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19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Videoconference, 7–9 June 2021

**Agenda item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2019 – May 2021**

**Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**

**MSSD Reporting Table – Focus on Targets and Flagship Initiatives (March 2021)**

## MSSD Reporting Table – Focus on Targets and Flagship Initiatives (March 2021)

The table below is part of the monitoring of the MSSD implementation, including work done and progress made towards achievement of MSSD Targets and Flagship Initiatives. The Secretariat invited MCSD Members, MAP Partners and MAP Components to fill-in the table with relevant inputs from their activities, initiatives, programmes and projects that contribute to the achievement of MSSD Targets and Flagship Initiatives.

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Evidence
1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas	<p>Target: 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. (SDG Target 14.5)</p>	<p>2016: 1,215 Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) covering 171,362 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 6.81% of the surface under protection status. Fully and strongly protected areas: 0.04%.</p> <p>End of 2018: 1,231 MPAs and OECMs covering 226,000 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 8.97% of the total surface of the Mediterranean under a legal designation status. 1.6% of the Mediterranean is covered by nationally designated sites and 0.04% of the Mediterranean is covered by MPAs no-go, no-take or no-fishing zones</p> <p>There has been progress in terms of MPA coverage (from 4.56% in 2012, 6.81% in 2016, to 8.9% in 2018), with more than 1,200 MPAs and OECMs, where only 1.27% of the Mediterranean is effectively protected. The system of MPAs is largely coastal and mostly cover shallow waters. Only 10% of MPAs duly implement management plans. This is due to the lack of financial resources and technical capacity, as well as gaps in the existing legal and policy frameworks. For most sites, there is little available information on the implementation of management measures and on the effectiveness of such measures towards reaching the conservation targets. Related to effective management of MPAs, there is lack of permanent and trained staff, lack of material, insufficient funds, few management plans and business plans, weak monitoring and few baselines, and weak surveillance and enforcement.</p>
	<p>Target: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics. (SDG Target 14.4)</p>	<p><i>FAO-GFCM does not yet monitor this SDG Target (lack of evidence and data).</i></p> <p>Through its Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, FAO-GFCM is developing improved and participatory surveillance in order to monitor fishing activity and reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activity. A literature review undertaken by FAO-GFCM recommended a series of practical actions to address negative impacts and promote synergies between small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries, including fighting IUU fishing (a perceived source of conflict between the sectors), improving monitoring, control and surveillance of coastal fishing activities and implementing traceability systems to prevent illegal catch from reaching markets, as well as the sale of recreational fisheries catch.</p> <p>Certification schemes are also becoming significant features of international fish trade and marketing. They have emerged as a method to improve public awareness of the importance of concepts such as sustainability and responsible fisheries management, as well as to fight IUU fishing. The implementation of specific measures addressing IUU fishing activities (e.g. designated landing and transshipping times and locations, electronic catch declarations, authorized vessels, use of vessel monitoring systems) is recommended, as well as the establishment of an observation and inspection programme to ensure compliance with the conservation and management measures.</p> <p>Source: FAO. 2020. The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2429en">https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2429en</a></p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Evidence
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas</p>	<p><b>Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): The MedFund</b></p> <p><u>Background:</u> In order to improve the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs, France, Monaco, Tunisia and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation launched in 2015 the initiative of a dedicated environmental fund: <a href="#">The MedFund</a>, which is based on an innovative financing mechanism that aims to capitalize reliable and consistent financial amounts, the regular profits of which are reinvested sustainably in strengthening MPAs. The MedFund is a sustainable financing mechanism, which aims at strengthening Mediterranean MPAs for an effective management, contributing to their financial autonomy and their territorial integration. Designed as an innovative financing mechanism, The MedFund pursues a responsible investment policy that responds to the challenges of a more sustainable economy in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The MedFund is a Monaco-based non-profit organization bringing together governments, regional organizations, and CSOs. To date, member countries are France, Tunisia, Monaco, Morocco, Albania and Spain. The MedFund is composed of several organizations such as the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute – Prince Albert 1st of Monaco Foundation, as well as regional organizations involved in the conservation of the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Mediterranean such as SPA/RAC, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, MedPAN network of Mediterranean MPA Managers, WWF Mediterranean, IUCN Mediterranean, the French coastal protection agency Conservatoire du Littoral and the Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative.</p> <p>The MedFund received political support from the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The MedFund is supported by the <a href="#">Global Environment Facility (GEF)</a>, the <a href="#">French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)</a>, the <a href="#">French Development Agency (AFD)</a>, the Government of Monaco, the <a href="#">Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation</a> and a network of aquariums led by the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco.