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Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021

Agenda Item 3: Thematic Decisions

Draft Decision IG.25/1: UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027

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Note by the Secretariat

With Decision IG.22/1 of COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) the Contracting Parties adopted the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS), as the framework for the development and implementation of the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP. With the same Decision, the Parties requested the Secretariat to *“launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives”*.

The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) *“Approve[ed] the Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy, as set out in Annex V to the present Decision”* and *“Request[ed] the Secretariat to prepare the UNEP/MAP 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy in close cooperation with MAP components and with the full involvement of the Contracting Parties, under the guidance of the Bureau and through a dedicated steering committee that will be composed by the Bureau complemented by a limited group of interested Contracting Parties (3 additional persons, one nominated by each sub-group, to ensure a balanced geographical representation), and to submit a first draft to an open ended working group, for final submission to the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22);”*.

The Secretariat has initiated the required action for the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the new MTS very early in the current biennium, in close cooperation with the MAP components and under the guidance of the Bureau. The two processes were presented to all three meetings of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, namely its 89th (Teleconference, 22-23 April 2020), 90th (Teleconference, 12-13 November 2020) and 91st (Teleconference, 7-8 July 2021) meetings, through the Report on Specific Issues. The Bureau has provided its guidance and advice to the Secretariat all along this process. The Secretariat has prepared and shared in 2 June 2020 with all MAP Focal Points, following the approval of the Bureau, a note with an explanation of the expected roles and relations of the different structures involved in the preparation of the new MTS (i.e. Bureau, Steering Committee, OEWG, and MAP Focal Points) and a revised timeline of actions. The Secretariat, following the advice of the Bureau has also ensured interlinkages and cross-fertilization between the processes of the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the new MTS.

To ensure an integrated approach, involving closely all MAP components, the preparation of the MTS was discussed at all ECP meetings of the biennium, while consultations with the MAP Components continued intersessionally. The MTS Steering committee met twice, back-to-back with the 90th and 91st Bureau meetings; the outcomes of the Steering committee meetings were submitted to the respective Bureau meetings, to accompany the text of the draft MTS. Between the two meetings of the MTS Steering Committee (Teleconferences, 10-11 November 2020 and 5-6 July 2021), the document with the structure, programmes, objectives and outcomes of the new MTS was submitted to the Open-Ended Working Group for an inclusive two-week online consultation in March 2021. Four Contracting Parties and three MAP Partners provided comments during this consultation. The revised document was then submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting on the MTS (Teleconference, 13-15 April 2021). During the meeting, several proposals were made on the text of the draft MTS, which were reflected either in the text of the draft MTS or in the report of the meeting (document UNEP/MED WG.513/4).

The Secretariat also prepared a systemic analysis and assessment of the required capacity and operational costs to deliver the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 (Document UNEP/MED IG.25/Inf.10), following up to Decisions IG.24/2 and IG.24/14.

This draft Decision and its Annex was submitted to and reviewed by the Meeting of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points 2021 (Teleconference, 10-17 September 2021) that decided to its transmission to the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021).

The implementation of this Decision is linked to all Outcomes of the proposed Programme of Work 2022-2023, as its overarching framework. Its budgetary implications on the MTF and external resources are reflected in the proposed budget.

Draft Decision IG.25/1**UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027**

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 22nd Meeting,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Considering the United Nations Environment Assembly decision 5/2 of 23 February 2021, entitled “Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022-2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022-2023”,

Considering also Decision IG.22/1 on the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 19th Meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), and Decision IG.24/2 on Governance, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 21st Meeting (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019),

Acknowledging the need for translating to the Mediterranean regional and national levels the global aspirations expressed by Rio+20 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,

Bearing in mind that achieving the 2030 Agenda in the Mediterranean region requires a new paradigm for sustainable development in which work is no longer conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked,

Aware of the need for a strategic framework that ensures continuity, efficiency, integration and coherence across the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and considering the need to match the ambition with the required capacity and operational costs of the entire Secretariat including MAP Components,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the MTS Steering Committee and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in providing guidance for the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027,

1. *Adopt* the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 (hereinafter referred to as "the MTS 2022-2027"), set out in the Annex to this Decision, as key strategic framework for the development and implementation of the Programmes of Work of UNEP/MAP;
2. *Call upon* Contracting Parties to fully take part and contribute to its implementation with the support from the Secretariat and MAP components to achieve its vision and concrete results on the ground;
3. *Urge* MAP Partners, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry, the private sector and other stakeholders to collaborate and support the implementation of the MTS, ensuring synergy, harmonization of efforts, and optimization of the use of resources, avoiding duplication;
4. *Request* the Secretariat to maximize efforts for the implementation of the MTS in an integrated manner and for the mobilization of adequate resources and reach out, in cooperation with Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders;
5. *Request also* the Secretariat to monitor and report on the MTS implementation on the basis of each biennial Programme of Work as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, highlighting the contribution of the Programmes of Work to the achievement of the MTS objectives, strategic outcomes and related targets and update to this aim the MAP Resource Mobilization Strategy for its implementation.

Annex

UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027

UNEP/MAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2022-2027

A Medium-Term Strategy contributing to the Decade of Action for the SDGs

With a 2030 deadline to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), the Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions from the global to the regional and to the national/local level. The 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) of UNEP/MAP contributes to the implementation of the Agenda and the achievements of the SDG Goals and targets which are relevant to the protection of the marine and coastal environment and the sustainable development of the coastal regions. The MTS will also contribute to the implementation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to contribute to the UN Decade of Action for the SDGs, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

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1. Introduction

1. UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols – 21 coastal Mediterranean countries and the European Union – have progressively erected a uniquely comprehensive institutional, legal, and implementing framework integrating essential building blocks for sustainability in the Mediterranean. With the Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols, its structure encompassing the Secretariat, MED POL and six Regional Activity Centres and most importantly its 22 Contracting Parties, this UN Regional Sea Programme builds on a meaningful experience to define its future goals and work in an impactful and integrated way.

2. The timing of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 presents the opportunity to contribute in a coherent way to global processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and actions towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It also gives the opportunity for coherence with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025, approved at UNEA-5 in February 2021.

3. The global context for the development of the MTS includes a number of processes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework currently under negotiation, the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the ongoing UN Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) relevant UNEA resolutions, and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements of relevance to the Mediterranean region.

4. The design of the MTS 2022-2027 integrates key recommendations from the evaluation of the MTS 2016-2021; the mid-term evaluations of the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan, as well as the main findings and recommendations of the Mediterranean 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR), the 2020 State of Environment and Development (SoED) report, and the Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin Current Situation and Risks for the Future First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) prepared by MedECC.

5. The MTS reflects the broad political impetus expressed by the Naples Ministerial Declaration, adopted at COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019). The Naples Declaration showcased strong political commitment for specific action in achieving good environmental status and shoring up sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and constitutes a clear inspiration for the strategic design of that action. The MTS also assimilates the consultation process completed in 2019 to evaluate the implementation of the current SAP/BIO, as well as the processes for the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026-2035, the Post-2020 SAP/BIO, the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MPAs and OECMs and the Strategy to combat Pollution from Ships 2022-2030.

6. The implementation of the MTS aims at achieving transformational change and in substantively progressing in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by the Contracting Parties, strengthening enforcement and compliance with their provisions and implementation of ecosystem approach for achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) and substantively progressing in achieving the SDGs in the Mediterranean. To achieve this ambition, it is important to highlight the need for adequate resources and outreach, *in primis*, the

leadership and full involvement of the Contracting Parties as well as solid and inclusive partnerships and coordination with national, regional and global actors. The COVID-19 pandemic and the unpredictability that surrounds it compounds the triple crisis of pollution, nature loss and climate change. The UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 aims to contribute to a “green recovery” in the Mediterranean that will effectively tackle this crisis, a concept which highlights the pressing need for a recovery from COVID-19 that is more environmentally sustainable and resilient than the pre-pandemic status quo and which can support a transformation of Mediterranean economies as part of a deliberate shift towards greater sustainability and resilience.

2. Background

2.1. UNEP/MAP AND THE BARCELONA CONVENTION

7. The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention-signed in 1976 and amended in 1995), with its related seven Protocols, is the only regional multilateral legal framework setting the obligations “*to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest extent possible eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area*” and “*to protect and enhance the marine environment in that area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development*”. The MAP regulatory framework is subject to continuous update and expansion, remaining unique and fully relevant. The seven Protocols to the Barcelona Convention have expanded its application to the seabed and its subsoil, to terrestrial coastal areas, including wetlands, and to river watershed; taken measures to conserve marine biodiversity, enhancing the alignment with global targets; promoted specially protected areas; strengthened the commitments of the region to more ambitious objectives for ensuring integrated coastal zone management; phased out pollution from land- and sea-based sources; promoting transition to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and circular economies; and ensured litter-free Mediterranean sea and coast and sustainable offshore activities.

8. The work of UNEP/MAP and of the entire MAP-Barcelona Convention system for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the 2016-2025 MSSD and other Regional Strategies and Action Plans as well as the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, is guided by a six-year Medium-term Strategy (MTS) and implemented through two-year Programmes of Work and Budgets. The 2016-2021 MTS was adopted by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) with the vision of “*A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations*”.

9. In recent years, UNEP/MAP has increasingly prioritized partnerships with global and regional organizations for the implementation of its mandate to coordinate and maximize impact and achieve transformational change. Activities are also supported through a number of donor-funded projects and initiatives. UNEP/MAP and the MTS 2022-2027 will benefit from a major Programme funded by GEF (MedProgramme, 42 million USD) and three projects funded by the EC (8+ million USD) which have been instrumental for taking up ambitious objectives in several areas of MAP mandate

10. The 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) provided the political commitment through its Naples Ministerial Declaration and outlined the principles and timeline for the MTS 2022-2027 through its relevant decisions. The Contracting Parties, through the Naples Ministerial Declaration agreed “*on the*

four priority areas for actions and commitments identified at COP 21 to be part of the 2022- 2027 Medium-Term Strategy of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and to foster its governance and enforcement mechanisms”.

Extract from the COP 21 Report (UNEP/MED IG.24/22)

The new MTS is based on the following principles and requirements:

- The new MTS needs to be aligned with the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the relevant UNEA resolutions and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Mediterranean region;

The new MTS will build on the following elements, among others:

- the uniqueness of the MAP system’s mandate in the region;
 - the comparative advantages that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has in its three dimensions (institutional, regulatory, implementation);
 - the experience, achievements, major processes and lessons learned of the past four decades and in particular of the most recent biennia;
 - the needs, policies and commitments of the Contracting Parties, at national, sub-regional and regional level;
 - the vision, key considerations, evaluation of the current MTS as well as lessons learned from its implementation;
 - the increasingly more accurate assessment work being undertaken on the Mediterranean;
 - the analysis of significant environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region will face in the coming years;
 - the analysis of emerging issues that are of particular relevance to the region;
 - the new paradigm required to achieve Agenda 2030, in which work on environment and sustainable development issues is not conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked;
 - the implementation and enforcement of the comprehensive body of instruments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the increasing interest demonstrated by actors in the Mediterranean and beyond in partnering with the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the opportunities presented in the region in terms of access to financial resources, to knowledge, and to stakeholders’ involvement; and
 - the advantages provided by being part of a global inter-governmental mechanism such as UNEP and the UN.
- Focus, integration and diversification of responses and approaches will drive the development of the MTS in order to reflect the diversity of the region
 - The evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS need to take into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (including the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation, the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, the 2017 MED QSR, the 2020 SoED and the MED 2050 foresight study preparation);
 - The process needs to be conducted under the leadership of the Bureau; preparation of the new MTS needs to be Contracting Party-driven, to involve the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), and to ensure stakeholder participation to the widest extent possible.”

11. A strategic response of UNEP/MAP to the COVID-19 crisis builds upon the blocks set forth in the UNEP's COVID-19 Response paper "*Working With the Environment to Protect People*", namely: (1) The medical and humanitarian emergency phase; (2) A transformational change for nature and people; (3) Investing to build back better; and (4) Modernising global environmental governance, with a focus on elements related to the UNEP/MAP—Barcelona Convention system's legal, policy and action framework. Its identified priority actions are fully considered into the MTS 2022-2027.

2.2. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

12. The 2022-2027 MTS has been developed fully in line with global initiatives and their objectives. Central to this is the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and relevant SDG Goals and targets, in particular Goal 14. Life below water related to pollution (target 14.1), marine and coastal ecosystems (target 14.2), marine protected areas (target 14.5); as well as numerous other targets as presented in the following sections. A regional approach to the implementation and reporting of the SDG's is regarded as essential especially for targets which are more transboundary in nature and especially considering that in voluntary national reviews the least reported are related to environment and nature, such as life below water (SDG 14), climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) as well as partnership for the goals (SDG 17).

