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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the  
Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

Athens, Greece, 2 March 2011

## REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE



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**Introduction**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure (Rule 18) of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), a meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2011 in the premises of the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Ave., Athens, Greece.

The objectives are to discuss the implications on MCSD of the recent developments within MAP and in its broader system and to organize a process towards the organization of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of MCSD in May 2011. The expected outcomes include concrete actions towards improving the effectiveness and efficiency of MCSD in conformance to the mandates of the Contracting Parties as expressed in the Marrakech Declaration.

A report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat after the meeting and will be circulated among SC MCSD members for comments before finalization.

The Steering Committee meeting will be conducted in English and French. Interpretation facilities will be provided.

## Progress Report

There are several activities undertaken by the Secretariat and MAP components in support to the MCSD

### **1. *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development***

#### **a. *MSSD Assessment***

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was adopted in 2005. Its purpose is to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies and to initiate a dynamic partnership between countries at different levels of development.

A five-year (2005-10) Assessment of MSSD is provided for in the Strategy itself.

This first assessment is expected to:

- look at progress since the Strategy was adopted,
- analyze developments in the Region and worldwide with a view to evaluate opportunities for complementarities and synergies towards better integration of activities and increased efficiency.

The purpose is to consider the goals and priorities set in the Strategy in 2005, review activities undertaken at national and MAP level towards that end and assess related progress. The relevance of objectives and priorities has to be assessed in view of broader socioeconomic changes and their environment/ development consequences. A review of progress towards the achievement of objectives set in MSSD is also foreseen particularly in terms of the seven priority fields of action identified.

The assessment is meant to be forward-looking, suggesting actions towards implementation and adaptation of the strategy to contemporary and anticipated major issues on environment/development in the Region.

It is expected that this activity will provide recommendations in two important areas of concern:

1. eventual amendments and updating of the MSSD integrating new developments and issues in priority fields (i.e. climate change)
2. ways to integrate new objectives in line with the regional political and environment/development agenda ( i.e. the Union for the Mediterranean initiative) and bring MSSD in line with current policies on sustainable development and in synergy with the orientations of the new international context

A special discussion is envisaged in the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SC of MCSD following a brief presentation of preliminary findings by O.D.I, the external consultant responsible for MSSD assessment. The discussion is expected to guide the Consultant towards finalization of recommendations. The final Report is expected to be presented to the MCSD in May 2011.

**b. NSSD Assessment**

Additional information on progress towards MSSD is provided in National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD)

An Assessment of National Strategies for Sustainable Development has been reviewed and already discussed in the past which highlights the status and characteristics of strategies developed by countries in the Region towards sustainable development. The assessment has concentrated on the influence of strategies in decision-making, on the influence of UNEP/MAP, the frameworks, the content and dimensions of strategies, the commitment, integration, coherence and synergies, participation, information, monitoring etc. A 'model' structure of a NSSD has been also developed to assist countries in their efforts towards coordination of policies and actions towards sustainable development

The Secretariat is considering the proper ways to communicate this information to facilitate the Contracting Parties in accessing information and seek cooperation towards sustainable development.

**c. Introducing Climate Change Adaptation in MSSD**

The Contracting Parties, in the Almeria Declaration, 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting in January 2008 called for climate change to be seriously addressed in order to reduce as rapidly as possible its effects on the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment. During ministerial discussions held at the 16th Contracting Parties meeting in Marrakech, Morocco (November 2009), the need for the Mediterranean region to collectively build a strong coalition and partnership for action on adaptation to climate change, the need for regional coordination for adaptation to climate change and for sharing of domestic adaptation related experiences and tools including the needs for capacity building was emphasised. The "Marrakech Declaration", adopted at the meeting stressed that adaptation to climate change in marine and coastal areas is a major priority for the Mediterranean region and that it requires regional guidance and coordination. Finally, it mandated the MAP/Barcelona Convention to explore the possibility of enriching the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted in 2005 with regional action plans including one on adaptation to climate change as well as to integrate adaptation into development policies at the national and regional level.

An assessment of current practice in implementing adaptive measures in the Mediterranean countries, as well as the opportunities for strengthening regional collaboration towards that end are to be discussed in the context of the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation an activity undertaken in collaboration under the MedPartnership agreement. A regional Workshop is to be held in mid-April 2011 on this issue.

A progress report will be presented and discussed at the SC meeting in order to outline the key issues to be presented and discussed at the MCSD meeting in May 2011.

**d. Next MCSD theme preparation**

In regard to the next MCSD, to be held in late May 2011 and in preparation for the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012 (Rio+20) two themes have been selected (decision 7 at the Bureau of the COPs Meeting 71, 8-9 November 2010 at Zagreb, Croatia):

- green economy in the context of sustainable development;

The issue of the green economy covers climate change adaptation as well as several other issues under MCSD mandate during the current cycle (ex. SCP).

- Institutional framework for sustainable development.

The MSSD assessment as well as the parallel internal reflections underway on ways to strengthen the MCSD role in line with the mandates it has been given by the Contracting Parties are directly linked to the issue of the Mediterranean “institutional framework for sustainable development”.