</p> <p><u>Achievements:</u> To date, 2,8M€ have been committed to support 8 MPAs covering over 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 4 Mediterranean countries: Karaburun Sazan MPA in Albania; Kuriat, Kneiss, Zembra and La Galite MPAs in Tunisia; Al Hoceima and Jbel Moussa MPAs in Morocco; and, Gokova Bay MPA in Turkey.</p> <p>This support is granted for 5 years to local civil society organizations and national agencies in charge of protected areas, financing activities essential to the co-management of these natural areas in order to preserve the marine ecosystems and the local populations that depend on them.</p> <p><u>Challenges and perspectives:</u> The MedFund has set an ambitious vision to support the implementation of national policies across the Mediterranean and is a key partner of the <a href="#">High Ambition Coalition for nature and people</a>.</p> <p>The MedFund’s target is to support 20 MPAs and protect 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> of natural marine and coastal areas by 2025.</p> <p>More: <a href="https://themedfund.org/en/about-us/">https://themedfund.org/en/about-us/</a></p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Evidence
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development</p>	<p>Target: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species, and take further action as needed by 2030. (SDG Target 15.5)</p>	<p>The regional framework for MPAs and biodiversity conservation remains the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (<a href="#">SPA/BD Protocol</a>).</p> <p>As requested by COP 21 in December 2019, SPA/RAC is preparing the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (Post-2020 SAP BIO) and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy on MPAs and OECMs, taking into account the <a href="#">Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework</a> under the <a href="#">Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</a> and its <a href="#">Aichi Target 11</a>.</p> <p>A <a href="#">Roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs</a> has been adopted in 2016; the Post-2020 MPA Roadmap would feed and inspire the Barcelona Convention’s Post-2020 SAP BIO and Post 2020 Strategy on MPAs and OECMs.</p> <p><u>The 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MPA Forum)</u>: The main objective of the MPA Forum is to deliver an operational Post-2020 Roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs, with concrete and practical recommendations to achieve MPA targets in line with international commitments. The 2020 MPA Forum is organized under the leadership of <a href="#">UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC</a>, the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (<a href="#">MedPAN</a>), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) through its Mediterranean Programme (<a href="#">WWF Mediterranean</a>), and the <a href="#">Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation</a>, in partnership with <a href="#">ACCOBAMS</a>, <a href="#">Conservatoire du Littoral</a>, <a href="#">European Commission/DG Environment</a>, <a href="#">French Biodiversity Agency</a>, <a href="#">IUCN-Med</a>, <a href="#">PIM initiative</a>, <a href="#">University of Malaga – European Topic Centre</a>, and <a href="#">The MedFund</a>.</p> <p>More: <a href="http://www.medmpaforum.org">www.medmpaforum.org</a></p>
	<p>Flagship initiative: Promote the “Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies created</p>	<p><b>IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas</b></p> <p><u>Background:</u> The development of the <a href="#">IUCN Green List</a> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>IUCN-MED’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 UNEP/MAP and has played an active role in the process of mainstreaming environment into the MSSD.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> 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.</p>

Objective	Target, Flagship Initiative	Evidence
		<p>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 <a href="#">Aichi Target 11</a> 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.”</p> <p><u>The Green List process:</u> At the heart of the Green List programme is the voluntary <a href="#">global Sustainability Standard</a> providing a global benchmark for effective management and governance quality that motivates improved performance and successful achievement of conservation objectives. The <a href="#">Standard</a> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>The Green List is an important instrument for Protected Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It requires the demonstration of measurable conservation outcomes that should be appropriate to the site level and its natural values;</li> <li>- It represents an approach through which an area can define an appropriate, shared and adaptive management plan that engages with stakeholders;</li> <li>- It includes periodical monitoring obligations and can therefore help determine whether conservation outcomes are being achieved; and,</li> <li>- It allows working and comparing in different contexts, both at site and biogeographic level, as it is a shared and transparent methodology.</li> </ul> <p><u>Leadership and partnership:</u> 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</p>

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		<p>Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and the European Life Programme.</p> <p>In the Mediterranean area, IUCN supports the Green List through its network of regional offices: IUCN-MED and IUCN- Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA). The Green list is supported and endorsed by the Italian and Spanish Ministries of Environment. The programme is implemented in collaboration with several technical 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 has also been promoting the application of the <a href="#">Green List Standard to Natura 2000 sites</a></p> <p><u>Main achievements and the way forward:</u></p> <p>The Mediterranean Green list programme has advanced steadily in the last years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Italy has relaunched the process, created and trained its Expert Assessment Group (EAGL), adapted the Standard to the Italian context and evaluated and submitted 5 sites to the Green list committee for final assessment.</li> <li>2. Spain has relaunched the process, created and trained its Expert Assessment Group (EAGL), adapted the Standard to the Spanish context and it is in process of reassessing 2 candidate sites to the Green List.