13. The **UN Decade of Action** launched in 2020, includes numerous thematic decades. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [[LINK](#)], supported by UNEP, FAO and CBD has as overarching goal to stop and reverse the destruction and degradation of billions of hectares of ecosystems in cooperation with all key stakeholders, organizations and governments. Also, the UN Decade of Ocean Science [[LINK](#)], coordinated by IOC-UNESCO will provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries' actions to sustainably manage the Oceans, embracing a participative and transformative process, so that scientists, policy makers, managers, and service users can work together to ensure that ocean science delivers greater benefits for both the ocean ecosystem and society.

14. The relevant **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** resolutions are considered in the development of the MTS [[LINK](#)]. The Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development [[LINK](#)], which notes that the COVID-19 outbreak calls for the urgent need to address threats to wildlife and ecosystems and recognizes the role of regional level coordination as key to address transboundary issues and facilitate regionally coherent approaches, are also considered.

Relevant UNEA Resolutions

- UNEA 1 (2014) resolutions 1/5 Chemical and waste; 1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics; and 1/8 Ecosystem-based adaptation;
- UNEA 2 (2016) “*Strengthening the science-policy interface*” resolutions on 2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste; 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production; and 2/10 Oceans and seas;
- UNEA 3 (2017) “*Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*” resolutions 3/7. Marine litter and microplastics; 3/10 Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems;
- UNEA 4 (2019) “*Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production*” resolutions: 4/1 Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production; 4/4 Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices; 4/6 Marine plastic litter and microplastics; 4/7 Environmentally sound management of waste; 4/8 Sound management of chemicals and waste; 4/9 Addressing single-use plastic products pollution; 4/11 Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities; 4/14 Sustainable nitrogen management
- Forthcoming UNEA Resolutions of MAP relevance

15. The **UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025** was developed with a focus on supporting the 2030 Agenda and Decade of Action, with three strategic objectives and programmes related to achieving climate stability; living in harmony with nature; and a pollution-free planet. It is supported by seven sub programmes which will, in particular, support, accelerate and scale up a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, to achieve planetary sustainability for people, prosperity, and equity.

16. Other relevant UNEP-led strategies include the **Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2021-2024)**, which has identified initially five strategic directions (climate change, SCP/circular economy/pollution, marine biodiversity, monitoring and assessments and knowledge management). In 2019, the Regional Seas published a report on the “*Follow Up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)*” guidelines [\[LINK\]](#) and case studies [\[LINK\]](#), including guidance and recommendations on the role of Regional Seas in contribution to the SDG reporting. This is complemented by the **UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy (2020-2030)** focussed on four strategic objectives related to knowledge; circular economy and sustainable consumption and production; policies and strategies for integrated management; and innovative financing instruments. Since 2020, UNEP has published numerous reports in response to COVID-19, including its **COVID-19 Response paper “Working with the Environment to Protect People”**; Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians [\[LINK\]](#); and COVID19, the Environment, and Food Systems: Contain, Cope and Rebuild Better report [\[LINK\]](#).

17. The **Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** [\[LINK\]](#), includes five Strategic Goals and 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with corresponding indicators [\[LINK\]](#). Work is ongoing to develop the **Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework** [\[LINK\]](#) which includes regional and thematic consultations. UNEP/MAP has closely followed the process and contributed with its Mediterranean views to the different reviews of documents contributing to the Framework elaboration, including on monitoring issues as set by the adopted IMAP. This Framework is very relevant for the Post-2020 SAP BIO and will be duly considered in the implementation of the MTS.

18. The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement [\[LINK\]](#) and of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The ultimate objective of these

agreements under the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development. In 2019, IPCC published a Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate [\[LINK\]](#) including recommended responses. Following this, the dialogue has continued among Parties and non-Party stakeholders to discuss how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action on ocean and climate change, drawing upon the knowledge and scientific findings from the IPCC Report and the submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders [\[LINK\]](#).

19. Other global strategies, MEAs and processes include:

- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Strategic Plan for 2018-2025 [\[LINK\]](#) focuses on seven strategic Directions and for each has developed a number of performance indicators and includes a list of concrete outputs per biennium. Also relevant is the IMO GHG Strategy [\[LINK\]](#) and the IMO Action Plan to address Marine Litter from Ships [\[LINK\]](#), both adopted in 2018;
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - Strategic framework 2012-2021 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Minamata Convention on Mercury, programme of work and Decisions adopted during COP 3 (2019) [\[LINK\]](#);
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade programme of work and decisions adopted at COP 9 (2019) [\[LINK\]](#).
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Strategic Plan for Migration Species 2015-2023 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Strategic Vision 2021-2030 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance - Strategic Plan 2016-2024 [\[LINK\]](#);
- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world [\[LINK\]](#);

20. Links are also established with working groups such as the “*Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics*” established at UNEA 3 [\[LINK\]](#) and key ocean conferences such as the UN Ocean Conference [\[LINK\]](#), Our Ocean Conference [\[LINK\]](#) and IUCN World Conservation Congress [\[LINK\]](#).

2.3. REGIONAL CONTEXT

21. UNEP/MAP works and delivers in a region characterised by a variety of multilateral and bilateral collaboration platforms and partnerships. Being the most comprehensive and longest-standing one for the Mediterranean on matters related to environmental sustainability, and the only one providing a comprehensive legal framework for all Mediterranean countries, the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system has inspired strong cooperation within the region, with important regional actors and initiatives through its official partnership policies. This outreach experience is a great asset with potential for replication for the effective implementation of the MTS 2022-2027. UNEP/MAP is supported in its work regarding marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular through a

number of partnerships. The regional context in which the MTS is developed also includes the UN Regional Economic Commissions, conventions and initiatives.

22. UNEP/MAP has over 45 accredited partners and several MOUs of cooperation (including with FAO/GFCM, ACCOBAMS, UfMS, IUCN, Black Sea Commission). The **UfM Secretariat** and the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Istanbul (Turkey), in December 2013, which provides for stronger collaboration in a number of issues of common interest, in line with decisions and Ministerial Declarations of the Meetings of Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and relevant UfM Ministerial Declarations [[LINK](#)], as well as the respective Programmes of Work of the two organizations. **FAO's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO/GFCM)** and UNEP/MAP signed an MOU in 2012. UNEP/MAP and GFCM work in close partnership towards bringing together biodiversity and fisheries in terms of shared data and information and joint reporting and assessments, in particular, for the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria and the publication of the first Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR); but also in terms of spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity. **ACCOBAMS** strategy (Period 2014-2025) has the overall objective to "*Improve conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2023*"; collaboration with ACCOBAMS is ongoing. **The IUCN Mediterranean Programme 2017-2020** was developed in line with the global IUCN Programme; collaboration and complementarities in implementing the strategies and programmes of work of the two organizations is continuous.

23. At the European Union (EU) level, the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)** adopted on 17 June 2008 and its implementation framework remains extremely important for the implementation of UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and its Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP). This is complemented by the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030, which includes the objectives that "at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU" of which 10% are to be strictly protected, as well as an initiative comprising specific restoration targets. Regarding green and circular economy and climate change, the European Commission has 6 priorities for 2019-2024, which includes "**A European Green Deal - Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent**" which, through this biodiversity strategy and zero-pollution ambition—provides a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. Furthermore, the work of the **European Environment Agency (EEA)** in providing sound, independent information on the environment, such as in the 2020 Joint Report EEA-UNEP/MAP, is of relevance to the future work of UNEP/MAP, especially regarding the knowledge base.

24. Cooperation is also continuous with other UN bodies, Agencies and Offices. To this end, collaboration is ongoing with the relevant UN Economic Commissions (UNECA, UNECE and UNESCWA), in relation to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and beyond, as well as with the UNEP Regional Offices of relevance to the Mediterranean Region.

25. Furthermore, the collaboration with other regional seas, such as OSPAR, HELCOM and the Black Sea Commission, has been strengthened; this collaboration is *inter alia* addressing the challenge of marine litter and plastic pollution. On this issue, UNEP/MAP is also collaborating with the Basel Convention and is actively engaged in its Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP), while the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system has also initiated the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter. Both initiatives aim to mobilize all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

26. This list is not exhaustive, and other regional processes will also be considered, including those supported by the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), the

MedFund, and several NGOs and professional associations/organisations which are very active in the Mediterranean.

27. Finally, the Mediterranean represents a solid example of collaboration and partnerships at sub-regional, multilateral and bilateral collaboration platforms and partnerships, addressing transboundary issues, including but not limited to the EUSAIR, the West Mediterranean Initiative, sub-regional agreements for preparedness and response to major marine pollution incidents (e.g. RAMOGE Agreement), etc.

3. Situation Analysis or State of the Mediterranean Environment

28. Key assessments conducted in the Mediterranean provide an essential basis for the 2022-2027 MTS. These include:

- UNEP/MAP, 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, the first assessment based on the Mediterranean Action Plan Ecological Objectives and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) indicators adopted in 2016 by all Mediterranean riparian countries, Parties to the Barcelona Convention;
- UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu (2020), State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED) report;
- Joint EEA-UNEP/MAP (2020), Towards a cleaner Mediterranean: a decade of progress. Monitoring Horizon 2020 regional initiative;
- MedECC, 2020, Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1);
- MedPAN and SPA/RAC, 2019, The 2016 status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, updated in 2021 (and used as baseline reference for the post 2020 progress on MPAs); and
- Numerous other thematic assessments by UNEP/MAP, IUCN, WWF, EU and Joint Research Centre (JRC) and others.

29. This exhaustive body of recent assessments show that, despite notable progress, Mediterranean countries are not on track to achieve and fully implement the agreed upon goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Ecological Objectives for Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast. The majority of observed trends show developments that are either progressing towards the set targets, but at an insufficient rate or unequally across the countries, or moving away from the target. Based on the 2020 Sustainable Development Report [\[LINK\]](#) the Mediterranean countries overall require further efforts in achieving all the SDGs with particular challenges remaining in achieving SDG 14 “*Life Below Water*” and SDG 15 “*Life On Land*” for all Mediterranean countries. Particular focus is needed to ensure a regional approach is taken for those SDG’s relevant to the environment which have been the least reported on by countries, in particular SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15. Finally, since 2020, it has been reported that COVID-19 will have severe negative impacts on most SDGs although impacts on the environment related SDGs (SDG 12, 13, 14 and 15) is not fully assessed.

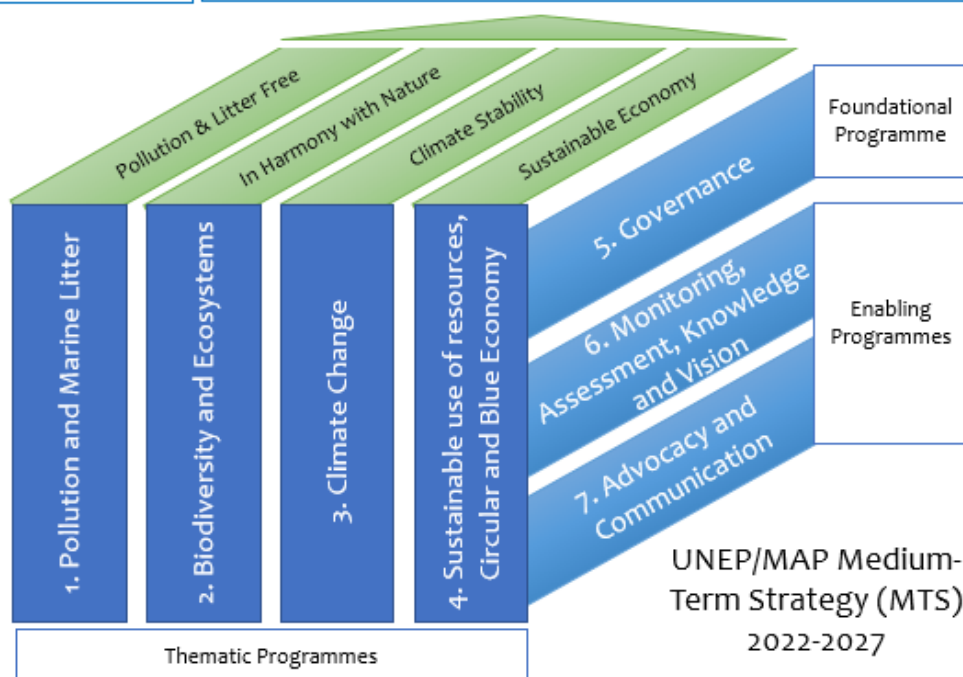
30. The Mediterranean marine and coastal environment therefore continues to be under threat due to increasing pressures and threats which are summarized on the 2020 SoED Report as due to: 1) Climate Change, with the Mediterranean identified as a hotspot by the IPCC; 2) Population densities in coastal areas which continue to increase 3) Health impacts from atmospheric pollution in urban areas, ports and emissions from ships; 4) Health impacts from lack of water supply and wastewater treatment particularly in the southern and eastern Mediterranean; 5) Waste and its management, in particular plastic waste; 6) Fisheries practices with 78% of assessed stocks are overfished; 7) Fossil fuels; and 8) Excessive use of chemical and pharmaceutical products, which are increasingly used especially in northern Mediterranean countries; 9) The increasing number of recorded and established Non-indigenous species in the Mediterranean.

