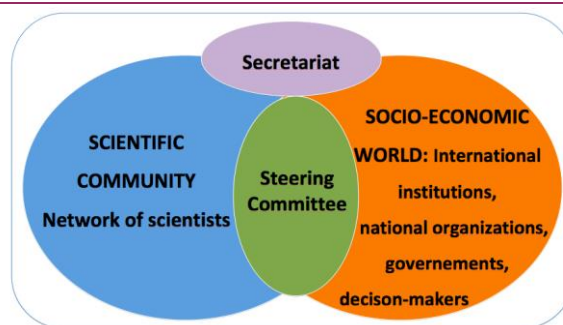
In 2017, Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (UN Environment/MAP) signed an agreement with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) to jointly support MedECC. Other regional, national and local organizations and individual experts support MedECC. These currently include: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), 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; French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France; Laboratory of Excellence OT-Med, France; L'Association pour l'Innovation et la Recherche au service du Climat, France; ACTERRA Consulting, France.



Structure of MedECC

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

Established in May 2018, the secretariat of MedECC is hosted by Plan Bleu and supported and co-financed by the Union for the Mediterranean, notably through funds of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



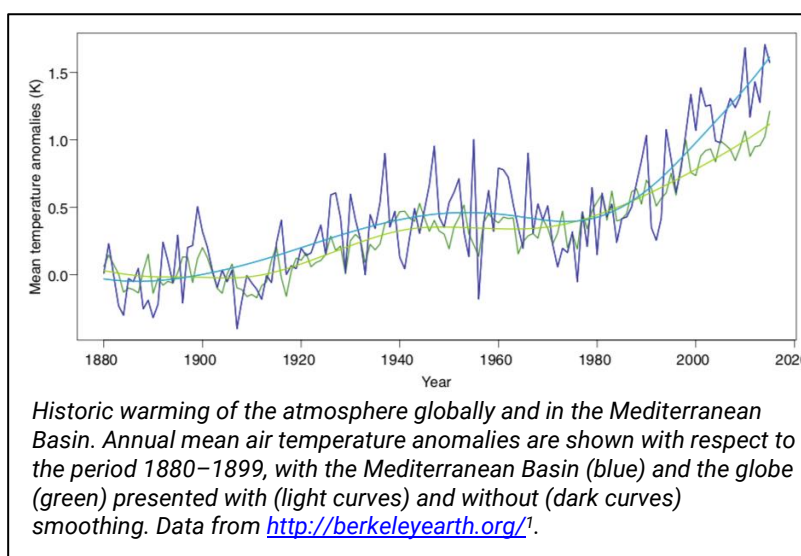
Structure of MedECC

Main achievements

MedECC has succeeded in building and mobilizing a network of scientific experts and in gaining political recognition from Mediterranean countries and IGOs.

The main focus of MedECC is the preparation of the 1st MedECC Assessment Report (MAR1) on current state and risks of climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean basin. The Summary for Policy-Makers of MAR1 will be presented for discussion and approval by governments. The thematic scope and outline of this report were defined during five workshops in 2017-2018. The Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors were appointed through an open call for self-nominations launched in May 2018.

In October 2018, a few scientists representing MedECC published in Nature Climate Change the first synthesis of multiple changes in the environment impacting livelihoods in the entire Mediterranean basin¹. In December 2018, a preliminary assessment of risks associated with climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region was prepared by MedECC, in collaboration with the Plan Bleu/RAC and UfM.



Historic warming of the atmosphere globally and in the Mediterranean Basin. Annual mean air temperature anomalies are shown with respect to the period 1880–1899, with the Mediterranean Basin (blue) and the globe (green) presented with (light curves) and without (dark curves) smoothing. Data from <http://berkeleyearth.org/>¹.

Challenges and the way forward

MedECC is contributing to the 2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019) and support the MED2050 foresight study undertaken by Plan Bleu/RAC. The main challenge is to strengthen the stakeholder dialogue component by confirming governance and publishing the first MedECC Assessment Report (MAR1) in 2020.

Resources

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

MedECC booklet: <http://www.medecc.org/?p=1807>

UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG): <https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-climate-change-expert-group/>

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre: www.planbleu.org

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¹ Cramer W, Guiot J, Fader M, Garrabou J, Gattuso J-P, Iglesias A, Lange MA, Lionello P, Llasat MC, Paz S, Peñuelas J, Snoussi M, Toreti A, Tsimplis MN, Xoplaki E (2018) Climate change and interconnected risks to sustainable development in the Mediterranean. *Nature Climate Change* 8, 972-980, doi: 10.1038/s41558-018-0299-2

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.



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Union for the Mediterranean
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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/yjcwakje>

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).