</li> <li>3. France has been continuously implementing the Green List since 2013, and currently has 15 listed sites and eight new applications are under evaluation 2021. Two Mediterranean marine protected areas are on the Green List (Cerbere-Banyuls National Nature Reserve and the Blue Coast Marine Park near Marseille). At the initiative of IUCN Med and WCPA, a meeting has been held in 2019 with managers and experts from North Africa, Lebanon and France to promote experience sharing between Mediterranean sites involved in the Green List.</li> <li>4. A Regional Expert Assessment Group (EAGL) has been created in the Maghreb region.</li> <li>5. Seven candidate sites have been proposed by Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia's Protected Areas agencies. Evaluation process is progressing by the EAGL-Maghreb.</li> </ol> <p>Future goals of the Green list programme in the Mediterranean region aim at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. keep supporting the actions in the pioneer countries;</li> <li>2. support the participation in the Green list programme of other countries in the Mediterranean area;</li> <li>3. develop a specific approach for assessment and guidelines for Mediterranean MPAs;</li> <li>4. further explore synergies between Green list standard and Natura 2000 Network reporting.</li> </ol> <p>More: <a href="#">Green list user manual version 1.0</a>; <a href="#">LIFE Green List for Natura 2000 project</a></p>

<p><b>3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities</b></p>	<p>Target: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries. (SDG Target 11.3)</p>	<p><i>SDG Indicators related to Target 11.3 are not yet monitored by UN agencies nor academia (e.g. SDSN)</i></p> <p><u>Adapted from SoED:</u></p> <p>Context: The Mediterranean region and its coastal development dynamics are characterized by urbanization and “coastalization”. The overall continued and unabated trend towards coastal urbanization and the associated concentration of wealth production in the coastal zone to the detriment of the hinterland is strong in the Mediterranean. This generates strong dualities and inequalities between a neglected hinterland and a coastal area undergoing rapid urbanization now affecting the entire Mediterranean coastal zone.</p> <p>Mediterranean networks of cities: Formal and informal networking initiatives promote cooperation among Mediterranean cities with a focus on sustainable urban development, effective delivery of urban services, and effective urban governance and management systems for building a culture of cooperation and strengthening cities’ capacities to cope with similar problems, by exchanging, sharing and transferring technical know-how, expertise and experience.</p> <p>A review of the major active networks in the Mediterranean shows that they are relatively recent, some of them stemming from the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona process launched in 1995):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">MedCities</a>, created in Barcelona, Spain, in 1991, promotes the creation of City Development Strategies and the implementation of urban projects. Currently it has 63 members from 17 Mediterranean countries.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities</a>, created in 1999 on the initiative of the Municipality of Ancona, Italy, the Italian National Association of Municipalities (ANCI) brings together around 60 cities from the 7 countries of the Adriatic-Ionian sub-basin.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Euromed Cities Network</a> created in 2000 to encourage local authorities to engage with the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, includes 150 cities across 27 countries, with 46 Mediterranean cities in 2019.</li> </ul> <p>Other international networks with a concrete focus on the Mediterranean region include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)</a> is an assembly of local and regional representatives from the European Union and its Mediterranean partners, set up in 2010 by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). It allows elected representatives from the three shores of the Mediterranean Sea to represent their local and regional authorities politically, in view of maintaining political dialogue and of promoting interregional cooperation.</li> <li>- <a href="#">United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</a> is an international network of local authorities. Relevant for the Mediterranean region are UCLG MEWA (Middle East–West Asia) and UCLGA (Africa).</li> </ul>
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<p><b>3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities</b></p>	<p>Target: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	<p><u>From SoED:</u></p> <p>Waste generation and management practices vary widely throughout the Mediterranean. The total amount of generated municipal solid waste is around 183 million of tons per year, i.e. an average of 370 kg per capita per year (about 1 kg per capita per day). In Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMCs), values range from 1.1 to 1.7 kg per capita per day with a maximum of more than 3 kg in Monaco. In Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs), values range from 0.5 kg per capita per day in Morocco to 1.1 in Algeria. Recycling rates vary also broadly: in the NMCs, the recycling rate is above 13% and reaches 46% in Slovenia; in SEMCs, Egypt has the highest recycling rate (12.5%) and the rate is especially low in Palestine, Syria and Turkey. A relatively high share of waste is discharged on open dumpsites or unaccounted for, representing potential leakage into the environment and ending up as marine litter.</p> <p><u>From Joint EEA-UNEP/MAP Report. Towards a cleaner Mediterranean: a decade of progress. Monitoring Horizon 2020 regional initiative:</u></p> <p>In recent years, there have been determined efforts to instil more preventive, circular and sustainable approaches in the Mediterranean region. Awareness of plastic pollution has led to regulations restricting single-use plastics, such as plastic carrier bags, in countries all around the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, the generation and disposal of waste products and the consequent leakage of substances into the environment have yet to be decoupled from the demand for materials and energy coming from growing populations and economies. From a resource perspective, economies in the Mediterranean are still largely based on linear extraction of finite resources rather than systemic circular models of reuse and recycling, where waste products are a resource. The region faces an overall acceleration of linear production and consumption patterns and the “take-make-waste” paradigm.