31. Progress is also discernible, in particular in relation to active cooperation on environmental matters and integrating the environment into sectoral policies, especially in relation to the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and its Contracting Parties. Mediterranean countries

have adopted common objectives and cooperation frameworks, setting a shared path towards sustainable development, including the ecosystem approach (EcAp), adopted plans and frameworks, pollution control and prevention, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and other strategies and plans in support of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention. As a result, Integration and system-based approaches are increasingly recognized as the most efficient way to address systemic factors, combined pressures and cumulated impacts such as EcAp, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and SCP and major funding has been mobilized through GEF and the EC to implement concrete actions to support countries. The Mediterranean has seen a decrease in some of the major pollution sources and health hazards, with increased sanitation and wastewater treatment and a reduction in accidental spillages of oil and other harmful substances from ships in spite of heavy traffic. Also, particular efforts have been made throughout the region to build capacity for monitoring and assessment in particular with the adoption of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its implementation with the support of the EC, as well as the EU-supported Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) for reducing marine pollution and the development of Sustainable development indicators and the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.

32. Findings from the recent SoED report highlight some of the strengths of the Mediterranean region. Countries along the Mediterranean Sea share a common history and legacy (as testifies the number of UNESCO-labelled natural and cultural heritage sites), as well as analogies in lifestyle and values (culture of creativity and leadership, the world-renowned Mediterranean diet). It is also a region of widespread access to education in primary and secondary schools for both boys and girls (with limited but persistent disparities) and the first region in the world to develop a regional Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development. While facing contrasted situations, countries in the region are connected by flows of people, goods, financial resources, information and social interaction, as well as via environmental flows and shared natural resources (the Mediterranean Sea and its marine currents, river flows and basins, migratory species, etc.). Such interconnections have led to a high number of pan-Mediterranean collaboration mechanisms: scientific networks and cooperation's, civil society organizations, thematic networks (cities, youth, women, etc.), institutional frameworks, etc. The region also shows a high level of ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which demonstrates the region's level of awareness on sustainability issues and poses the basis for common action for sustainable development.

4. Rationale and Vision



1

33. The vision of the MTS 2022-2027 is the following:

“Progress towards a healthy, clean, sustainable and climate resilient Mediterranean Sea and Coast with productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, where the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its SDGs are achieved through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the benefit of people and nature.”

¹ The scheme will be updated to reflect the vision and title of theme 6, when finalized.

34. This vision considers:
- i. The previous 2016-2021 MTS Vision “*A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations*”;
 - ii. The Vision of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap “*A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations*”;
 - iii. The 2016-2025 MSSD Vision: “*A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems*”; and
 - iv. The vision on SCP Regional Plan adopted by COP 19 (Athens 2016): “*By 2027 a prosperous Mediterranean region is established, with non-pollutant, circular, socially inclusive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, preserving natural resources and energy, ensuring the well-being of societies and contributing to clean environment and healthy ecosystems that provide goods and services for present and future generations.*”
35. It also reflects:
- The UNEP 2050 vision of: “*Planetary sustainability for people, prosperity and equity, where net zero carbon emissions and resilience towards climate change are achieved, humanity prospers in harmony with nature and pollution is prevented and controlled, while ensuring good environmental quality and improved health and well-being for all*”;
 - The CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework vision // The 2050 Vision for Biodiversity “*Living in harmony with nature*” (CBD); and
 - The European Green Deal Vision.

4.1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

36. The MTS 2022-2027 aims at contributing to the long-term goals and objectives of the Barcelona Convention including Article 4, General Obligations:
- “(1)... *to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development*” and
 - “(2)... *to pursue the protection of the marine environment and the natural resources of the Mediterranean Sea Area as an integral part of the development process, meeting the needs of present and future generations in an equitable manner*”.
37. The **Long-Term Goals** to which the MTS 2022-2027 is contributing are *the achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, achieving sustainable development through the SDGs, and living in harmony with nature.*
38. The MTS 2022-2027 **Overall Objectives** are:
- To drive transformational change in enhancing the impact of the “delivery as one” of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and its contribution to the region;
 - To ensure that the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, the relevant SDGs and their targets, and the post-2020 global biodiversity goals and targets are achieved, through concrete actions to effectively manage and reduce threats and enhance marine and coastal resources;

- To contribute to strengthening Mediterranean solidarity and peoples' prosperity; and
- To contribute to the Building Back Better approach of the “UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19” and towards a “green recovery” of the Mediterranean by supporting new and sustainable business models, enabling a just and green transition to a nature-based solutions and circular economy.

4.2. MTS 2022-2027 CONCEPT AND PRINCIPLES

39. The MTS 2022-2027 has been structured in a way to be: ***integrated and coherent across the system; consistent; inclusive; adaptive and flexible; attentive to regional and national needs; collaborative, based on participation and partnerships; knowledge generating and sharing; result-based, and resource-efficient.***

40. Inspired by the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS, and in line with UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030, the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 charts the contribution of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system towards the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action, delivered against a 2022-2027 timeframe, and with a 2050 outlook.

41. The MTS 2022-2027 is structured through seven programmes. In developing the main areas of work, the MTS 2022-2027 stems from the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the obligations and commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the needs of the Contracting Parties, the long experience and best practices gathered during 45 years of working in the Mediterranean, and the synergies with partners.

5. Main Areas of Work

42. The MTS 2022-2027 contains 7 Programmes - 4 of which are Thematic, 1 Foundational, addressing a systemic governance and regulatory mechanism in its entirety in an integrated manner, and 2 Enabling, addressing the capacity of the system to generate knowledge and evidence-based assessment to feed policy and measures formulation and implementation through advocacy and awareness-raising - which in their entirety will allow the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the Contracting Parties to commit to ambitious priorities and move forward together with their partners for the full and effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and contribute to the promotion of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean and the achievement of GES and the SDGs.

PROGRAMME: 1. TOWARDS A POLLUTION AND LITTER FREE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND COAST EMBRACING CIRCULAR ECONOMY

General introduction

43. The elimination and improved management of marine and coastal pollution from sea and land-based sources, using ecosystems-based management, remains a core priority for the Mediterranean through cooperation amongst countries and partnerships for effective implementation of the Protocols addressing pollution, the thematic Regional Plans, Strategies and the NAPs. The importance of this issue is highlighted in a number of recent assessment reports, such as the EEA-UNEP/MAP joint Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report, the 2015 Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean, the 2016 SAP-Med evaluation, the 2017 Quality Status Report and the 2020 EEA-UNEP/MAP Towards a cleaner Mediterranean report and the 2019 State of the Environment and Development report. Whilst levels of major pollutants show a decreasing trend important issues remain, especially for heavy metals in coastal sediments, as well as in known hotspots associated with urban and industrial coastal areas and wastewater. There is a recognized need to also assess the threat emerging pollutants, such as plastic additives, cosmetics, plasticizers, microplastics, nanoparticles, and pharmaceuticals, to ecosystems and human health. In addition, further work will be undertaken regarding the impacts of underwater noise. Major attention is also needed with regards to marine litter, as the Mediterranean is one of the areas in the world most highly affected by marine litter due to an increase in plastic use, littering, inadequate and ineffective waste management, the lack of proper separate collection and recycling, unsustainable consumption patterns, high pressures from tourism and shipping, coupled with significant riverine inputs. More than 730 tonnes of plastic enter the Mediterranean Sea every day, and plastics account for up to 95 to 100% of total floating marine litter, and more than 50% of seabed litter. Single-use plastics represent more than 60% of the total recorded marine litter on Mediterranean beaches, which is typically generated from beach recreational activities. Lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ghost-gear) in particular is a major concern and source of marine litter, resulting also in entanglement of marine animals, including sharks, dolphins, seals and turtles, and risks of disseminating invasive species, disease and parasites in endemic habitats.

44. This Programme, aims to provide effective support to the Contracting Parties in delivering concrete achievements in the strategic directions explained above, using up-to-date integrated, ecosystem approach-based management and nature-based solution tools, as well as One Health approach. This will lead to ensure a transformational change towards an environmentally-sustainable and socially-inclusive integration into sectoral policies of pollution prevention and control including the ICZM Protocol, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Strategy on Pollution from Ships and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan, translated onto actions on the ground in the respective up-to-date NAPs. Key consideration is given in particular to the impacts of pollution and marine litter on human health, building upon long cooperation with WHO, and also in line with UNEP/MAP's Strategic response to the COVID-19.

45. This is achieved through the effective implementation of the Regional Plans adopted in the framework of LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and NAPs as also facilitated through the SAP MED Policy Framework and associated targets, the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031); the Offshore Action Plan; and the Regional Action Plan on SCP and the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

46. Programme 1 directly contributes to a number of **global and regional objectives and targets** including the SDG's and multilateral environmental agreements (the Minamata Convention, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions (e.g., MARPOL, OPRC and Dumping Conventions). It also considers the resolutions of UNEA 3 (2017) and UNEA 4 (2019) towards a pollution-free planet including with regards to innovative pathways to achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production and environmental sound management, Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics and, Environmentally Sound Management of Waste and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. It also contributes to the implementation of relevant EU Directives and Strategies, including the Green Deal zero-pollution ambition, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where applicable, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and relevant UN regional priorities. Finally, Programme 1 is in line with UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 2.

47. For the development of Programme 1, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, building on the work that has been since undertaken in line with these recommendations, envisaging measures development and implementation in a number of sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture, desalination etc., further consideration of microplastics, integration of circular economy approaches into marine litter management, etc.

Programme 1 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Target 14.1
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation:	Target 6.3
Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth:	Targets 8.3 and 8.4
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:	Target 9.4
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities:	Target 11.6
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production:	Targets 12.4 and 12.5

Objectives

48. Programme 1 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the Pollution control related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention:

1. To eliminate to the extent possible, prevent, reduce, monitor and control selected/regulated pollutant inputs, oil discharges and spills;
2. To prevent, reduce, monitor and control marine litter generation and its impact on the coastal and marine environment;
3. To consolidate the development and implementation of national programmes for circular economy businesses (including the polluter pays principle) addressing main sources of pollution, including plastics and promote SCP in key economic sectors and lifestyles which are upstream drivers of chemicals and plastic pollution

49. This will also contribute overall to the Ecosystem Approach achievement of Good Environmental status and the Ecological Objectives and indicators defined in the Integrated Monitoring

and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria as well as the objectives of the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development.

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO5. Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters;
- EO9. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;
- EO10. Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments;
- EO11. Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems;

Outcomes

50. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 1.1. Strategies and Action plan addressing marine litter and plastics developed and implemented through comprehensive, coherent and collaborative approaches

51. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the most marine litter affected areas in the world. To achieve this outcome the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona will be supported to implement the UNEP/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, considering other global and regional processes i.e., the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership. Actions will include the development and application of harmonised approaches and tools, the provision of technical support for the drafting of legislation and cooperation agreements between public and private stakeholders (i.e. Regional and National Plastic Pacts), as well as capacity building, pilot actions and awareness raising activities. Through these activities UNEP/MAP will strengthen prevention and control measures to reduce Land- and Sea-based sources marine litter and plastic pollutions in the Mediterranean, thus contributing to the GES. Priority will be given to actions which address: 1) single-use plastics which represent more than 60% of the total recorded marine litter on Mediterranean beaches; 2) recycling, including support to the private sector for the creation of a lucrative market based on recycled products (subsidies, incentives, etc.); 3) the harmonization of technical standards., 4) Strengthened control and regulation of recycled plastic; 5) Collection of beach litter including technical and financial support from municipalities, campaigns, etc.