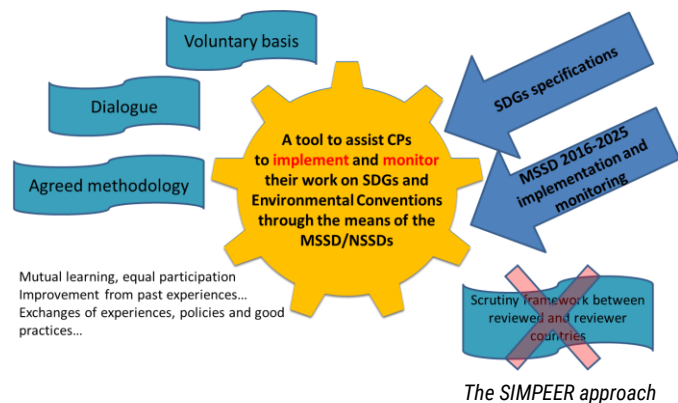
Based on this recommendation, Decision IG.21/12 of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Istanbul, December 2013) mandated the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the MCSD on how a simplified peer review process could be put in place.

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 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.

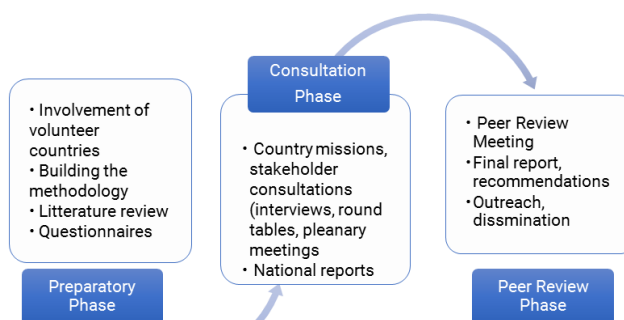


Main achievements, conclusions and recommendations

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

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

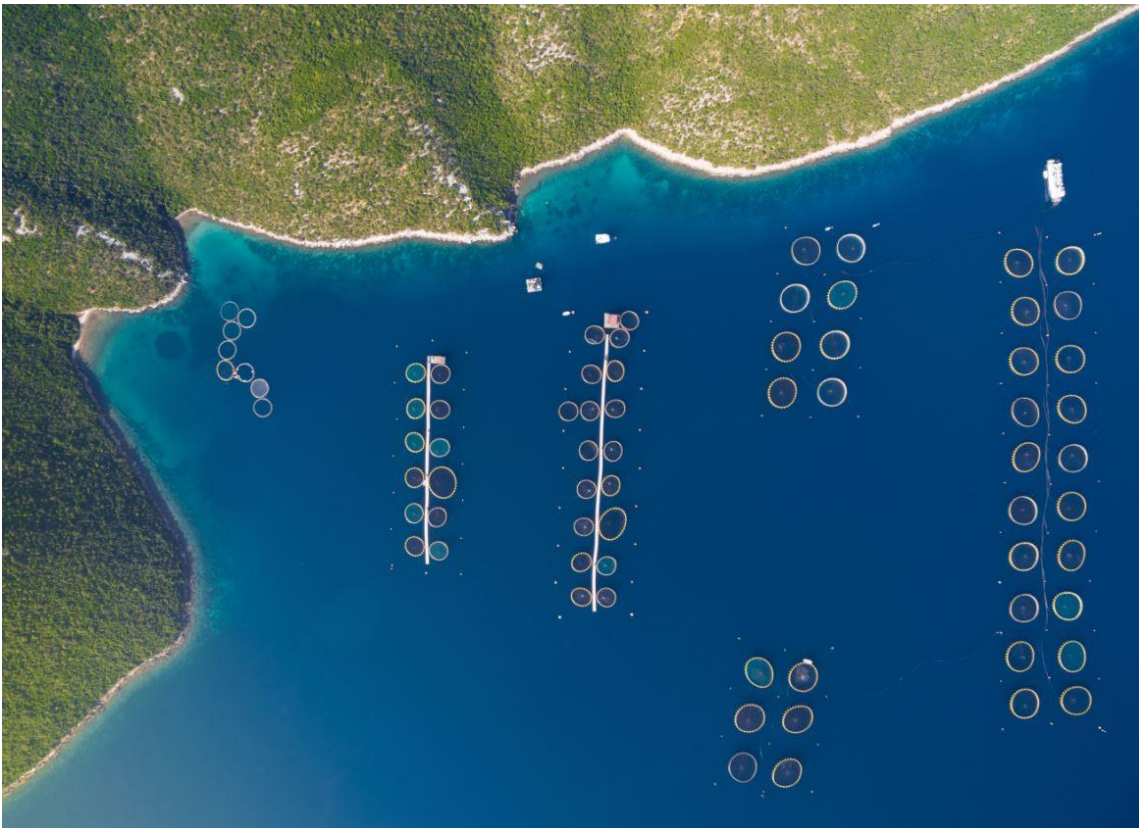


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SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, KENYA, NOVEMBER 26TH-28TH, 2018



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SIDE EVENT - SUMMARY REPORT

THE MODEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - THE REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY

THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

The first ever global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, co-hosted by Kenya, Canada and Japan, was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26-28 November 2018. The conference had over 18,000 registered participants from 184 countries, including seven Heads of State and Government, 84 ministers, and leaders from a wide range of public and private sectors, NGOs, civil society organizations, and ordinary citizens.