</p> <p>Waste recycling is increasing across the whole Mediterranean, although at varying rates. The level of recycling in Med EU countries is relatively higher than in Med South and Balkan countries. With specific reference to the recycling of plastic-packaging waste, the rates in Med EU countries increased significantly in the period 2009-2016.</p> <p>Data coverage and reliability is limited in Med South countries, which is also due to the informal sector’s role in the collection of recyclables. The role of the informal sector and community-based organisations in waste collection is particularly important in some Med South countries. Therefore, in addition to improving the coverage and efficiency of waste collection, their inclusion in waste management represents a significant opportunity to ensure the commercial viability of public-private partnerships.</p> <p>In the period 2007-2017, waste recovery and incineration showed a slowly increasing trend in Med EU and Balkan countries. However, these processes are limited in Med South countries because of relatively higher costs when compared to open dumping.</p> <p>Although overall in the Mediterranean the capacity to deal with solid waste has been improving, it remains far from sufficient to cope with the growing volume of waste generated and, in particular, the plastic fraction.</p> <p>A change in the production and consumption paradigm, together with proper investment in collecting waste and creating new value chains from it, greater awareness and education, as supported by the MSES, will not only prevent marine litter but will also have significant economic benefits for society.</p>
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		<p>As shown by successful experiences at national level, there is an opportunity to improve waste management in MED South countries. By exploiting the high share of organic waste and putting in place composting treatment plants, positive impacts on the environment could be achieved by a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the quality of other materials collected.</p> <p>For the Med South subregion, the production of reliable data and regular monitoring of waste streams remain insufficient to support informed decision-making. In comparison, the Med EU countries generally produce a higher quantity of data and regular monitoring is in place. In most countries, further efforts are necessary to improve the access to data and information to ensure the capacity to produce indicators on waste generation and management. Moreover, it is fundamental to support capacity-building efforts and coordination among national institutions, to improve data harmonisation at the Mediterranean scale, to facilitate the creation of a comprehensive Mediterranean-level database, and to support effective cross-border decision-making.</p> <p>The Mediterranean countries are active parts of major international conventions on the regulation of waste and on marine litter. At the Mediterranean level, waste management is recognised as a priority area in the LBS Protocol, the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities in the Mediterranean (SAP MED), and the related NAPs, and the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter. In addition, the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, adopted in 2016, engaged Mediterranean countries in a shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and to establish a circular approach to the economy. In terms of litter, the Mediterranean countries have established laws and enhanced their legislative frameworks aimed at “zero-waste” production, phasing out single-use plastic bags and recycling plastic material.</p> <p>In addition, in the COP 21 Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/MAP, 2020), the Mediterranean countries reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter, as well as ambitious reduction targets to prevent and significantly reduce plastic leakage into the Mediterranean Sea, aiming to progressively achieve 100% plastic-waste collection and recycling by 2025.</p> <p>Legislation on waste management has been in place for several decades in MED EU countries, and the recent EU Circular Economy Action Plan, one of the key pillars of the European Green Deal (EC, 2019), is expected to drive progress towards waste prevention and improved waste recycling and recovery. In addition, the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive will target and prevent at source specific plastic items commonly found in seas.</p> <p>Most Med South and Balkan countries have waste policies, plans or strategies for waste management at both the national and subnational level. However, several factors constrain the waste-management system in these countries, such as a weak legal framework and a low level of enforcement, market-based instruments, low public awareness, political instability and conflicts, and financial constraints. The capacities of public authorities needs to be enhanced in Med South countries, in particular their capacity to monitor and enforce the implementation of waste legislation, and to combat littering and illegal dumping activities, which are regarded as crucial for the protection of the environment and human health. The limited data and knowledge in this area should not delay actions on the ground.</p>
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<b>3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities</b>	<p>Flagship Initiative: Promote the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award approved by COP 19</p>	<p>At COP 19 in 2016, the Contracting Parties decided to establish the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to Mediterranean coastal cities. Funded by the Government of Turkey, this award aims at recognizing efforts of local authorities in promoting sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal cities.</p> <p>A Mediterranean environment friendly 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”. In other words, a coastal city in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems.</p> <p>The objectives of the award are to encourage local authorities to move towards a more environment friendly future; enable local authorities to act a role-model to inspire other cities; and, raise the awareness of the general public regarding the quality of environment in their cities.