Outcome 1.2. A holistic and efficient response to land and sea-based pollution, as a part of overall Ecosystem Approach policy for the Mediterranean, (chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution) for a sustainable Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystem is implemented

52. Outcome 1.2 focuses on measures dealing with land-based pollution including negotiating and adopting new/update legally binding Regional Plans containing measures and timetables for their implementation in a number of sectors; updating national actions plans, pilot actions on the national level to eliminate hazardous chemicals; updated guidelines and technical standards developed and implemented to facilitate transfer of knowhow, sharing best practices and promoting transfer of

knowhow among Contracting Parties; targeted support for the implementation of the Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols and compliance with their obligations including joint activities with London Dumping Protocol and Basel Convention Secretariats as well as with Stockholm convention for the management of obsolete chemicals. This will include the implementation of common approaches and tools to update, test, interlink and implement national and sub-regional operational systems for preparedness and response to marine pollution from ships, the establishment of a regional financing mechanism (i.e. “Blue Fund”), avoiding overlapping and maximizing synergies with existing mechanisms, through a collaborative and harmonised enforcement system, the provision of technical support as well as capacity building, and awareness raising activities. Finally, in order to avoid costly remediation actions and irreversible impacts on environment and health, this outcome will also develop strategies to prevent the use of toxic chemicals, in particular those POPs listed under the Stockholm Convention, and promote alternatives to toxic chemicals and promote zero-waste initiatives by the Contracting Parties. This will be achieved through technical assistance to strengthen national policy frameworks regulating the use of POPs and toxic chemicals and through the development of mechanisms to accompany companies in phasing out certain hazardous chemicals. Likewise, access to information on Chemicals and products and pathways for a transition to a Circular Economy Free of Toxic Chemicals will be improved. The issue of discharging the effluents of sulphur scrubbers directly into the water should also be addressed.

53. Through these activities UNEP/MAP will reinforce the prevention of, response to and the enforcement of measures to eliminate chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution in the Mediterranean, thus contributing to the GES.

Outcome 1.3. Systemic approaches for Circular Economy, eco-innovation as well as Sustainable Consumption and Production incorporated into key sectors of activity which are main sources of pollution

54. The promotion of eco-innovation and innovative business models is a major leverage point to prevent pollution. By adopting Circular Economy and SCP approaches, sustainable business models are based on the principle of preventing pollution and saving resources. Through eco-innovation, circular, life-cycle and system thinking approaches (including the promotion of product durability reusability, upgradability and reparability) and eco-design, industrial symbiosis, businesses are able to design out waste and pollution and keep products and materials in use.

55. Actions foreseen under this Outcome will promote networking among public, private and non-profit Business Support Organizations (BSOs) and Financial Institutions (FI) gathered in National Partnerships for Sustainable/Circular Business Development. Regional exchange and networking will also be promoted at Mediterranean level. Capacities for green business development of the BSOs and FI will be reinforced through training programmes and provision of methodologies and tools. BSOs will also be supported to deliver programmes for eco-innovation, circular economy-based business development targeting green entrepreneurs, while FI will be engaged in national and regional fora and working groups. These actions will also encourage the uptake of Green Public Procurement (GPP) practices to support the systemic transition towards circular economy.

Outcome 1.4. One Health approach developed and implemented, linking human and ecosystems health with pollution reduction and prevention, taking into account lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

56. While health has overall improved in the region, air pollutants, new lifestyles and consumption patterns are raising increasing health concerns. Climate change also affects social and environmental determinants of health – i.e. clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. The “One

Health” approach is “a cross-cutting and systemic approach to health based on the fact that human health and animal health are interdependent and linked to the health of the ecosystems in which they co-exist.”

The air polluting emissions can contribute to adverse effects on human health (e.g. lung cancer, cardiovascular illnesses and asthma), as well as on the environment. Due to lack of sufficient water resources, several Mediterranean countries revert to reuse treated wastewater for irrigation and aquifer recharge, as well as use in sludge in agriculture. These activities without harmonized minimum water quality requirements, entail significant risk on human health. Recent scientific reports have shown a direct correlation between air pollution as well as population infection with the COVID-19 virus. Infection was monitored through the quality of effluents in terms of virus load in wastewater effluents.

57. To ensure that a One Health approach is applied in the Mediterranean region, relevant partnerships will be established with regional and global organizations (e.g. WHO, World Bank, FAO, IMO, other international agencies, etc.). Actions will aim at the reduction of air polluting emissions, deriving from the maritime sector, considering the utilization of alternative energies and the implementation of the Mediterranean SO_x Emissions Control Area (ECA), as a whole, once designated, as well as, possibly widening of the work towards a cost-benefit case, including socioeconomic aspects, for NO_x ECA, covering the whole Mediterranean Sea, and possible way forward, while acknowledging the existing NO_x ECA studies; strengthen the health-related dimension of LBS Protocol and its Regional Plans; publish a study on COVID-19 impacts on environment and development in the Mediterranean. All of the above will be achieved through the organization of Med-wide conferences; the preparation of relevant feasibility technical studies; the provision of technical support, as well as capacity building and awareness raising activities.

PROGRAMME 2: TOWARDS HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS AND ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY

General introduction

58. The Mediterranean remains a hotspot for marine biodiversity and endemism, which are fragile and threatened by species extinctions, habitat losses, pollution and climate change. The preservation of these marine and coastal habitats is not only vital in terms of their unique biodiversity but also play an essential role in water quality regulation, coastal protection, carbon fixation and storage and increased resilience from climate change as well as providing feeding, breeding or nursery grounds, including species of commercial interest for fisheries and endangered or threatened species, such as the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*, which is endemic to the Mediterranean. Whilst there have been significant advances towards a strengthened and coordinated approach to protect and restore key vulnerable habitats and species, the Mediterranean sea and its coasts are under constant and growing human pressure caused by increasing population in coastal and urban areas (where one out of three people live in a Mediterranean coastal region), an additional 360 million tourists per year (~27% of world tourism in 2017), intensive resource exploitation and increasing maritime transport.

59. Programme 2 aims at the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value, and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, in line with the SDG's and the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This will be achieved through assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, and under the "*Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean*" (SPA/BD Protocol), Ecosystem Approach-related COP decisions and the "*Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region*" (Post-2020 SAP-BIO), currently under development, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD). To guide and facilitate the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and Post-2020 SAP-BIO, a number of regional strategies and action plans have been developed, adopted and regularly updated, aiming at the protection, preservation and sustainable and effective management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna:

- The "*Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea*", and the emanating "*Roadmap for a Comprehensive, Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean*";
- Eight Action Plans for the conservation and/or management of endangered or threatened species and key habitats: Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Marine Vegetation, Marine and Coastal Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans), Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions, and Dark Habitats;
- A Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal;
- An Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea; and
- The Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management Strategy and its Action Plan.

60. To improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, collaboration will be enhanced with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components. Many of the regional partners collaborating in marine conservation issues rely very much on technical tools, strategic documents and other outputs produced within the Barcelona Convention context.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

61. Programme 2 directly contributes to a number global and regional objectives and targets including the SDG's and actions towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Post-2020 Global Diversity Framework, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and its Strategic Vision 2021-2030, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS). It also contributes to European level policies such as the EU Green Deal, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and Birds and Habitats Directives, where applicable.

62. For the development of Programme 2, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, building on the work that has been since undertaken in line with these recommendations, i.e. strengthen implementation of SAP BIO and Action Plans in key areas, enhance MPA and other spatial measures networks and improve their management, support restoration actions, improve NIS control and management, enhance protection of sea-floor integrity, better address impacts from aquaculture and fisheries related activities etc.

Programme 2 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production:	Target 12.2
Goal 15. Life on Land:	Targets 15.5, 15.8, 15.9, 15a

63. It also considers the resolutions of UNEA and in particular UNEA-5 which will be conducted virtually on 22-23 February 2021, with the overall theme of "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". Also important are the Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development [\[LINK\]](#) which notes that the COVID-19 outbreak calls for the urgent need to address threats to wildlife and ecosystems and recognizes the role of regional level coordination as key to address transboundary issues and facilitate regionally coherent approaches.

64. Programme 2 is also coordinated with global and regional partners in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), ACCOBAMS, relevant EU Directives and Strategies, including the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the EU nature restoration targets under development, as well as to MSFD where applicable, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), the Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (The MedFund), OCEANA, etc. It is in line with UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 3.

Objectives

65. Programme 2 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity, and ICZM Protocols:

1. To protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmentally sound way areas of particular natural or cultural value notably by the establishment of specially protected areas in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction as provided for/in line with Article 5 of the Biodiversity and SPA Protocol of the Barcelona Convention;
2. To protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna and their habitats; and
3. To ensure preservation of the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems, landscapes and geomorphology.

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO 1. Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced: the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions;
- EO 2. Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
- EO 3. Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock;
- EO 4. Alterations to components of marine food webs caused by resource extraction or human induced environmental changes do not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability; and
- EO 6. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;
- EO 8. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved; and
- Contribution to all other EO's in particular EO5, EO9, EO10, and EO11.

Outcomes

66. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 2.1. Ecosystem resilience improved through restoration of those with best regeneration potential.

67. To ensure ecosystem function for the future, restoration programs must: (1) learn from the past; (2) integrate ecological knowledge; (3) advance regeneration techniques and systems; (4) overcome biotic and abiotic disturbances. Certain habitats are not particularly resilient, that is, making them vulnerable to adverse outcomes that are irreversible. In this sense irreversibility is indirectly proportional to a system's resilience. A system with greater biological diversity is also usually more resilient than one with less diversity. The aim of this outcome is to assist the Contracting Parties to implement national measure to restore the most resilient marine and coastal habitats and address the artificialisation of the coast and soils, as mean to allow successful restorations during the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and get experience in the future, through the elaboration of tools and guidelines, specific training and where and whenever possible action in the field by countries, including actions to support ecosystem evaluation and the mapping of ecosystem services, development of

methodologies for valorisation and monitoring of their status. This outcome is expected to also cover the restoration of degraded priority/of key importance ecosystems or specific habitats, for example to tackle climate change or other priority issues.

Outcome 2.2. Comprehensive, coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed MPAs and OECMs in place, expanded, effective and sustainable.

68. In order to establish, expand and operationalize a comprehensive coherent Mediterranean network of effectively-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), countries will be supported in the elaboration or updating of their national strategies and action plans for the development of MPAs and OECMs networks, based on the orientations and priorities of the post-2020 SAPBIO, post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs, the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and other relevant global and regional goals and targets. Parties will be encouraged to streamline the updated regional strategies and action plans into their national legal and institutional frameworks. At the implementation level, countries will be assisted, as much as possible, in collaboration with each other, in extending their national MPAs and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) and OECM networks, by extending existing areas, declaring new ones, including in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJ), designating highly and fully protected zones, and enforcing efficient management measures for their long-term conservation, in line with the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment under international law, as reflected in the UNCLOS. Specific support will be provided in terms of strengthening effective SPAMI management through SPAMI Twinning Programmes. Enforcement activities will be guided and supported by technical tools, standards, criteria, guidelines, tailored at regional or sub-regional level, as needed and relevant. The multidisciplinary Ad hoc group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM) will deliver timely advice and orientations to support the Secretariat and Contracting Parties. Synergies and collaboration with regional partners will be strengthened to support effective management of MPAs at local level through joint activities of capacity building, knowledge development, experience-sharing and networking.

Outcome 2.3. Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats in favourable status of conservation.

69. The Regional Action Plans on key species and habitats and the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean are adopted by the Contracting Parties as regional governance tools setting priorities and activities to be undertaken. They call for greater solidarity between the States of the region, and for co-ordination of efforts to protect the species and Habitats in question. This approach has been proved to be necessary to ensure conservation and sustainable management of the concerned species in every Mediterranean area of their distribution. To be more efficient, they are adapted to the sub-regional and national context. Strengthened cooperation and joint actions with relevant regional institutions (e.g., ACCOBAMS, GFCM, MedPAN etc.) and the main stakeholders (fisheries stakeholders, fishery and marine scientists, MPA managers, environmental and fisheries governmental institutions, NGOs, citizen science) is essential towards a better optimised conservation status and the sustainability of the natural resources use. The deliverables and targets of this outcome will contribute to the implementation of the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol, following the priorities of the Post 2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO) and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) of the Ecosystem Approach.

70. The actions foreseen under this outcome aim to improve the conservation status of marine and coastal species and habitats covered by Regional Action Plans for endangered species or by the Annex II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol through assistance to the Contracting Parties including capacity building programmes (symposia, workshops and thematic regional, sub-regional and national training sessions). It will also support, the updating and elaboration of regional and national annexes/regional action plans/strategies. It will ensure the implementation of measures to mitigate the impact and interaction with coastal and human activities and enhance the adoption of national measures by the Contracting Parties.

Outcome 2.4. Non-indigenous species introductions minimized and introduction pathways under control.

71. Non-indigenous species (NIS), particularly invasive ones, are considered among the greatest threat faced by coastal environments, and can contribute substantially to altering the abundance, diversity, and distribution of many native species. Unlike many forms of pressures that degrade over time, non-indigenous species can persist, increase, and even disperse. Records of NIS on the Marine Mediterranean Non-Indigenous and Invasive Species database (www.mamias.org) indicate that corridors are the most important pathway for introductions into the Mediterranean, followed by shipping and aquaculture. Assessing pathways of introduction of marine non-indigenous species is essential to identify appropriate measures and evaluate management decisions to regulate and prevent new introductions.