<http://www.blueeconomyconference.go.ke/>

MAIN OUTCOMES

The conference exceeded expectations given the level of engagement as well as meaningful [commitments](#) expressed by governments, public, private and civil society sector partners.

Leaders' Commitments included pledges on:

- Marine protection, €40 million to protect corals and reefs and €60 million for the protection of marine areas in African countries (EU);
- Plastics and waste management, US\$100 million earmarked for better oceans management and against dumping, and US\$200 million over the next four years for the development of initiatives to combat marine litter and microplastics (Norway);
- Maritime safety and security, €250 million for naval vessel replacement and the purchase of two marine patrol aircraft (Ireland);
- €40 million to support aquaculture value chains in African countries (ACP-EU);
- Infrastructure, 600 projects leading to an investment of US\$120 billion (India - Sagarmala Programme);
- Biodiversity and climate change, a US\$10 million investment in the Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience together with the EU, New Zealand and Australia (Canada);
- Technical assistance and capacity-building, US\$20 million in increased technical assistance and capacity development in small-island developing States (Canada); and,
- Private sector support, US\$150 million by the Government of Canada and the private sector to build a knowledge-based ocean economy (Canada).

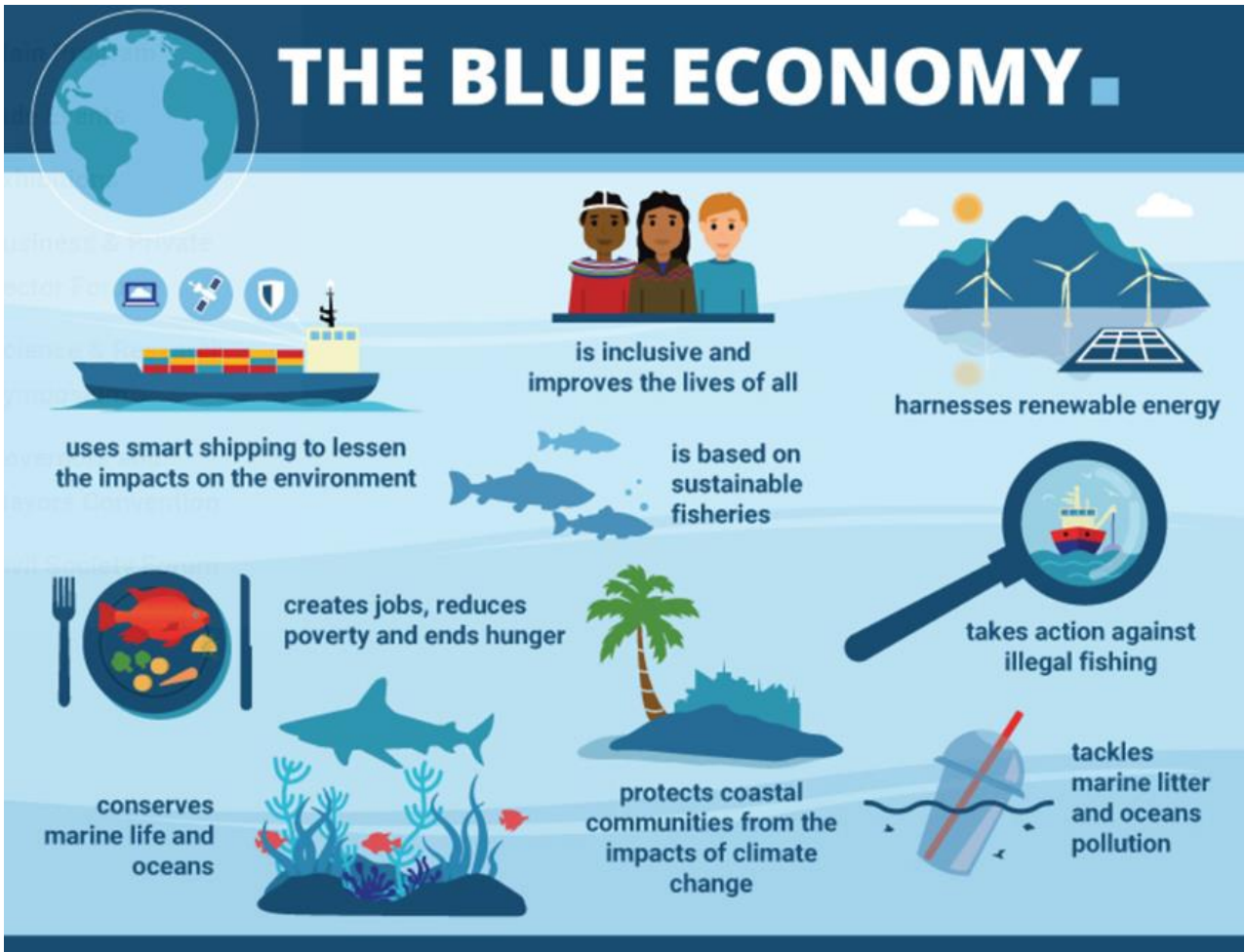
The strong representation from across the Mediterranean region was notable as was the recognition of the need for a new approach to the Blue Economy.