</p> <p>Eligibility: Cities located along the Mediterranean coast, both small towns and metropolitan agglomerations, can apply by demonstrating concrete steps taken and progress achieved to protect the environment, improve the quality of life, and promote sustainable development, in line with priorities of UNEP/MAP and principles of the Barcelona Convention. Applications submitted by local authorities have to emphasize partnerships with civil society, the scientific community and the private sector, including actions aimed at promoting urban sustainability. Both achievements and plans for strengthening urban sustainability in a Mediterranean coastal context are considered.</p> <p><u><a href="#">2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey: Press release: Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award: Izmir Metropolitan Municipality is the Winner; Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (IEFCA) – 2017 pilot edition (factsheet)</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">2019 – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Ashdod, Israel: The Mediterranean city of Ashdod wins the second edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (press release); COP21 celebrates the achievements of the winner of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award; IISD Reporting Services: Barcelona Convention COP21   The 2019 Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (video); IISD Reporting Services COP 21 Summary Highlights</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Key documents: Application form; Framework of Assessment Indicators at City Level; Indicators Calculation Guidelines; COP 19 Decision – Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award</a></u></p> <p>The 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is on-going towards a ceremony to be held during COP 22 in December 2021.</p> <p><u><a href="#">About the third edition (2020-2021):</a></u></p> <p>Turkey confirmed its continuous and generous support by funding the third edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, as per UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021.</p> <p>The Secretariat proceeded with the implementation of a roadmap, as welcomed and took note of by the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the MCS D Steering Committee. That includes various communication items and activities to maximize the audience and the number of applicant</p>
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		<p>cities. The documents related to the Award have been translated in French to reach more interest, and a dedicated <a href="#">webpage</a> has been created.</p> <p>The call for applicant cities has been launched on 25 September 2020 (Mediterranean Coast Day), along with communication actions. The application period was postponed until 5 April 2021.</p> <p>Despite important efforts from the Secretariat and partners to reach and mobilize Mediterranean coastal cities in view of their applications, only six applications have been submitted: Crikvenica, Croatia; Genoa, Italy; Grosseto, Italy; Malaga, Spain; Mezitli, Turkey, Mugla, Turkey.</p> <p>Although the methodological approach has been strengthened (*), the latter may be considered as complex and too demanding from potential applicants. Therefore, the Secretariat seeks the support from relevant partners to review and simplify the methodological approach and application procedure in view of the next edition.</p> <p>(*) Based on lessons learned from the pilot edition, and under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee, the methodology was upgraded in 2018-2019, with the technical support of the <a href="#">iiSBE Italy</a>, through <a href="#">CESBA MED Project</a>, and <a href="#">Med Cities</a>. In addition of these partners, <a href="#">AViTeM</a>, <a href="#">FAIC</a> and <a href="#">IMC CPMR</a>, as well as all UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centres, contribute to communication and outreach through their own channels.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities</b></p>	<p>Flagship Initiative: 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</p>	<p><a href="#">MedUrbanTools</a> is a sustainable urban development toolbox platform, which has been designed for the specific Mediterranean context. The content comes from the 63 <a href="#">MedCities</a>’ members and key partners working on sustainable urban development in the region such as the <a href="#">Centre for Mediterranean Integration</a> (CMI), <a href="#">Cities Alliance</a>, <a href="#">United Cities and Local Governments</a> (UCLG), <a href="#">AVITEM</a>, <a href="#">Metropolis</a>, UNDP, and financial partners, e.g. EU, GIZ, AFD, IEB, World Bank.</p> <p>The platform is open to any participation in sustainable urban development, considering the added value of mutualising efforts in a knowledge-sharing activity.</p> <p><u>Main achievements:</u> MedUrbanTools has been growing exponentially since July 2017 when it was first presented during the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD. Today, the platform holds more than 170 best practices, 40 videos of experts and 40 replicable methodologies on different topics concerning Mediterranean cities, including the experiences of 37 cities or metropolitan areas of 13 Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>In the platform you will find good practices, expert interviews and replicable methodological tools on (1) Environment and Climate Change; (2) Waste management, prevention and reduction; (3) Energy Transition; (4) Urban Strategies &amp; Local Governance; (5) Economic Development; (6) Urban Planning; (7) Sustainable Mobility; (8) Innovation; (9) Culture and Identity; (10) Social Rights.</p> <p>Particular emphasis is given to Sustainable Mobility and Energy Transition, as significant keystones that conditions economically, socially and environmentally cities’ development. Those themes are developed under several subcategories related to electro, shared or soft mobility, energy sources, eco-construction, or public lighting. They point out excellent resources for both large metropolitan areas and small cities to address these particular matters. In the future, MedUrbanTools will develop more specific sections like those of mobility and energy to provide a deeper and more specific knowledge on each issue.