72. The actions foreseen under this outcome aim at assisting the Contracting Parties to update and implement the Regional Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea in line with Post 2020 SAPBIO to prevent, manage and control NIS and invasive non-indigenous species and their introduction pathways to minimize/reduce their impact on ecosystem integrity. It includes the elaboration of tools and guidelines and their adaptation to sub-regional and national contexts, to enhance knowledge and capacities. These measures will also contribute to the collective enforcement of the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027) and other international instruments and guidelines to minimize the transfer of invasive alien species.

PROGRAMME 3: TOWARDS A CLIMATE RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN

General introduction

73. The combination of various ongoing climate drivers of environmental change (e.g. sea warming, ocean acidification, and sea level rise) has numerous detectable effects on marine organisms acting at individual, population, and ecosystem scales. Expected future impacts include major reorganizations of the biota distribution, species loss, decrease in marine productivity, increase in non-indigenous species, and potential species extinctions. The importance of specifically addressing climate change in the Mediterranean has been recognized recently by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): In the upcoming 6th Assessment Report (IPCC AR6) there will be, for the first time, a cross-chapter paper specifically on the Mediterranean, co-coordinated by one of the MedECC Coordinators, who work in close coordination with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

74. The 2020 Mediterranean Experts on Climate Change and Environmental Change (MedECC) First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) notes that due to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, climate is changing in the Mediterranean Basin, historically and projected by climate models, faster than global trends. Virtually all sub-regions of the Mediterranean Basin, on land and in the sea, are impacted by recent anthropogenic changes in the environment. The main drivers of change include climate (temperature, precipitation, atmospheric circulation, extreme events, sea-level rise, sea water temperature, salinity and acidification), population increase, pollution, unsustainable land and sea use practices and alien invasive species. In most areas, both natural ecosystems and human livelihoods are affected. Most impacts of climate change are exacerbated by other environmental challenges such as changing land use, increasing urbanization and tourism, agricultural intensification, overfishing, land degradation, desertification, and pollution (air, land, rivers and ocean).

75. The 2020 State of Environment Report also stressed that climate change already exacerbates regional challenges, inducing an increase in risks of droughts, floods, erosion, and fires. In the upcoming decades, climate change is expected to further threaten food and water security, as well as human livelihoods and health, which is why it is essential that climate change is tackled in parallel to ensuring the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment as well as addressing socioeconomic aspects such as poverty, security and human health.

76. UNEP/MAP has been working on the issue of climate change impacts on the marine and coastal zone as far back as in the 1990's and, after a first comprehensive bottom-up assessment of vulnerability and impacts of climate change on Mediterranean biodiversity done at national, sub-regional and regional levels and related priorities identification in 2008-2009, followed by works on its monitoring possibilities, climate related activities were integrated into the work of UNEP/MAP as a transversal common work theme within the 2016-2022 MTS. Programme 3 aims to provide even more consolidated support to Contracting Parties as noted in the Naples Declaration agreed in 2019 by COP 21 and in line with the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas and Objective 4 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2025, both adopted in 2016 by COP 19, and as support to the implementation of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management adopted in 2019 by COP 21.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

77. Programme 3 directly contributes to a number of global and regional objectives and targets including the SDG's and the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It also considers the resolutions UNEA in particular UNEA 4 (2019) resolution on Ecosystem-

based adaptation which stresses ecosystem-based adaptation as a mechanism to reduce vulnerability to climate change and subsequent vulnerabilities in areas such as food security, water, health or biodiversity. It is also fully in line with UNEP's 2022-2025 MTS Climate Action Programme.

78. For the development of Programme 3, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, which although structured around the MAP Ecological Objectives, they also addressed to some lesser extent climate change issues, mainly relating to the need to fill knowledge gaps about the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems, especially the impacts of acidification.

Programme 3 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Targets 14.2 and 14.3
Goal 13. Climate Action:	Targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation:	Target 6.6
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities:	Target 11.6 and 11.b

79. At the regional level, of great relevance is the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) and the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) published in 2020 [\[LINK\]](#). This programme also contributes to the implementation of the relevant EU Directives and Strategies - climate action is at the heart of the European Green Deal [\[LINK\]](#), where applicable as well as with the relevant work of UfM, including the first Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (adopted in Athens on 13 May 2014) and the progress since. The work of several other regional partners is considered, including IUCN-Mediterranean work on nature-based Solutions, WWF Mediterranean (WWF Med), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) [\[LINK\]](#) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

Objectives

80. Programme 3 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the ICZM Protocol and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas endorsed by COP 19:

1. To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change by promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts; and
2. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems to maintain their contribution to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO 7. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems

Outcomes

81. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 3.1. Legal, policy and institutional framework strengthened at the regional and national level to efficiently address climate change related challenges (flooding, erosion, land degradation, pollution, disasters etc.)

82. Climate change related challenges including among others sea level rise, extreme weather events and storm surges are expected to generate additional pressures on coastal and marine areas. The increase of temperature will have an impact on both, terrestrial and marine ecosystems and will affect land- and sea-based activities. In this regard, support will be provided in effectively mainstreaming climate change into national and regional strategic and policy instruments. At regional level, work will be undertaken to review the implementation of the current Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, having a timeframe until 2025, and develop an updated Regional Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation taking into consideration the findings of MedECC report and other key regional and national assessments. Contracting Parties will be supported to integrate into National ICZM and MSP Strategies and management plans adaptation and mitigation measures as well as expected climate change projections and the increased uncertainty it brings to the environment, human health, and economic activities. To this end, leverage of adequate climate finance mechanisms will also be promoted, as well as stronger engagement of private, banking and insurance sectors. Activities will be undertaken to progress towards climate neutrality in line with regional and global commitments.

Outcome 3.2. Nature-based, technical solutions promoting prevention or reduction of the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and increase resilience to climatic variability and change.

83. The actions foreseen under this outcome aim to assist the Contracting Parties through the elaboration of guidelines and technical tools as well as through sharing of best practices for optimizing the use of ecosystem restoration as a means to maintain its ecosystem services. Adequate spatial planning and management can have important resilience enhancement effects, in particular through the establishment of coastal setback - that allows implementation of nature-based solutions in the sensitive land-sea interface areas - as well as measures related to green infrastructure and greening of coastal cities that improve quality of life of coastal populations by ensuring clean air and reducing risks of flooding, heat waves and other similar events. Coastal erosion prevention at national level will be supported also through mapping of key coastal ecosystems and targeted conservation and restoration actions.

Outcome 3.3. Better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impacts on environment and development.

84. Scientific evidence and knowledge about the current and projected impacts of climate change on the environment and development will enable decision-makers to anticipate and design policies that take into account the systemic interrelations between human activities, nature and climate change. The identification of particularly sensitive coastal areas and species threatened by climate change will support decision-makers and stakeholders to increase resilience and focus efforts when drawing-up inclusive and resource-efficient strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Coastal areas, as the interface between land and marine ecosystems and landscapes, are of exceptional value; they are also mainly urbanized areas, with a high population density and concentration of activities, which make them more vulnerable to impacts of climate change. It is

therefore necessary to identify and assess the most threatened areas and propose planning and management measures in order to achieve preservation, restoration or adaptation in various coastal contexts, e.g. pristine areas, coastal cities, the narrow coastline, and the coastal sea.

85. Efficient climate change mitigation and adaptation measures will take into account the local environmental and socio-economic conditions and lead to a virtuous cycle where positive outcomes in addressing climate change also lead to positive outcomes for the environment and communities. Technical assistance to local authorities will support them in taking into account local socio-economic contexts and impacts of nature-based solutions from the design phase of such solutions to their implementation and replication. Human lifestyles are also a driver of climate and environmental change; investigating how changes in lifestyles towards sustainable consumer choices can impact climate outcomes can be a powerful lever for policies that target consumer behaviour.

Outcome 3.4. Mitigation of Climate Change progressed through Circular Economy, increased resource efficiency and carbon neutrality business strategies.

86. This Outcome aims at supporting climate change mitigation efforts by exploiting the positive nexus between sustainable production and consumption and action-led societal transformation. To this end, Circular Economy, industrial symbiosis, eco-innovation and value co-creation will be fostered through a number of activities targeting primarily the private sector, including entrepreneurs and small businesses, with the aim to support circular economy entrepreneurs and business ventures to address climate change mitigation, increased resource efficiency and reduced emissions and to promote tools for improved measurement frameworks and consumption-based accounting. Specific actions and innovative solutions will be also developed and implemented to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including energy efficiency and decarbonisation. Also, energy efficiency and larger shares of renewable sources in the energy mix, in line with international agreements will be encouraged.

87. In achieving this outcome's goals, sustainable business support will be complemented by actions targeting civil society and local authorities, by offering appropriate tools to boost a change of lifestyles according to the pressing, climate change related, needs. In this respect, this outcome aims to promote cities and municipalities to be engaged to pivot climate positive lifestyles assessments and plans, using consumption-based accounting models to inform local mitigation pathways, identifying carbon hotspots and triggering effective consumption-production nexus.

PROGRAMME 4: TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES INCLUDING CIRCULAR AND BLUE ECONOMY

General introduction

88. The circular and blue economy concept, which includes Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is a response to the aspiration for sustainable development, given the growing pressure of consumption and production on the world's resources and environment. The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean and the SoED Report both recognize that patterns of consumption and production need to be changed to decouple human development from degradation of the marine and coastal environment. The SCP Action Plan gives guidelines for a shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, long-term sustainability, a circular economy and new paradigms in the use of resources, while taking into account climate change and contributing to the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, as the SoED Report highlights, the increasing attractiveness of coastal regions and cities comes with a concentration of the population in urban coastal areas, with a decline in rural economic and population dynamics, with less than 50% of national populations living in rural areas in all but two Mediterranean countries today. Recently, new activities such as renewable marine energies or the extraction of marine minerals and organisms have emerged and coexist with other maritime activities, such as offshore oil and gas, maritime transport, and with Marine Protected Areas. This multiplication and intensification of sometimes conflicting maritime uses represents new challenges for achieving or maintaining Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean. A good planning of the sea space is essential to avoid conflicts between current and emerging sectors, while creating synergies and enhancing cost effectiveness of activities at sea.

89. Programme 4 brings together essential, integrated and cross-cutting approaches to ensure the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development, the – worldwide unique – ICZM Protocol and the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (adopted in 2019 at COP 21), the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (adopted in 2016 at COP 19), and in line with the Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean, Blue economy and related COP decisions and recommendations. ICZM and MSP have a special role to play, as a transversal policy, with strategic options, plans and management measures, which can integrate and reflect on the same coastal geographic unit (with its terrestrial and marine parts) all thematic policies and horizontal dimensions, encompassing development measures, environmental protection, SCP, adaptation to climate change etc. Furthermore, a combined implementation of diverse actions, involving policy makers, businesses, retailers, academia and civil society is needed, in order to redesign in an innovative manner, the way in which goods and services are produced and consumed to drive the revitalisation of industrial and socio-economic development towards non-pollutant, no-waste, low-carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive, green and circular economies. A regional approach to planning at sea is essential, especially for environmental impacts and renewable energy production.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

90. Programme 4 directly contributes to all SDG Goals 14 and in particular Goals 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12. It also considers a number of UNEA resolutions, in particular UNEA 4 (2019) resolutions on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production; Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices; and Ecosystem-based adaptation. The outcome of UNEA 5 with its theme of *“Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”* is of particular relevance. At the regional level, Programme 4 contributes to the work of all partners in the region including the objectives of the European Green Deal, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, zero-pollution ambition, MSFD and MSPD, where applicable, as well as UfM’s work on Blue Economy. It is also in line with UNEP’s Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 4.

91. For the development of Programme 4, due consideration was given to the recommendations of two reports on Analysis of Existing Regional Measures identifying gaps vis a vis the achievement of Good Environmental Status and potential new/updated regional and national measures, building on the work that has been since undertaken in line with these recommendations, i.e. integrate circular economy in the policy and regulatory instruments implementation, strengthen the application of MSP linked with ICZM, enhance implementation of the Offshore Protocol, etc.

Programme 4 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production:	Targets 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, and 12.5 and 12a
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities:	Targets 11.4, et 11.6
Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth:	Targets 8.3, 8.4 and 8.9
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:	Target 9.4
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation:	Targets 6.5 and 6.6

Objectives

92. Programme 4, in addition to the contribution to the objectives of programme 1, addresses the following strategic objectives, linked to the objectives of the ICZM Protocol and its Common Regional Framework adopted by COP 21, and the objectives of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean adopted by COP 19 and the MSSD:

1. To facilitate the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development;
2. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly with regard to safe water use, though, notably, more sustainable consumption and production patterns and the promotion of the circular economy;
3. To achieve coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone;
4. To provide innovative services and products, taking advantage of the significant advances with regards to digital technology, and strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations, contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;

93. These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

Relevant Ecological Objectives:

- EO 6. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;
- EO 7. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems;
- EO 8. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved;

Outcomes

94. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 4.1. Sustainability of coastal and marine resources achieved through the synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches, including the adequate consideration of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI).