The conference was opened by the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta (see tweets below).



Many news outlets noted the inclusive and strong engagement of governments across the globe with Canada's Prime Minister calling it an example of 'multilateralism at its best' (see tweet below).





Blue Economy Infographics from the Conference (top). The main conference room (bottom)
 © IISD

THE SIDE EVENT: THE MODEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY

In the framework of the Conference, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre (UN Environment/MAP) joined hands with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative to organize a side-event entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: the Model of the Mediterranean”. Held on 28 November 2018, from 09:00 to 11:00 in Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC - Tent C), the side event was opened by the Ag Director of the Ecosystem Division, Ms. Monika Macdevette, who also facilitated the discussion.

The side event aimed to foster improved models of regional cooperation to promote the achievement of a truly sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region. It built on Blue Economy concept implementation in the Mediterranean region and countries, both from the perspective of policy (governance and institutional framework) and from an operational point of view (partnerships, best practices), with a specific focus on Fisheries Co-Management Models and Sustainable Tourism.

Beyond advocacy, communication and experience sharing, the main goals of the discussion were:

1. to strengthen coordinated partnerships among Mediterranean decision-makers and stakeholders from various categories; and,
2. to promote the exchange of best practices at the global and regional levels.

Below are captured key points raised by the speakers and the discussion:

- Blue economy sectors are an important engine in the Mediterranean regional economy, with great potential for innovation and inclusive sustainable development. However, the challenges are great in political, social and environmental terms. It is of paramount importance to gather all economic sectors and concerned decision-makers, at all levels from regional to local, for building an economy that is inclusive, generates jobs/income opportunities, and supports development of coastal communities.
- There is a need to better know the consequences that the economic activities have on the Mediterranean resources and it is of paramount importance to address them fully. Tourism is by far the top economic marine sector in the Mediterranean basin, but the current model risks to compromise the value of the natural capital on which it is based. The fisheries sector is also very important in the region: small scale fisheries represent a source of livelihood for coastal communities.
- There is a strong political will in the Mediterranean to drive the much-needed change in the development model of the region towards a more sustainable and inclusive one. While the Blue Economy is key for improving the livelihoods of the Mediterranean communities, it has to be regulated and controlled by an effective participatory governance given limitations that must be imposed to the ocean

exploitation. This governance framework exists in the Mediterranean, where the institutional and legal basis is robust, in particular in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The enforcement, compliance and implementation however must be strengthened.

- Ecosystem-based (and participatory) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) are very important incentives to foster an Inclusive and Sustainable Blue Economy. The Mediterranean countries adopted in 2008 the ICZM Protocol that needs to be fully ratified and implemented regionally.
- Partnership is key, for instance between intergovernmental organizations such as UN Environment/MAP and the Union for the Mediterranean, as well as with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (FAO-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and NGOs such as WWF or IUCN. There was a strong convergence of priorities among the organizations gathered in the side event. Partnership with private and financial sector (businesses, banks) is also crucial for achieving a real Blue Economy. The construction of multi-stakeholder synergies and active collaborations across the Mediterranean are strongly needed.
- The regional dimension of Blue Economy is key for the Mediterranean basin: this is the dimension in which the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda translate into action at national and local level. For this reason, cooperation among partners working at all levels is a priority.



Gaetano Leone (Coordinator, UN Environment/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat)



Panelists participating to the side event (top). Paolo Lombardi, Director of WWF Mediterranean addressing the audience (bottom)



Attendees of the Side event (top). Mr John Tanzer, Head of WWF Ocean Practice (bottom)

NEXT STEPS

All partners of the Side Event agreed on the need to further collaborate to foster the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region. Various activities have been proposed, including:

- Organization of further regional joint events to address Blue Economy developments in the region, to be held during relevant regional meetings and conferences. Specifically, coordination will be needed for the organization of Blue Economy related activities leading to the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (COP 21), which will be held in Naples, Italy, from 2-5 December 2019.
- Organization of joint thematic workshops and initiatives aiming to address specific priority issues related to the Blue Economy and promote exchange of best practices. A first workshop will be organized by WWF Mediterranean in the summer aiming to address the issue of the practical implementation of the Sustainable Finance Principles in the Mediterranean region.

All partners committed to improve coordination efforts to achieve more effective regional actions towards the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region.