</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities</p>	<p>Flagship Initiative: Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction</p>	<p>Following the concept note prepared by COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE and welcomed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, the following activities have been launched by MIO-ECSDE through the services of ACR+ and LDK in the context of the <a href="#">“Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Neighborhood South Region”<sup>1</sup> project funded by the European Union (EU)</a>: (a) Conduct a regional assessment of high- and low-tech solutions including but not limited to awareness-raising and economic measures, that have been successfully implemented in Mediterranean countries to achieve waste reduction and promote the principles of circular economy. Approaches to be assessed are low- and high-tech ones but also awareness-raising and economic measures. It might indicatively include <i>inter alia</i>: the overall application of the hierarchy approach in waste management to promote a circular economy for municipal waste: methods for sorting at source bio-wastes and other streams of recyclable waste, how to maximize the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) to reduce waste for disposal (shifting from disposal-centric to recovery-centric paradigm), how to finance such waste management improvements and take advantage of circular economy schemes including but not limited to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), eco-innovation and eco-design, the promotion of use of secondary or by-products in other production processes, possibilities for industrial symbiosis, the collection and management of specific streams of waste, e.g. packaging waste, tires, waste from electric and electronic equipment (WEEEs), construction waste, etc. (b) develop a repository (on-line tool) for facilitated access to the solutions and their more widespread utilization in waste reduction efforts.</p> <p>This assessment is expected to consider <i>inter alia</i> awareness-raising, capacity building, and economic and technical/technological measures for waste prevention and reduction that have been implemented in the Mediterranean. It will consider relevant programmes and projects within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) systems, or in which the stakeholders of those systems are involved, and beyond. The project will also rely on relevant Mediterranean networks and experiences, including the work of MEDPOL, SCP/RAC and Plan Bleu, programmes and projects implemented by MIO-ECSDE and its members, the Mediterranean Urban Toolbox developed by Med Cities and that includes a Waste component, etc. The effort will also benefit from the experiences gained under the UfM’s environmental agenda, considering for instance labeled projects developed under EU-funded Interreg Med (e.g. Interreg Med Green Growth Community), as well as from lessons learned and outputs of other EU-funded projects such as SWIM-H2020 SM, CBC-Med, etc.</p> <p>The on-line repository tool to be prepared in collaboration between MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD, the UfMS and UNEP/MAP, will be fed by the results of the assessment.</p>
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<sup>1</sup> The Water and Environment Support (WES) project in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean. [www.wes-med.eu](http://www.wes-med.eu); <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/projects/wes-water-and-environment-support-eni-southern-neighbourhood-region>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean</b></p>	<p>Flagship Initiative: 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</p>	<p>The network of <a href="#">Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC)</a> was established in 2015 as an open and independent international scientific expert network providing support to decision-makers on the basis of available sound scientific information. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MedECC works in two complementary directions, namely publishing improved assessments and comprehensive synthesis of global change knowledge in the Mediterranean region, and building a regional science-policy interface on climate and environmental change. Established in May 2018, the secretariat of MedECC is hosted by Plan Bleu in Marseille, France. The secretariat is supported and co-financed by the Union for the Mediterranean, thanks to funds of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), among other financial resources.</p> <p>Achievements: The <a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)</a> has been released on 17 November 2020 during the online conference <a href="#">Med2020</a>. 190 authors participated in drafting the report. Among 86 Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and Lead Authors (LAs) from 21 countries, 27 (31%) are based in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Summary for Policymakers (SPM)</a> of MAR1 underwent the consultation with governments and policymakers and was approved during the plenary session held remotely on 22 September 2020.</p> <p>Important references to MedECC and MAR1 are envisaged in the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 and the associated Decisions of COP22.</p> <p>MedECC contributes to the 6<sup>th</sup> IPCC Report scheduled for 2022, with, for the first time a cross-chapter dedicated to the Mediterranean and coordinated by one of the MedECC Coordinators. MedECC contributed also to the 2020 <a href="#">State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED)</a> by co-coordinating the chapter on climate change and supports the MED2050 foresight study undertaken by Plan Bleu.</p> <p>MedECC has been awarded the <a href="#">2020 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe</a> for “its efforts to address climate change and biodiversity conservation the Mediterranean and in by particular drafting the first-ever scientific assessment on climate and environmental changes’ impacts the Mediterranean Basin”.</p> <p>MedECC is a successful example of a science-policy and science-society interface. Its independent scientific expertise is irreplaceable to inform Mediterranean and national policies in terms of climate and environmental change.</p> <p>The next step towards broader political recognition of MedECC will include submitting in 2021 the MAR1 full report for the possible endorsement of its SPM to COP 22.</p> <p>More: <a href="http://www.medecc.org">www.medecc.org</a></p>
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<b>5. Transition towards a green and blue economy</b>	Target: By 2025, the majority of Mediterranean countries are committed to green or sustainable public procurement programmes	Monitoring system to be established and evidence to be collected.