95. Action under this outcome will focus on the implementation of ICZM and MSP at national, regional and as appropriate sub-regional level, as the most effective approach to manage potential conflicts among various sectoral policies (such as conflicts for space, resources, infrastructures etc.), as well as between maritime and terrestrial policies. In line with the Common Regional Framework for ICZM adopted by COP 21, Contracting Parties will be supported in the development or update of national and as appropriate sub-regional strategies for ICZM, and the implementation of national and/or transboundary Coastal Area Management Plans (CAMPs) and other integrated coastal and marine plans. In this context, special emphasis will be placed on the application of MSP, particularly addressing Land-Sea Interaction and adaptation to climate change. Another important operational direction will go towards the main coastal and marine sectors in order to increase their ownership of sustainability and ecosystem-based management principles and objectives. The achievement of this outcome's objectives will be strengthened with targeted support provided to priority coastal areas for the development of water, food, energy and ecosystems nexus assessments and endorsement of relevant Strategies and Action Plans.

Outcome 4.2. Sustainable Blue and Green Economy tools and approaches in the context of Sustainable Development and MSSD implementation.

96. In order to adapt human activities to the carrying capacity of the Mediterranean ecosystems and to achieve their Good Environmental Status (GES), it is necessary to accelerate the dynamics embracing Circular and Green Economy approaches. A particular attention should be given to the sectors having a main impact in the coastal and marine ecosystems, including sectors of the Sustainable Blue Economy, as the population continues to grow in coastal and urban areas and as Mediterranean countries, communities (societies) and economies are dependent on natural coastal and maritime resources to create wealth, provide jobs, and continue local development (SoED). A regional strategy on sustainable tourism will be developed. The implementation of this Outcome will be framed within the context of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and its flagship initiatives and the SCP Regional Action Plan; those regional strategic and forward-looking frameworks will be reviewed in 2024-2025, taking into account inter alia scenarios of the MED 2050 foresight study and regional measures supporting the development of green and circular businesses. Technical support will be provided to strengthen national policy frameworks, support the green and blue economy sectors in integrating circular economy measures, and develop

pilot actions, flagship initiatives and dissemination activities. Regional mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plans will be strengthened.

97. Measures to increase the efficiency and sustainability of Mediterranean ports, including marinas (Green ports initiative) will be envisaged as Blue economy concrete tools to respond, in particular, to the adverse effects of the maritime and tourism sectors in the Mediterranean, and with the view to contribute to the decarbonisation and reduction of air pollutant emissions in the Mediterranean. The Green ports initiative, which aims at adapting port infrastructures to environmental sustainability standards, will be explored and promoted in the Mediterranean.

Outcome 4.3. Innovative environmental management and economic instruments implemented for the protection and efficient use of coastal and marine resources.

98. Limiting environmental degradation largely relies on proper planning of the use of coastal and marine space and resources. Instruments such as land stewardship, environmental fiscal instruments, payment for ecosystem services, compensation schemes, etc., come to support policy- and decision-making processes; this calls for a detailed elaboration of these instruments, economic analysis for the assessment of various policy options and measures, and strengthening of the Mediterranean stakeholders' capacities to use them. Innovative solutions can be also linked to pilot activities in Mediterranean countries as identified through relevant initiatives, such as the BlueMed Initiative for Research and Innovation for Blue Jobs and Growth. Regarding "innovative services and products" could you, please, add a point to digitalization, too.

Outcome 4.4. Measures defined within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem.

99. The increase of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region, in particular in countries with little experience in the field could lead to long term adverse consequences on the fragile ecosystems and biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea, and to negative consequences on the economies of the Mediterranean coastal States, especially in relation to tourism and fisheries, should these activities not be regulated and monitored adequately. Offshore renewable energy sources also present a great potential in terms of energy production and job creation. It is therefore important to have a long-term planning of these developments already today, so as to balance this opportunity with sustainability. The actions foreseen under this outcome pursue the effort of Contracting Parties to the Offshore Protocol through the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan by strengthening its governance framework leading to a sustainable and operational cooperation and partnership framework, with a view to delivering common guidelines and standards, and capacity building program, while also defining the way forward for the period after 2024, being the end date of the current Action Plan's implementation timeframe, which will include the formulation of a new/updated Action Plan to effectively implement the Offshore Protocol in coherence with relevant global commitments.

FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAMME 5: GOVERNANCE

General introduction

100. Programme 5 corresponds to the 6th MSSD objective and constitutes a prerequisite for the operation and effectiveness of the entire MTS. It also reflects commitments set through the Governance and Compliance Committee decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties - including COP 20 Decisions IG.23/2 and IG.23/3 and COP 21 Decisions IG.24/1 and IG.24/2 - as well as key decisions related to strengthening partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and resource mobilization (including Decision IG.19/6 adopted at COP16 and Decision IG.24/2 adopted at COP21, related to MAP Partners, and Decisions IG.23/5 adopted at COP 20 and IG. 24/2 adopted at COP 21 regarding the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy and its refined appendix). Also relevant are decisions regarding the ecosystem approach (COP 17 Decision IG.20/4 and COP 18 Decision IG.21/3) and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable (MCS - COP 19 Decision IG.22/17).

101. The MTS aims at creating the necessary conditions for the organs and bodies of the MAP system and its Secretariat to efficiently deliver their key mandates as stipulated in Articles 17 and 18 of the Barcelona Convention and the other relevant Articles of the Protocols, as well as to strengthen collaboration with major actors, programmes and initiatives working in and for the Mediterranean region. The MTS is compliant with the MAP legal system, i.e., the Barcelona Convention, Protocols that have entered or are about to enter into force, legally binding Regional Plans and Action Plans, as well as Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions. Ensuring enforcement and an integrated and efficiently coordinated support to the Contracting Parties for their implementation and for achieving compliance remains a high priority of the MTS.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

102. Programme 5 contributes to several SDG targets including SDG 14 and SDG 17 “*partnerships for the goals*”, as well as overall with UNEA decisions and resolutions. It is also in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS “*Environmental Governance*” programme.

103. UNEP/MAP has established partnerships at the global, regional and national level as previously described. As well as aligning priorities, UNEP/MAP is engaged in key decision-making meetings to ensure synergies in governance and planning, including with UNEP Regional Seas strategic directions and UNEA Resolutions, CBD and the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, UfM, GFCM, IMO, BRS Conventions and EU’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive amongst others. Promoting synergies ensures greater impact in supporting Mediterranean countries integrate and streamline global and regional agreed objectives and targets at the national level. This is also of particular importance with regards to priorities with those of major donors (see, COP 21 Decision IG.23/5 Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy) such as the GEF 7 Strategy.

Programme 5 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water with its Targets

Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17

Noting that Programme 5 also contributes to the SDG targets mentioned under the other Programmes.

Objectives

104. Programme 5 includes the following strategic objectives:
1. To ensure and strengthen appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, and enhance access to information, participation and engagement of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process;
 2. To strengthen the application of the ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities with the view to achieving or maintaining good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal region;
 3. To strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, the adopted Strategies and Action Plans, as well as Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions;
 4. To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among international and regional partners and organizations active in the Mediterranean region;
 5. To mobilize external resources for the efficient delivery of the MTS; and
 6. To promote effective science policy interface mechanisms at regional and national level.

Outcomes

105. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 5.1. Effective Implementation and Enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, including Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels.

106. Strengthening environmental governance in the Mediterranean region by enhancing Contracting Parties' capacity for implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols is instrumental in achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) in the context of sustainable development, including the ratification of its Protocols. Despite good progress in this area, implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols remain a key challenge for all Contracting Parties. By supporting Contracting Parties to strengthen their legal frameworks and institutional capacity in implementing and enforcing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, ownership will be increased, and the environmental rule of law will be reinforced in the Mediterranean region enabling the achievement of GES in the overall context of Agenda 2030. Support to Contracting Parties in the form of country-driven and result-oriented activities will include capacity building action to enhance implementation and enforcement by inter alia sharing of knowledge, best practices and information through relevant platforms, providing technical assistance for updating or developing the legislative or policy measures implementing the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions and the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development, conducting regional trainings, and developing guidance tools such as technical guidelines or model legislation. This will be framed in the continued and sustained enhancement of the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee, inter alia by supporting and enhancing national reporting, as well as reporting on monitoring and by strengthening synergies with MAP components as well as with civil society.

Outcome 5.2. Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensured, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches.

107. The smooth functioning of a multi-level governance mechanism is fundamental for achieving complex and ambitious goals and for achieving the GES and the sustainable development of the region. Such a mechanism should be strengthened in a systemic manner to ensure effectiveness at all levels, from the regional cooperation at the governance bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system to cross-sectorally organised institutional coordination of the various administrative authorities at national level. The delivery of the work of the governance bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system should be done in a coherent manner, ensuring “delivery as one”, inter alia through smooth and effective organization of meetings and timely dissemination of high-quality documentation. To this aim, efforts should be made to better streamline and ensure effective and timely interaction between the MAP policy making bodies (i.e. COP, Bureau, MAP Focal Points, Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, MCSD, Compliance Committee) and the governance mechanisms established to support and promote the scientific and technical work in the MAP system (Components/Thematic Focal Points, CORMONs, ad hoc technical Working Groups, etc.). There is also a need to ensure appropriate governance schemes allowing adequate and timely participation and contribution in transparent decision-making of all actors and stakeholders concerned. At the same time, digital approaches and modern tools can help the system shift our traditional ways of work while maintaining or even enhancing the level of efficiency and reducing the environmental footprint of our operations. These methods, some of which were tested or used more widely during the Covid-19 pandemic, should be further explored and promoted, in line with the UNEP-led process of modernizing global environmental governance. Adequate resources should be ensured to the Secretariat and MAP Components to deliver the mandate set by the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the relevant COP Decisions. Also, independent performance reviews of the MAP components will be undertaken on a periodic basis, building on the lessons learned of the recent performance reviews conducted in the framework of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

Outcome 5.3. Policy coherence and complementarity ensured among relevant work at global, regional and national levels and among MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s policy and regulatory instruments.

108. Outcome 5.3 aims to ensure coherence and synergies between the MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s policies and regulatory instruments and global processes on sustainable development and the protection of the environment, including the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the forthcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the CBD. Those synergies, including through the integration of innovative reporting mechanisms linking the global, regional and national levels, as well as through the advancement of peer learning mechanisms between Contracting Parties, will ensure coherence and complementarity between global and regional objectives and targets, while considering Mediterranean innovation and specificities. The promotion of multi-stakeholder governance schemes, of cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, and of participation and engagement of relevant stakeholders will strengthen the capacity of the Contracting Parties and partners to comply with and enforce the MAP policies towards the achievement of the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal region and the achievement of Agenda 2030. This will be supported by strengthening synergies with compliance mechanisms of other MEAs, in line also with outcome 5.1, as well as by the functioning of effective science-policy interface mechanisms at regional and national level, in line with outcome 5.4.

Outcome 5.4. Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface.

109. Enhancing partnerships in the implementation of actions and supporting transfer of ocean knowledge for the science-based management of the Mediterranean Sea is a crucial process for the successful implementation of the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system. The partnerships, aligned with the existing legal framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, will create a solid partnership to strengthen implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), support to MEDECC as a voluntary science policy interface platform of Mediterranean climate scientists well as integration of policy and management responses of UNEP/MAP with the requirements of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. By reaching out to science and establishing long-term collaborations with credible and reliable scientific institutions, with proven scientific knowledge and experience both at national and regional/sub-regional levels, the transfer and use of unprecedented achievements in science and technology will be ensured. In order to ensure an ambitious transformation towards optimal partnerships, it is necessary to (i) mobilize scientific assemblages to support the objectives of partnerships created to support effective science-policy interface; (ii) connect many existing initiatives, efforts, actors, resources and tools for marine science in the Mediterranean and beyond; (iii) strengthen synergies; (iv) support learning to work together; and (v) coordinate the resources for strengthened impact and avoid duplication and fragmentation.

Outcome 5.5. Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

110. Identifying, promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation at global and regional level is vital in strengthening public institutional capacities for the enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Leveraging global and regional platforms and networks for sharing experience, knowledge and best practices in enforcement and management will increase the effective and coordinated implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, supporting in turn the adoption of harmonized enforcement strategies in the Mediterranean region. In so doing, within the framework of the 2022-2027 MTS, it would be a priority fostering synergies, mutual supportiveness, experience sharing and lesson-learning and efficient utilization of available resources and expertise through inter alia training, development of materials and platforms in partnership with relevant MEAs or other institutions. The strengthening of public institution capacities is crucial for increasing ownership, for supporting environmental rule of law and for ensuring effective implementation at the national and local level.