ANNEX I: INTRODUCTION OF THE SIDE EVENT

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Since ancient times, the Mediterranean Sea has played a key role in the economy of its coastal communities and States. Today, more than ever, the Blue Economy sectors are an important engine for the region's economy, with enormous potential for innovation and for sustainable and inclusive prosperity¹. Ocean-related activities in the Mediterranean Sea represent the fifth largest economy in the region, 20% of the world's annual "Global Marine Product" in an area which makes up only 1% of the world's ocean².

The health of the Mediterranean however is failing due to local stresses, such as habitat destruction, overfishing, and pollution, as well as global forces, such as an unprecedented rise in ocean temperature and acidity. The economic opportunities provided by the Mediterranean Sea are therefore accompanied by an increasing need for new management models that are respectful of its ecosystems, are able to maintain and increase their value over time, and benefit local communities around the Mediterranean. Sustainable conversion of economic sectors that have often adversely affected the health of ecosystems, such as fisheries and coastal tourism, as well as the development of new clean and technologically advanced activities – e.g. renewable energy –, represent important opportunities for innovation and employment for the benefit of the people from all Mediterranean countries. Close co-operation between Mediterranean countries and their stakeholders in the context of existing multi-stakeholder governance frameworks is a condition for realising a common objective: the sustainable use and conservation of our main common resource, the Mediterranean Sea.

International institutions and non-governmental actors such as UN Environment and its Mediterranean Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the European Union (EU), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and WWF are already working together to coordinate their strategies towards the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the region. A stronger collective effort is necessary to reach the final goal, to further involve governments, businesses, research and education institutions and the civil society, to improve co-operation and think and act in new ways: outside of the sectoral silos, beyond the ministry walls, and across the borders between economic sectors, countries, and issue areas. Now is the time to have everyone on board, pulling in the same direction toward a sustainable future for the ocean and for future generations.

Addressing the need to decouple development and the linear economy, a Sustainable and Inclusive Mediterranean Blue Economy is a low polluting and resource-efficient economy that promotes sustainable development whilst improving human well-being and social equity, generating economic value and employment, and significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, through strong partnerships between maritime sectors, policymakers and all stakeholders towards the sustainable and equitable use of marine and coastal areas and their resources³.

¹ Union for the Mediterranean. 2017. *Blue economy in the Mediterranean*.

² Randone. et al. 2017. *Reviving the Economy of the Mediterranean Sea: Actions for a Sustainable Future*. WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Rome, Italy.

³ UNEP/MAP. 2016. *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025*

The blue economy allows preserving Mediterranean healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and ensures the continuous delivery of goods and services for present and future generations⁴.

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean should:

- Ensure that blue economy investment delivers long-term social and economic benefits while protecting and restoring the diversity, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems;
- Be based on strong and effective governance that is inclusive, accountable and transparent;
- Be based on active and effective stakeholder participation;
- Promote sustainable use in marine areas through a far-sighted, anticipatory and preventive spatial planning;
- Accounts for ecosystem services and promotes investment in natural capital;
- Reduce the cumulative impacts of human activities on the marine ecosystem;
- Achieve zero carbon net emissions and enhances carbon sinks;
- Be based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows
- Be managed through the implementation of the ecosystem approach and ensure the Good Environmental Status of marine ecosystems

The current and potential future value of the Mediterranean Blue Economy is immense. Only a collective commitment to sustainable development will allow us to approach the challenge at the scale needed.

⁴ Plan Bleu. 2017. *Concept Note of the Conference “Measuring, monitoring and promoting a Blue Economy for a sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region”, Marseille 30-31 May 2017*, p 6.

ANNEX II: SIDE EVENT LEAFLET



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The model of the Mediterranean

The regional dimension of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy



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Ocean-related activities in the Mediterranean Sea represent the fifth largest economy in the region and 20% of the world's annual "Global Marine Product" (GMP) in an area which makes up only 1% of the world's oceans¹. Today, more than ever, Blue Economy sectors are important engines for the region's economy, with enormous potential for innovation and sustainable and inclusive prosperity².

However, the health of the Mediterranean is failing due to local stresses, such as habitat destruction, overfishing and pollution. The economic opportunities provided by the Mediterranean Sea are closely linked to an increasing need for new management models which respect its ecosystems and are able to maintain and increase their value over time, benefiting local communities.

Continuous dialogue and close co-operation between Mediterranean countries and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks are key conditions to reach a common goal: the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of the Mediterranean Sea.

The UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention, the Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, the European Union, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and WWF are coordinating their strategies and working towards improved cooperation with governments, local authorities, businesses, universities and civil society.

Beyond ministry walls, and across borders between economic sectors and countries, now is the time to have everyone moving together towards a sustainable and inclusive future for the ocean and for the coming generations.

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy should³:

- ensure that Blue Economy investments deliver long-term social and economic benefits while protecting and restoring the diversity, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems
- be based on participatory and effective governance that is inclusive, accountable and transparent
- promote sustainable use in marine areas through far-sighted, anticipatory and preventive spatial planning to ensure Good Environmental Status, through the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach
- be based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows and promote innovation and research in all Blue Economy sectors to achieve zero carbon net emissions
- enable the creation of employment opportunities for blue jobs in the marine and maritime sectors.