	Flagship Initiative: Create and promote a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation	<p><b><i>WeMed Mediterranean Sustainability Award</i></b></p> <p>Green and circular economy businesses are driving the transition to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the Mediterranean, improving livelihoods in the region through new employment opportunities, including for the youth and women. The WeMed Mediterranean Sustainability Award will place the spotlight on these businesses but also on the need to create an enabling environment supported by stakeholders such as public authorities, academia, business support organizations, financial institutions, and civil society organizations. This Award will aim at inspiring a new generation of sustainable entrepreneurs and fostering a supportive ecosystem, specially important to ensure a green recovery in a post COVID-19 context and progress towards the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Following-up on <a href="#">Decision IG.24/3</a> that requests the Secretariat to launch the first edition of the Mediterranean Green Business Award, SCP/RAC prepared and implemented a work plan which was discussed at the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee in May and December 2020.</p> <p>The first edition of the Award, which is supported by the Switch Med Programme, targets Southern Mediterranean Countries. For this first edition, three categories will be opened: Sustainable Business Model in Early stage (with a cash prize of 10,000 EUR combined with coaching services), Sustainable Business Model in Growth Stage (with a cash prize of 15,000 EUR combined with coaching services) and public authorities (with an honorary award and a stipend for up to three public authorities representatives to participate in a twinning event to facilitate peer to peer knowledge exchange).</p> <p>In order to prepare this Award, SCP/RAC completed a benchmarking study of other awards, prepared the concept of the award, develop the legal basis and the 2021 call for candidates, which includes the criteria for the selection under each category, the prizes and selection process. Applications will be managed through an online platform hosted by the Catalan Waste Agency. The call will be opened on the 14 May 2021 for 30 days.</p> <p>SCP/RAC mobilized a communication team to support the definition of the Award’s visual identity and the dissemination and stakeholders’ engagement strategy. The logo was prepared once the name of the Award was agreed: WeMed Award. A specific landing page for the Award was also developed<sup>2</sup>. The Award ceremony will take place during a regional event, most probably the SwitchMed Connect to be held remotely in October 2021.</p> <p>As recommended by the MCSD Steering Committee, ANIMA Invest Network (MCSD Member) has been invited to join the jury of the Award. The jury will be formed by seven members and will be gender and “north-south” balanced.</p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wemedaward.org/>

	<p>Flagship Initiative: Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels</p>	<p>This MSSD Flagship Initiative has not yet been launched.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">6. Improving governance in support of sustainable development</p>	<p>Target: By 2025, two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded to the Aarhus Convention</p>	<p>12 of the 22 (54,5%) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are Parties to the Aarhus Convention. The MSSD Target of two-thirds can be achieved by having five more Mediterranean countries joining the Aarhus Convention. The priority should be given to: (i) Three UNECE Member States: Israel, Monaco and Turkey (no approval by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention is required for their accession); (ii) Seven not-UNECE Member States: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia (their accession requires an approval by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention).</p>
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters</p>	<p>Following the concept note prepared by COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE, with the contribution of the UNECE-Aarhus Convention Secretariat and MEPIELAN Centre, and welcomed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, those partners agreed to cooperate with the UNECE-Aarhus Convention and UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariats and COMPSUD, on the organization of a capacity building activity in support of this MSSD Flagship Initiative focusing on environmental governance and the accession to the Aarhus Convention, to strengthen the implementation capacity of public authorities and to promote the engagement of relevant NGOs.</p> <p>In the context of this partnership, the following activities have been launched with the support of the EU LIFE Programme and the <a href="#">EU funded Water and Environment Support (WES) Regional Project in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region</a>: (a) Elaboration of a desk study for the development of a Foundation Discussion Document (FDD) (discussion paper) on the legal, governance and policy aspects of the “Mediterranean Accession Agenda” to the Aarhus Convention; (b) Organization of a meeting of experts to ‘validate’ the FDD and to identify the priorities and implications of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean; (c) Dissemination and capacity building on the basis of the validated FDD and Mediterranean Accession Agenda: i. A half-day joint communication/dissemination event (or an action of similar impact) of WES, the UNECE-Aarhus Convention Secretariat, the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and the UfM Secretariat will be organized to widely communicate the launch of the Agenda and the contribution to the implementation of the MSSD Flagship Initiative on Environmental Governance to encourage the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean countries and promote the engagement of relevant NGOs and civil society organizations. A report to the MCSD will also be developed. ii. A 2-day WES regional workshop/training is to be organised, to strengthen the implementation capacity of public authorities, country experts and NGOs.</p>