ENABLING PROGRAMME 6: TOWARDS MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, KNOWLEDGE AND VISION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND COAST FOR INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

General introduction

111. Programme 6 reflects a core cross-cutting mandate of UNEP/MAP in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions from its Protocols, such as Articles 8 and 13 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities; Article 5 of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; Articles 3, 15 and 20 of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; and Article 16 of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean.

112. It also contributes to the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (COP 19 Decision IG.22/7). IMAP sets out all the required elements to cover in an integrated manner monitoring and assessment of biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and marine litter, and coast and hydrography. At the core of IMAP are the 23 regionally-agreed common indicators and the 4 candidate indicators (for which scientific knowledge and information is not yet fully developed to allow for regional monitoring and assessment) currently covering 9 out of 11 Ecological Objectives, namely the EO 1, EO 2, EO 3, EO 5, EO 7, EO 8, EO 9, EO 10, EO 11.

113. Programme 6 also includes UNEP/MAP's mandate to produce State of Environment and Development and Quality Status Reports, as well as other key thematic assessments as agreed by Contracting Parties. COP 21 Decision IG.24/4 endorsed the roadmaps for the 2023 QSR and MED 2050 foresight study. In terms of data management, which is also related to this Programme, Contracting Parties endorsed through COP 21 Decision IG.24/2 the main elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

114. Programme 6 contributes to several SDG targets towards enhanced information and science on the marine and coastal environment, as well as multiple UNEA resolutions, in particular UNEA 4 Resolution 4/23, *Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook*. It also contributes to UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 1, and is in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS programmes and in particular those on Science-Policy and Digital transformations.

115. It also will contribute to relevant key global reports such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) assessments and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and World Ocean Assessment (WOA) reports as well as to the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

Programme 6 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Target 14a
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:	Target 9.5
Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals:	Target 17.6

Noting that Programme 6 also contributes to all other SDG targets mentioned

Objectives

116. Programme 6 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the IMAP-related COP Decisions and the Assessment Studies Decision adopted by COP 21:

1. To strengthen and harmonize implementation of marine and coastal monitoring and assessments in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions of its Protocols and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria, for the purpose of the establishment of common methodologies for the monitoring and assessments for all Contracting Parties;
2. To achieve and/or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through science-based IMAP,
3. To develop foresight and other assessment studies as per the MAP Phase II document, referring to the publication of the Report on the State and Evolution of the Mediterranean Environment at regular intervals, and the relevant COP decisions on assessment studies; and
4. To ensure a fully operational data management Info System based on consolidated and quality-control assured monitoring datasets to support integrated assessments.

Outcomes

117. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

Outcome 6.1. Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national and local levels, with associated capacity-building.

118. Foresight activities conducted in a participatory manner and on a voluntary basis will be essential through the setting-up of multi-stakeholder platforms towards compromises on evidence-based decisions and their shared ownership for a more effective implementation. At regional level, future regional strategic documents, including the reviewed Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2026-2035), will be more powerful because they will build on the results of the participatory foresight activities initiated in the framework of MED 2050. Furthermore, replicating pilot foresight exercises at regional, national and local levels will allow to fine-tune the methodological approach as well as the definition of policies at territorial level. That will also strengthen the ability to conduct such exercises in the future and build capacity through a network of Mediterranean foresight institutes.

Outcome 6.2. Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making.

119. To achieve this outcome, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will increasingly focus on the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in order to progress towards a regular holistic integrated monitoring and assessment of the state of marine and coastal environment based on IMAP Ecological Objectives/Common Indicators and Good Environmental Status (GES) targets. In that context, the main focus will be on the further development of IMAP, implementation of national IMAPs by the Contracting Parties and implementation of QSR Roadmap, following Decisions of the Contracting Parties: Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets (COP 18, 2013); Decision IG.23/6: Mediterranean Quality Status Report (COP 20, 2017); Decision IG.22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related

Assessment Criteria (COP 19, 2016); Decision IG.23/04: Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean and Decision IG.24/4: Assessment Studies (COP 21, 2019) as well as delivery of assessment products. Actions will be undertaken to strengthen links with global initiatives and assessments, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Finally, support will be provided to encourage national and regional exchange of good digital practices and mainstream digitalisation into different policies/actions in order to enable sustainable development.

Outcome 6.3. IMAP implementation and Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES.

120. Under this outcome, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will undertake set of actions related to i) transfer of knowledge and hands-on experience related to reliable and cost-effective monitoring of marine environment; ii) use of standardized analytical procedures and equipment for sampling, analysis, processing and quality assurance of data; and iii) optimal data management. These actions must be coupled with effective use of unprecedented achievements in science and technology, including through i) strengthening of synergies with scientific networks to support science-policy interface; ii) upgrading of MAP Info System into a regional platform/node to facilitate sharing of data, information, marine scientific research outputs, marine and digital technologies and knowledge on Mediterranean coastal and marine environment in line with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) principles and best practices; and iii) application of advanced observing, modelling and forecasting techniques and tools to improve and extend a range of multidisciplinary predictive capabilities. Data visualization tools to integrate data in user-friendly formats such as maps, graphs or charts provide an accessible way to see and understand trends, outliers, and patterns, but also to download and use them and can be utilized for policy-making, advocacy, and awareness-raising. Activities will be dedicated to the interconnection and interoperability of the MAP observation and monitoring systems with the global and national ones, including the innovative World Environment Situation Room.

ENABLING PROGRAMME 7: FOR INFORMED AND CONSISTENT ADVOCACY, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

General introduction

121. Programme 7 contributes to the implementation of the MAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) adopted in 2017 (COP 20, Decision IG.23/3) and the Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021 adopted in 2019 (COP 21 Decision IG.24/2). This is achieved through integration and coordination of all advocacy, awareness, education and communication considerations through the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, taking advantage of the significant advances with regards to digital technology. This will include enhancing “Ocean Literacy” and to engage communication, awareness raising and education on the coastal and marine environment.

122. Innovative communication should be a driving force for empowered environmental advocacy. It aims to be innovative, inclusive, using a growing foothold in digital spheres and social media spaces to reach and engage with a diverse and expanding range of audiences and stakeholders. It aims to empower individuals and groups for environmental action, placing emphasis on the voices from sectors and actors typically outside the environment space. It should increase awareness and engage the voices of youth, consumers, students, environmental entrepreneurs, activists, women, innovation leaders and faith-based actors and organizations, among others. Education, using new digital technologies, is key for increasing awareness and empowering the future generations.

Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

123. Programme 7 contributes to several SDG targets in particular those under SDG 4 “*quality education*” and is in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS and in particular its Science-Policy and Digital Transformation Programmes.

Programme 7 key relevant SDG targets:

Goal 4. Quality Education: Targets 4.4 and 4.7

Goal 5. Gender Equality: Targets 5.5 and 5b

Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Targets 12.8

Noting that Programme 7 also contributes to all other SDG targets mentioned

Objectives

124. Programme 7 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the MAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) and the Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021:

1. To enhance MAP’s status as an authoritative voice on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean and Advocate the MTS vision to policymakers;
2. To encourage commitment and contribution of key stakeholders in support of MAP priorities and enhance public participation in MAP’s work;
3. To upgrade the MAP-Barcelona Convention system communication and dissemination capabilities;
4. To ensure Communicating as One and embark on digital transformation in the delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy; and

5. To enhance "Ocean literacy" and to engage communication, awareness raising and education on the coastal and marine environment towards different targets: elected officials, tourists, socio-professionals, etc. via the development of innovative tools (social marketing, etc.).

Outcomes

Outcome 7.1. Stakeholders and policy makers properly informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and aware of the environmental priority issues.

125. A communication strategy implemented under this outcome will support the environmental objectives put forward in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols through the identification of and meaningful engagement with target audience groups, as well as the amplification of MAP messages enhancing the concept of a Communicating as One. To policymakers and other groups of stakeholders (whose opinions and actions will directly impact the MTS outcomes), it is crucial to advocate policy and action conducive to the attainment of the MTS objectives and, more broadly, Good Environmental Status (GES). Advocacy for a green recovery in the Mediterranean, including through prioritizing sustainable options in the context of recovery from COVID-19, full compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and renewed commitment to their objectives in high level meetings and fora, will constitute an overarching advocacy priority. Under this outcome, advocacy will be delivered as a deliberate process using a range of tools, including the strengthening of the science-policy interface, awareness raising, production and dissemination of flagship publications and other communication products, campaigning, negotiating, and media engagement, in order to persuade decision-makers, influencers, partners, institutions and communities to endorse and/or carry out pro-GES policy and action. Information, communication and advocacy actions under this outcome will also support gender mainstreaming into the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system's mandate and operations. In order to strengthen the links with SDG 14, a peer review exercise that integrates the main uses of the ocean (fishing, maritime and coastal tourism, maritime transport, etc.) and in the framework of the Regional Marine Forum with other partners. Awareness and advocacy should also address the private sector and companies, in terms of social and environmental responsibility; to this end, the concept of Corporate Environmental Responsibility SDG14/"ocean approved" can be explored to be deployed in the Mediterranean through different modalities.

Outcome 7.2. Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns.

126. Effective external communication increases visibility and general public support for MAP's objectives. It is crucial to raise and achieve an active awareness about the critical role that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system plays in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the promotion of sustainable development. Different actions will be put in place to deliver this important outcome such as thematic digital campaigns, knowledge management tools, education packages on key topics of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and citizen science.

127. In this context, Barcelona Convention and its Protocols acquis will be promoted and introduced to Mediterranean countries' relevant universities through the elaboration of dedicated curricula and their delivery and disseminated to key private and public stakeholder. Key MAP achievements should be promoted for awareness-raising and education on key aspects of the mandate of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, such as those highlighted in the thematic Programmes of this Strategy, in partnership with the civil society organizations (CSOs) and concerned public authorities and stakeholders. Awareness-raising activities and digital campaigns will be implemented, giving visibility to those change-makers and eco-innovators delivering environmental and social benefit to their

communities in the Mediterranean. The role of the Mediterranean entrepreneurs' community (with specific focus on women and youth), their needs, activities and products will also be promoted.

Outcome 7.3. Towards a digital transformation: use of digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility

128. The actions foreseen under this outcome will aim to ensure a transformational change in this domain within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. This digital transformation should lead to an improved use of digital technologies, to a strengthening of networking and to enhancing MAP visibility. Digital capacity-building is substantial to achieve real and sustained progress in the various dimensions of digitalization and requires skills development and effective training, as well as capacity building in relation to digital skills and infrastructures. It will also significantly contribute in removing digital inclusion barriers - even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic - unlocking the benefits of technology, including the more effective use of emerging technologies and ensuring that individuals stay safe, protected and productive online.

6. Implementation

6.1. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

129. Implementation of the MTS will be operationalised through biennial Programmes of Work (PoW), prepared through consultative process within the MAP system, in accordance with relevant provisions stipulated in COP 15 Decision IG.17/5 "*Governance paper*", and adopted by the respective Conferences of the Parties (COP 22, COP 23 and COP 24). COP Decisions adopting the biennial PoW and Budget will mandate MAP Components to implement specific activities under the MTS Programmes and Outcomes, in line with each Component's scope of action and mandate, provided for in COP 16 Decision IG.19/5 "*Mandates of the Components of MAP*". PoW should also include SMART indicators and targets fully aligned with the MTS ones, in view of monitoring and measuring progress of implementation on a biennial basis.

130. PoW and Budget funds will be transferred to MAP Components, in accordance with the respective COP Decisions, through Project Documents and Legal Instruments signed with each Component. Funds allocated for the implementation of the PoW will be managed through the UN Umoja system. Financial administration of PoW budget is governed by the "*Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures for the Contracting Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean*", adopted by COP 18 through Decision IG. 21/15.

131. The implementation of the MTS is a collective process. The MTS should be used as a common platform for joint actions not only by Contracting Parties and the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, but also for fostering cooperation with other International and Regional Organisations and programmes active in the Mediterranean as well as with the civil society (especially MAP Partners and MCSD members). The MTS needs to be backed by strong political support and promote responsibility, accountability and transparency from all actors involved in its implementation, including who will be responsible for each action. Individual commitments and subsequent actions by Contracting Parties need to contribute to global and regional targets in order to bridge the current implementation gap. In order for the MTS to be flexible enough to respond to emerging challenges, it should be developed and implemented with an adaptive management approach. In a number of cases, the MTS will integrate new concerns by increasing its cooperation with others leading or specialised organisations. Enhanced cooperation is key to improving integrated ocean management and ensuring that all key issues are properly addressed. This will include cooperating with MAP partners to ensure comparative advantage in implementation and the use of existing tools and best-practices. Efforts to enhance the political will in the implementation of the MTS is also essential. Civil society has always been an important group of stakeholders in the MAP system. In the implementation of the MTS, its role remains critical. "*Synergies*" and "*complementarity*" are once more the key words when seeking effectiveness, positive impacts and sustainability. To this end, the private sector could become an important ally and contributor to the implementation of the MTS, given in particular its key role in the transition to the green economy.