THE CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE VALUE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN'S BLUE ECONOMY IS IMMENSE. ONLY A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND A JOINT EFFORT INVOLVING KEY ACTORS WILL ALLOW US TO APPROACH THE CHALLENGE AT THE SCALE NEEDED.

¹ Randone, et al. 2017. Reviving the Economy of the Mediterranean Sea: Actions for a Sustainable Future. WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Rome, Italy.

² Union for the Mediterranean. 2017. Blue Economy in the Mediterranean.

³ Plan Bleu. 2017. Towards a Blue Economy for a sustainable Mediterranean: indicators and recommendations. See also the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (UNEP/MAP, 2016).

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference: Side event

28 November 2018, 09:00-11:00am

Kenyatta International Conference Center (Tent C)

Side event organizer: UN Environment

Partners:

- UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (MAP)
- Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Mediterranean Marine Initiative of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu)

Opening speech and moderator: UN Environment Deputy Executive Director, Joyce Msuya

Keynote speaker: Leader of the WWF International Oceans Practice, John Tanzer, to provide a global framework for sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy and to introduce the Mediterranean context

Panel:

- MAP Coordinator, Acting Director and Regional Representative for UN Environment Europe Office, Gaetano Leone
- UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Environment and Water, Miguel García-Herraiz Roobaert
- WWF Mediterranean Director, Paolo Lombardi
- Plan Bleu Director, Elen Lemaitre-Curri

The side event aims to foster improved models of regional cooperation to promote the achievement of a truly sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy. It will build on Blue Economy concept implementation in the Mediterranean region and countries, both from the perspective of policy (governance and institutional framework) and from an operational point of view (partnerships, best practices), with a specific focus on Fisheries Co-Management Models and Sustainable Tourism.

Beyond advocacy, communication and experience sharing, the main expected outcomes are:

1. to establish and strengthen coordinated partnerships among Mediterranean decision makers and stakeholders from various categories
2. to develop new initiatives and collaboration and to promote the exchange of best practices at the global and regional levels.

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CONTACT

UN ENVIRONMENT/MAP
www.unepmap.org
Julien.Letellier@un.org

Voluntary Peer Review Mechanisms in support of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

Side-event jointly organized by the Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy and the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region

Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 March 2019

REPORT

The [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region](#) (RFSD) is a multi-stakeholder platform that follows up on and reviews the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UNECE Region. Focusing on practical value-added and peer learning, it creates a regional space to share policy solutions, best practices and challenges in SDG implementation and helps identify major regional and sub-regional trends.

Fourteen of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are also UNECE Members: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, and Turkey.

Side event on voluntary peer review mechanisms in support of sustainable development in the Mediterranean

The MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat has joined forces with the [Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy](#) to organize a side event that aimed to showcase all the analogs of global mechanisms for sustainable development that are in place in the Mediterranean region, namely:

- the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), a forum for experiences sharing and a multi-stakeholder advisory body;
- the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), a translation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the regional level; and,
- the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER), an innovative incentive for promoting dialogue between volunteer Mediterranean countries on national structures, processes and policies for sustainable development.

Pertinent testimonies from Mediterranean countries were at the core of this side event. Representatives of France, Greece and Montenegro reported on peer learning activities related to their national frameworks established for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

A representative from the UNECE Environment Division correlated the countries' experiences to those of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme.

The side event was held on Thursday 21 March 2019 (13:00-14:30) at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG).

How are the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implemented at the regional, Mediterranean level?

UN Environment/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced the side event with a presentation focusing on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Mediterranean, insisting on the fact that the regional level can be considered as a bridge between global processes and national policies for sustainable development.

The MAP – Barcelona Convention system has a leading role in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the regional level and in ensuring the transition towards a green and blue economy in the Mediterranean. It supports long-standing structures and mechanisms that adapt the global processes to the Mediterranean dimension:

- The [Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development \(MSSD\) 2016-2025](#) provides an integrative policy framework for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. In line with SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), the MSSD supports investment in the environment as the optimum way to secure long-term sustainable jobs and socio-economic development.
- The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is a regional forum for discussion and exchange of best available practices. This multi-stakeholder advisory body is mandated by the Contracting Parties to ensure the integration of environmental protection and sustainable development policies in the region. The unique mechanism that the MCSD represents in the panorama of Regional Seas worldwide allows to look at sustainable development in its entirety and gives a strong voice to all the actors that work towards sustainability in our region
- The [Simplified Peer Review Mechanism \(SIMPEER\)](#) is an innovative incentive for promoting dialogue and exchange of experiences on National Strategies on Sustainable Development among Mediterranean countries. The SIMPEER pilot edition was carried out in 2016-2017 with the participation, on a voluntary basis, of France, Montenegro and Morocco. The second edition is on-going with Albania, Egypt and Tunisia. SIMPEER is an adaptive tool which supports the preparation and follow-up of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) presented to the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

Sustainable development under review at the national level

*Greece: Ministry of the Environment and Energy,
Ms. Christina Baritaki, Secretary General for the Environment*

Ms. Christina Baritaki took stock of where Greece stands and steers commitment for further action in implementing the SDGs at the national and local levels. She said that “*the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs offer a new transformative vision to reinvigorate the principles of democracy. A new vision for open, responsive and accountable governance. A new vision, not only for inclusive institutions, but also for an inclusive society. They support growth, but founded on a sound, long-term, environmental basis*”.