	<p>Flagship Initiative: Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments</p>	<p>Following the concept note prepared by MEPIELAN and welcomed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, MEPIELAN has submitted to the Secretariat a project proposal entitled “Mainstreaming the Public Trust Approach (PTA) in the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System”. This project is built on a three-stage process: (a) Analysis of the PTA and its applicability to the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system; (b) Identification of priorities for the PTA application to the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention policies and instruments for its sustainable integration through an international expert workshop; (c) Promoting an “Agenda for Applicability of the PTA to the Sustainability Governance of the Barcelona Convention System”, including a report to the MCSD, effective dissemination, and a relevant publication with a prestigious publisher. Based on an agreement with the Secretariat (to be concluded), MEPIELAN will launch the preparation of a policy paper, analyzing the Public Trust Approach (PTA) and its applicability to the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System, for discussion by the UNEP/MAP relevant bodies and presentation in a side event at COP 22. This Foundation Discussion Document is expected to be published as an handbook for post-graduate training and interdisciplinary modules of international postgraduate courses, supporting the advancement of environmental law and governance and human rights in academic curricula with a special focus on the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system.</p>
	<p>Flagship Initiative: Establish a publicly accessible Mediterranean integrated information system through a triumvirate of national governments, international institutions and the private sector to collate and transparently display information on the state of the environment</p>	<p>Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Regional Observatory on the Environment and Development (Plan Bleu): <a href="https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/">https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/</a></p>
	<p>Regional Action 6.4.1: Implement the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), which promotes the integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning</p>	<p><b>From MIO-ECSDE – Update on progress: 1 December 2018 – 31 March 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14-15 November 2018, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: presentation of the MSESD and its Action Plan (AP) at the High-Level Ministerial Segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference. The Chairman of MIO-ECSDE stressed to the Heads of States the necessity of introducing, strengthening and implementing national and regional ESD strategies as the safest prerequisite for effective promotion of Biodiversity and Health Protection and advancement of the necessary integrated approaches such as the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems/Biodiversity “Nexus”.</li> <li>2-6 December 2018, Cairo, Egypt: Two <a href="#">Trainings of Trainers on the AP/MSESD</a> and a national inter-institutional consultation organized successfully in Cairo, supported by the EU SWIM-H2020 SM Programme and gathering 100 participants. The inter-institutional meeting, attended by all relevant Ministries’ officials at high level, discussed the ways to promote the implementation of MSESD through its Action Plan and to align it with the existing national initiatives and programmes on ESD in the country. The events contributed to Egypt’s efforts towards implementing ESD and produced concrete recommendations on boosting ESD components of the</li> </ul>



		<p>Egyptian Strategy on Sustainable Development (2030).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24-26 June 2019: The <a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee &amp; its Regional Workshop on ESD</a> were successfully held in Heraklion of Crete (Greece) co-organized and co-supported by MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES, UNEP/MAP, UfM, the Ministry of Education of Cyprus, the Green Fund of the Greek Ministry of Environment, the Heraklion Development Agency and the Region of Crete. The meeting gathered 80 participants from 20 countries, who reported in progress and discussed about the status of ESD at national level, highlighting best practices. The meeting provided also input to the MSSD dashboard indicator “<i>Number of countries that have National Strategies/Action Plans on Education for Sustainable Development in place</i>” in the light of the UNEP/MAP Focal Point meeting (September 2019).</li> <li>• Compilation and production of the <a href="#">Proceedings</a> 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee/Regional Workshop on ESD in a digital publication – along with a few hard copies for promotional purposes – available at this <a href="#">link</a>.</li> <li>• Throughout 2019: Continuation of the efforts for MSED and its AP to receive more international support by the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Committee (MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES): Contribution to the UNESCO post-GAP initiatives, and namely, the Roadmap of “<a href="#">ESD for 2030</a>”; Presentation of the MSED/ Action Plan in the UNESCO Global Forum on ESD, Ha Noi, Viet Nam (2-5 July 2019); Presentation of the MSED/Action Plan in the UNECE ESD Steering Committee <i>Ad Hoc</i> Group Meeting (26-29 September 2019).</li> <li>• 14-15 November 2019: A special session was held on MSED in the context of “<a href="#">Environmental Education For Sustainable Development in Arab Countries</a>” Conference organized by the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) while the Strategy was extensively presented in the <a href="#">Report</a> produced.</li> <li>• February 2020: Submission of a proposal to UNESCO for a workshop dedicated to the Mediterranean, by the Mediterranean Committee on ESD, to showcase the approach in developing the MSED and the Action Plan (AP) within the World Conference on ESD initially planned to take place in May 2020. <i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift of the conference to a virtual format the scheduled workshops and side events were cancelled.</i></li> <li>• Throughout 2020: Continuation of the efforts for MSED and its AP to become better known among policy- and decision-makers at global level. The MSED updates and liaisons with the UNECE ESD Strategy processes were presented in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD on 19-20 October 2020.</li> <li>• October 2020 (ongoing): MSED is reflected in the Report – under preparation - by the Task Force on Education and Outreach of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Climate Change Initiative of the government of Cyprus, coordinated by the Cyprus Institute, about its contribution in climate change education.</li> <li>• February 2021: Update of the Factsheet on MSED, produced by the MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE, showcasing the MSED as integral part of the MSSD.</li> <li>• 10 March 2021: The provisions of the MSED and its Action Plan for engaging the youth were presented in the <a href="#">Youth Side Event</a> of the <a href="#">Regional Forum</a> on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region.</li> <li>• March 2021 (ongoing): Preparations of a Mediterranean Webinar on ESDfor2030 in the light of the virtual World Conference on ESD (17-19 May 2021) that will be held on 20 April 2021. The webinar will aim to prepare the Mediterranean countries, through their delegations from the Ministries of Education and Environment/Water as well as key stakeholders for the UNESCO Conference and the ESD aspects of related Conferences and Processes.</li> </ul>
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