132. The MAP system cooperates closely with the EU institutions (in particular the European Commission and EEA), especially since the EU is a Contracting Party. Furthermore, UNEP/MAP has signed individual Memoranda of Understanding with IUCN, the UfM Secretariat, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO/GFCM), ACCOBAMS and Black Sea Commission. Among the International and Regional Organisations, with which UNEP/MAP has long-lasting cooperation, the following – playing already a role in the Mediterranean – are potential important players expected to contribute to the implementation of MTS 2022-2027: EU, FAO, UNCTAD, CIESM, CEDARE, GWP Med,

Birdlife, WWF Med, MedPAN, the Mediterranean Energy Observatory and international financial agents like the FFEM, EBRD, EIB, IFC, IUCN and WB. Memoranda of Understanding have been also signed in the past with individual Contracting Parties (i.e. Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection) to support implementation of the MAP mandate and common objectives in priority areas.

133. The role of advocacy will also be key to persuade decision-makers, influencers, partners, institutions and communities to support and carry out actions that contribute to achieving the MTS objectives and outcomes, contributing to the 2030 Agenda and other global priorities and the promotion of a post-COVID “*green recovery*” in the Mediterranean. As noted in the UNEP Ecosystems Division Advocacy Toolkit, “*Advocacy is defined as a process that seeks to influence or change a decision, a policy, a law, a practice, an attitude, or a process.*”

6.2. FUNDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

134. The MTS, having a strategic nature, does not enter into budgetary details. Such details, as well as the actors and components in charge of implementation by activity, are to be found in the PoW of the relevant biennia of the period 2022-2027. The main source of funding for the implementation of the MTS remains the Mediterranean Trust Fund and its components, as established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. Due to its complexity and high level of ambition there is a need for additional resources.

135. The main challenge to the objectives of Strategy is in the availability of financial resources, in particular taking into consideration the global and regional circumstances. The good practice of the last years, of mobilizing additional funding for specific projects, in line with the PoW and in consultation with the Contracting Parties, is to continue and be further extended to include other donors too. Bilateral cooperation with individual Contracting Parties to support implementation of specific PoW activities in line with the MTS objectives and outcomes should be continued and strengthened, building on successful practices of the previous MTS cycle. The Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted at COP 20 and its revised Appendix adopted at COP 21 will be the guide to this end.

136. It is expected that a large number of projects will be implemented during the MTS that will significantly contribute to its objectives. These include:

- i. The GEF-UNEP “*Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security*” (2020-2025);
- ii. The EU IMAP-MPA project “*Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through an Ecologically Representative and Efficiently Managed and Monitored Network of Marine Protected Areas*” (2019-2023);
- iii. The EU EcAp-MED III “*Support to Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and to delivery of data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in synergy with the EU MSFD*” (2020-2023);
- iv. The EU Marine Litter MED II, which will strengthen and support the Contracting Parties to The Barcelona Convention to prevent and effectively manage marine litter through the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (2020-2023);
- v. The EU Second Phase of the SwitchMed Project “*supporting the transition of Mediterranean Countries to Sustainable Consumption and Production*” (2019-2023).

Overview of the MedProgramme

The GEF-UNEP “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security” (2020-2025) will contribute to all seven programs articulated in the UNEP/MAP Medium-term Strategy 2022-2027 through priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in coastal areas, to strengthen climate resilience and water security and to improve the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. It will do so through a robust portfolio of eight Child Projects valued at more than \$905 million (\$43,376,147 in grants and \$861,666,654 in co-financing, including \$610 million in hard loans). More specifically, the MedProgramme will address the root causes of the region’s most pressing environmental challenges by targeted actions in priority areas to reduce pollution, promote the integrated management of land, water and living resources and implement tools to build climate resilient coastal communities. It will furthermore function as a laboratory for the testing of innovative approaches that enhance achievement of environmental objectives through effective use of knowledge assets, monitoring and reporting on results, and mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment across the MedProgramme portfolio. The following text provides a short narrative of the key contributions of the MedProgramme to the seven programs of the MTS, additional contributions from the MedProgramme in terms of knowledge management, gender mainstreaming and reporting on results, as well as a mapping of the MedProgramme outputs against the MTS programs.

6.3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

137. Under the leadership of the Contracting Parties and the subsidiary bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (Coordinating Unit including MEDPOL) and the Regional Activity Centres, will work with Contracting Parties for implementing the Strategy and will ensure coordination of its monitoring and evaluation processes.

138. Monitoring will take place in a combined way for MTS and PoW, under the coordination of the MAP Coordinating Unit and the ECP. The Bureau, the Focal Points and the MCSD will be informed and consulted accordingly. The results of the monitoring exercise will be presented every two years to the COP for information and possible adaptations of the planning, while the evaluation of the MTS will be carried out and presented to the COP at the end of the six-year period.

139. Being able to measure performance is a key step. It is needed to manage performance and provide assurance to Contracting Parties and donors that their investment is contributing to substantial impact. To do this, MAP uses a performance framework as agreed with the Contracting Parties. Central to the performance framework are the strategic outcomes to be achieved. Performance indicators and respective targets enable MAP to measure progress against these expected accomplishments.

140. Implementation of the data-sharing principles on the indicators and data related to the monitoring system for the MTS is needed. As also foreseen in the MSSD, that process will be promoted and facilitated by a consistent platform for the exchange of information, experience and synergies, also considering the European Union’s Shared Environment Information Systems (SEIS) principles on data sharing.

141. Evaluation of progress of the biennial PoW will act as an early warning calling for adaptations whenever necessary to achieve the MTS objectives and outputs. At the same time, the MSSD – having a longer perspective – will present a more effective time horizon to plan for regional impact. The entire MTS exercise will be evaluated at the end of the 6 years period with an independent indicator-based evaluation conducted in 2027.

Appendix UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 Targets and Indicators per Programme

Programme: 1. Towards a pollution and litter free Mediterranean Sea and Coast embracing circular economy

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments developed/updated and implemented addressing pollution and marine litter prevention and reduction.	3
2. Number of technical guidelines and tools on marine pollution and marine litter prevention/reduction and circular business development developed and implemented.	11
3. Number of countries that integrate common approaches to mainstreaming marine pollution and marine litter prevention/reduction into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes.	At least 6 CPs
4. Number of measures and actions developed and/or implemented to reduce pollution to air, water, soil and the ocean.	16 measures and actions
5. Number of new/updated national policies, strategies, legislation or action plans on pollution and marine litter prevention/reduction adopted in line with MAP legal and policy instruments.	At least 8
6. A) Quantity of priority pollutants removed; B) Reduced trends of pollutants/marine litter discharges at sea; C) Progress towards GES achievement/maintenance on pollution and marine litter at commonly agreed assessment scales.	A) 1,250 tons of POPs reduction/ prevention 50 tons of mercury

Programme 2: Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments on biodiversity and ecosystems conservation developed/updated and implemented.	9
2. Number of new/updated national policies, strategies, legislation or action plans for the implementation of regional instruments, including restoration actions.	23
3. Number of countries that integrate common approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes.	At least 8
4. A) Number of protected areas (MPA, SPAMI and other effective area-based conservation measures) designated; management plans developed and implemented; MPA monitoring data reported;	A) At least 2,000 area-based conservation measures (baseline 1,137); At least 1 set of data on EO1/EO2 CIs by CPs in selected MPAs

B) % of Mediterranean Sea under protection measures.	B) 20% (baseline 9.3%)
5. Progress towards GES achievement/maintenance on biodiversity and NIS cluster at commonly agreed assessment scales.	At least 6 assessments related to EO1, EO2 and EO3 at national level At least 3 countries with national bycatch data and its impact on biodiversity assessed
6. Number of measures and actions developed and/or implemented on biodiversity conservation, restoration, and monitoring implemented, including on MPA/SPAMI management and monitoring.	At least 21
7. Number of measures and actions developed and/or implemented to prevent, manage and control NIS and in particular invasive non-indigenous species and their introduction pathways.	At least 1 measure and 1 action are developed and implemented every biennium (3 actions and 3 measures in the 6 year time period of the MTS)

Programme 3: Towards a Climate Resilient Mediterranean

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments to address climate change-related challenges developed/updated and implemented.	2
2. Number of national climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and policies developed or mainstreamed into national ICZM and MSP strategies and coastal plans and under implementation.	7
3. Number of national and local actions and targeted measures to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, including nature-based solution actions, developed and implemented.	35
4. Number of thematic publications, targeted assessment products and the sharing of best-practices including on nature-based solutions, climate finance, circular economy business ventures support etc.	5

Programme 4: Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of regional regulatory and policy instruments to support sustainable use of coastal and marine resources developed/updated and implemented.	1

2. Number of regional guidance documents and tools, including recommendations and standards, to support sustainable use of coastal and marine resources developed and implemented.	9
3. A) Number of ICZM strategies, plans and programmes, mainstreaming MSP and climate action prepared and implemented;	A) 4
B) Number of national policies and legal frameworks for green and circular businesses support adopted and implemented.	B) 2
4. Progress towards GES achievement/maintenance on coast and hydrography cluster at the commonly agreed assessment scale.	
5. Number of national and transboundary CAMP and other demonstration projects focusing on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol provisions negotiated, prepared and implemented.	5
6. Number of actions and targeted measures providing innovative services and products and strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations.	4 actions; 100 entrepreneurs supported

Foundational Programme 5: Governance

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of new ratifications of the Barcelona Convention Protocols.	At least 6
2. Number of Contracting Parties complete implementation reports timely submitted to the Secretariat through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS).	22
3. A) Number of actions to support the implementation and enforcement of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including public institution capacities;	A) 11
B) Number of compliance mechanisms and procedures upgraded, maximizing synergies with the work under relevant MEAs.	B) 3
4. Ecosystem approach regulatory and governance framework reviewed and upgraded to boost the actions for achieving and/or maintaining GES.	
5. Number of sectoral and intersectoral governance mechanisms and bodies established and operational at national level.	At least 10
6. A) Number of partnerships established and/or updated including with relevant scientific networks/ institutions, and the private sector;	A) 30
B) Number of joint actions designed and implemented	B) 25

Enabling Programme 6: Towards Monitoring, Assessment, Knowledge and Vision of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast for Informed Decision-Making

Indicators	Proposed targets
1. Number of assessment products, analyses, scenarios and reports on the status of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, including socioeconomic aspects, prepared and published.	6 regional; 9 national
2. Network of Mediterranean scientific experts strengthened through:	

<p>A) number of established/updated partnerships with scientific institutions;</p> <p>B) Number of strategic, knowledge sharing and SPI meetings.</p>	<p>A) At least 5</p> <p>B) At least 3</p>
<p>3. A) Number of IMAP Indicators fully developed with assessment criteria, with operational scales of monitoring and assessment in place;</p> <p>B) Number of NAP/H2020 Indicators populated and assessed</p> <p>C) Number of upgraded MSSD Dashboard indicators updated and assessed and aligned with SDGs.</p>	<p>A) At least 13</p> <p>B) At least 10</p> <p>C) Increasing trends</p>
<p>4. A) IMAP InfoSystem fully operational for the submission of quality assured data for all IMAP Common Indicators;</p> <p>B) Number of Contracting Parties timely submitting IMAP monitoring data through the IMAP InfoSystem.</p>	<p>A) IMAP Info System hosting quality assured data for all IMAP Common Indicators</p> <p>B) 21</p>
<p>5. Number of thematic data/information collection and sharing platforms established and operational.</p>	<p>12</p>

Enabling Programme 7: For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education and communication

Indicators	Proposed targets
<p>1. A) Number of events organised raising MAP visibility and supporting renewal of commitment to the Barcelona Convention;</p> <p>B) Number of international and regional fora where the role and visibility of the BC and UNEP/MAP is promoted.</p>	<p>A) At least 22</p> <p>B) At least 24</p>
<p>2. Number of actions implemented regarding the Advocacy programme including through the use of new communication and digital tools ensuring a consistent One-MAP system communication.</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>3. Number of educational and awareness raising programmes and actions, with a particular focus on civil society engagement, developed and implemented.</p>	<p>70</p>
<p>4. Number of actions to support gender mainstreaming into MAP-Barcelona Convention system in line with SDG 5 developed and implemented.</p>	<p>At least 20</p>
<p>5. Number of tools and products to enhance knowledge management and internal communication delivered.</p>	<p>50</p>
<p>6. A) Positive shift in public opinion, attitudes, and actions, in support of the MTS Programmes;</p> <p>B) Positive change in private sector in support of the MTS Programmes.</p>	