Ms. Baritaki reported on the VNR experience at the 2018-HLPF in New York, pointing out that this exercise was an excellent opportunity to working with all stakeholders towards breaking silos to achieve more, better and faster. The VNR report of Greece covers all 17 SDGs through eight National Priorities for adapting the SDGs to national needs and circumstances, based on an extensive gaps analysis and a mapping exercise conducted through an open dialogue within all government units and with a wide array

of stakeholders. The VNR was presented by the Hellenic Minister of Environment and Energy, the Chair of the Economic and Social Council of Greece, and the Chair of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament. The intention was to indicate that the effort to implement the SDGs goes beyond the responsibilities of the Government.

For building a robust long-lasting institutional mechanism to coordinate national efforts for achieving the SDGs, Greece is endorsing (i) a “whole-of-government” approach, with an active operational Inter-Ministerial Coordination Network, steered by the General Secretariat of the Government; and, (ii) a “whole-of-society” approach with a strong stakeholder engagement in the stock-taking process, enhancing transparency, partnership and accountability.

Capitalizing on the VNR experience, Greece is now pursuing the development of a 4-year National Implementation Plan, enhancing further tools and processes for stakeholder engagement, pursuing a more active involvement of the Hellenic Parliament in the follow-up and review process. *“The VNR experience, even though very intensive, has been overall a very positive and beneficial one at the national level towards breaking the silos in the way line Ministries have been operating so far to address cross-sectoral issues, as well as in raising awareness, ownership and accountability of all involved stakeholders and of the society at large in implementing the Goals”*, said Ms. Baritaki. She also reminded that Greece is hosting the MAP Coordinating Unit – the only UN body that has its headquarters in Athens –, hosted the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, where important decisions such as the MSSD were taken, and is currently chairing the MCSD. She concluded her presentation by mentioning that Greece is currently under the OECD Environmental Performance Review.

*Montenegro: Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UNOG
H.E. Milorad Scepanovic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative, and Ms. Maja Jovovic Schmidt, First Counselor*

Ambassador Scepanovic delivered a vibrant statement, noting that the MCSD was the first regional body to be recognized as a credible entity for regional implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, during the Second World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. *“The specific framework for sustainable development, integrated with protection of the coastal and marine environment within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, brought up a new perspective and opportunities for Mediterranean countries to implement their respective national sustainable development policies”*, he said. Ambassador Scepanovic also reminded that Montenegro was the first Mediterranean developing country to draft its NSSD by transposing the first edition of the MSSD adopted in 2005.

“Building upon these achievements, the most important recent step towards the sustainability of Montenegrin society was made by transposing the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development into the national context in 2016”, he said. The NSSD towards 2030 aims at building a society in which the promotion of continual, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the protection of natural resources, the improvement of the state of human resources, the strengthening of social inclusion and support for values, norms and behavior patterns are pursued.

Ambassador Scepanovic concluded his presentation by announcing that Montenegro will host the 18th Meeting of the MCSD to be held in the coastal city of Budva from 11-13 June 2019, expressing expectations that the MCSD will advance the HLPF and UNEA-4 outcomes in the Mediterranean region, in particular those related to the implementation of innovative technological solutions, synergies and partnerships for healthy and productive ecosystems, as well as sustainable livelihoods and human well-

being: “*We expect this to be a good opportunity to confirm our commitment to the further strengthening of the MCSD*”.

Ms. Maja Jovovic Schmidt gave more details about the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro that was adopted by the Government in 2016. She outlined that out of 169 individual sustainable development tasks, 167 have been transposed in the Strategy. She provided more details about the comprehensive structure for implementing and monitoring the SDGs in Montenegro and pointed out that Montenegro presented its VNR at the HLPF in 2016, sharing its comprehensive and valuable experience, but also learning from other countries that had been finalizing their respective processes of transposition of the 2030 Agenda. She said that the first National Report on the implementation of the Strategy will be prepared in 2019 and will provide a detailed information on the implementation of SDGs in Montenegro. She finally share the experience of Montenegro, as a pilot country, that participated in the Mediterranean SIMPEER, together with France and Morocco in 2016-2017.

*France: Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition
Ms. Anne-France Didier, Delegation of Sea and Coastal Zone*

Ms. Anne-France Didier, who is the National SDG 14 Focal Point for the French Ministry of Ecological and Solidary Transition (MTES) introduced the SIMPEER National Report of France. In 2016, France already developed three generations of national strategies on sustainable development since 1997, based on a strong political commitment to the ecological transition, a real potential for green jobs and decoupling economic growth to energy use, and a robust institutional and legislative framework for governance on sustainable development. France considered SIMPEER as an opportunity to showcase how 2030 Agenda and SDGs are implemented at the national level, following the success of the UNFCCC COP 21, with the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and as one of the European leaders for environmental research and eco-innovation for water, waste and climate change mitigation technologies.

The National Strategy of Ecological Transition Towards Sustainable Development (SNTEDD) 2015-2020 was designed on “*a cross-cutting and long-term vision to meet the interdependent challenges of ecological transition and sustainable development*”. A robust and complex governance mechanism was established to facilitate the implementation of this strategy, including the coordination by the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) under the Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) and the Senior Officials for Sustainable Development (HFDDs) that, in each ministry, are responsible for applying the National Strategy within their ministry.

The implementation of the National Strategy was also promoted via a participatory and inclusive approach. For the monitoring process, an Annual Report is prepared by the Environmental Observation and Statistics Department (SOeS) of the General Commission for Sustainable Development (Ministry of the Environment) supported by the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE); the annual report is sent to the Parliament after the submission to the CNTE.

The General Commission for Sustainable Development is now in charge to coordinate a roadmap for implementing SDGs through an inclusive process mobilizing the civil society, private sector, decision-makers, scientists and citizens, to set the French Vision for 2030, and to elaborate actions plan for each SDG. Ms. Anne-France Didier explain in particular how SDG 14 is being implemented in France, which is an important maritime nation worldwide.

Wrap-up and key messages

Rapporteur: Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE, Environment Division, Chief of the Operational Activities & Review Section

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin expressed his thanks to the distinguished speakers for enlightening the audience about the voluntary peer review mechanism in support of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. He explained that the presentations and statements explained much about the significant progress made in establishing frameworks for implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

He reminded that OECD launched its use of the peer-review mechanism back in 1992 and that UNECE followed in 1994, looking at Members States that are not OECD Members. Both OECD and UNECE are in their third cycle of Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs); UNECE's third cycle is marked by a strong focus on SDG integration. As a voluntary exercise, the EPR is undertaken at the request of the country under review. An EPR is an assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments.

Mr. Bonvoisin pointed out many parallels between SIMPEER and EPRs: both review international commitments, provide recommendations on the achievement of SDGs and address sustainable development from an environmental perspective. OECD and UNECE processes involve the mobilization of a large team of experts and a two-stage peer-review process. An EPR involves in-depth analysis of the environmental situation, practices and current institutional, policy and legal frameworks.

In terms of SIMPEER added value, *“What impresses me most about the Mediterranean mechanism is that it breaks down the UN regional silos by providing for peer-learning across the Mediterranean, something that UNECE has no mandate to do, that this Regional Forum for Sustainable Development is not intended to do and which the High-level Political Forum cannot hope to do with such a packed agenda”*,

Mr. Bonvoisin said.

Beyond five main challenges for environment management (i.e. weak political support, a low-level institutional framework, limited financial resources, difficulty adapting to emerging issues, and weak sectoral integration), integration remains the greatest policy challenge within sustainable development national frameworks. Cross-sectoral cooperation and the integration of sustainable development into sectoral policy are fundamental to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and these deserve much more attention.



MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT
& ENERGY



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

GENEVA | 21-22 March 2019

Voluntary Peer Review Mechanisms in support of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

Side-event jointly organized by the Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy and the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat

The side-event will introduce the analogs of global mechanisms for sustainable development that are in place in the Mediterranean region:

- the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), a forum for experiences sharing and a multi-stakeholder advisory body;
- the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), a translation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the regional level; and,
- the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER), an innovative incentive for promoting dialogue between volunteer Mediterranean countries on national structures, processes and policies for sustainable development.

France, Greece and Montenegro representatives will report on peer learning activities about national frameworks established for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 21 March 2019, 13:00-14:30 - International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) - Room 18

How are the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implemented at the regional, Mediterranean level?

UN Environment/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat
Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator / Mr. Julien Le Tellier, Socio-Economic Affairs

Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (UN Environment/MAP)
Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri, Director

Sustainable development under review at the national level:

Greece: Ministry of the Environment and Energy,
Ms. Christina Baritaki, Secretary General for Environment

Montenegro: Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UNOG
H.E. Mr. Milorad Scepanovic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative, and Ms. Maja Jovovic Schmidt, Counselor

France: Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition
Ms. Anne-France Didier, Delegation of Sea and Coastal Zone

Discussion – Wrap-up and Key Messages

Rapporteur: Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE, Environment Division, Chief of the Operational Activities & Review Section