Discussions during the next MCSD could focus on defining the Mediterranean perspective on these two themes thus contributing to both enhancing the MCSD work and contributing to the overall MCSD assessment.

## **2. Supporting National Strategies for Sustainable Development**

### **a. Supporting the development of NSSDs**

Based on the decision of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to strengthen and/or promote National Strategies for Sustainable Development (Monaco, November 2001, UNEP (DEC)/MED IG. 13/8, Annex IV, E), UNEP/MAP is in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia towards the “Formulation of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development” in Tunisia.

### **b. Enhancing NSSDs**

Based on the decision of the Contracting Parties “to encourage the promotion of more sustainable consumption and production patterns and land planning” (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2009, UNEP (DEC)/MED IG. 19/8, Annex III, Appendix I, Theme V), UNEP/MAP through its component CP/RAC and UNEP/ROE is assisting the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Construction of Croatia to develop an Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production at the national level.

The Pilot Project, undertaken by Croatia’s Ministry of EPPC, is expected to launch a process of consultation through the Steering Commission of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in order to develop a National Plan of actions towards SCP. It is expected that this activity could lead towards a ‘model SCP Action Plan for Mediterranean countries’.

## **3. MCSD role and modalities**

Contracting Parties requested in Decision IG 19/17 of their 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to review the role and modalities of MCSD. In parallel and close relationship to the anticipated findings and recommendations of the MSSD Assessment it was necessary to review the role of the MCSD based on which working methods and modalities have to be carefully evaluated and re-organized in order to meet the future challenges of SD in the Mediterranean. The aim is to ensure that it will produce high quality deliverables while ensuring that “long-term concerns are

taken into account through the MCSD and the diversity of its representation by all Mediterranean stakeholders” (as stated in the Marrakesh Declaration).

A re-assessment and sharpening of the MCSD role which traditionally has combined performing as a Forum, an Advisory body to Contracting Parties and a Think tank is required.

A special report, prepared by the Secretariat, provides a platform for discussions and sharpening of functions, to be presented and discussed at the next MCSD Meeting in May 2011.

The RACs have also pursued various activities towards MSSD as described in the brief reports which follow.

### **Activités conduites par le Plan Bleu au regard du programme de travail de la CMDD.**

Conformément au programme de travail de la Commission Méditerranéenne de Développement durable portant sur la période 2009-2010, le Plan Bleu a organisé ses travaux autour de trois principaux thèmes : le développement urbain durable, les transports durables et « énergie et changement climatique ».

S’agissant du développement urbain durable, le Plan Bleu a mis l’accent sur les questions de mobilité en milieu urbain. A partir de six études de cas conduites à Tanger, Alger, Tunis, Le Caire, Istanbul et Alep, le Plan Bleu a examiné les dynamiques urbaines à l’œuvre, leurs conséquences sur la demande de mobilité et les réponses apportées par les décideurs publics.

C’est un état des lieux partout préoccupant qui a été dressé et mis en débat lors d’un séminaire régional organisé à Sophia Antipolis fin 2009. Il en a résulté des recommandations appelant à des approches intégrées et systémiques du développement urbain veillant à raisonner à partir des usages et non des systèmes, articulant diversification de l’offre de transport set maîtrise de la demande de mobilité, mettant enfin l’accent sur la maîtrise des dynamiques de croissance et de développement. Dans cette perspective, l’amélioration de la connaissance et des instruments de suivi des dynamiques urbaines, le renouvellement des concepts et modèles urbains, la coordination entre acteurs locaux du développement urbain ont été cités comme les principaux facteurs de changement.

Concernant les transports durables, le Plan Bleu s’est interrogé sur la situation et le devenir du transport maritime en Méditerranée. Les capacités de transport maritime en circulation en méditerranée ont, en effet, augmenté de plus de 50% entre 1997 et 2006 avec notamment une croissance annuelle du transport de conteneurs de près de 10% essentiellement due à l’intensification des échanges entre l’Europe et l’Asie. Dans ce contexte et durant la période, le trafic de navires porte conteneurs a augmenté de 71% et la taille moyenne des navires de 55%.

L’étude prospective réalisée par le Plan Bleu a mis en évidence que l’augmentation du prix de l’énergie, l’instauration d’une taxe carbone sur le transport maritime n’infléchiraient pas les tendances à l’œuvre en matière d’intensification du trafic, d’augmentation de la taille des navires et par conséquent ne devraient pas modifier la course au gigantisme observée tout autour de la Méditerranée en matière d’infrastructures portuaires. La contribution du transport maritime à l’intégration méditerranéenne ne pourra résulter, selon ces travaux, que d’une modification des flux d’échanges entre l’Asie et la région euro méditerranéenne et donc d’une relocalisation autour de la Méditerranée d’un certain nombre de productions.



En matière d'énergie, le Plan Bleu a élaboré un diagnostic de la demande énergétique en Méditerranée en 2007 et établi une prospective à l'horizon 2025. Si avec un total de 955 MTep la région méditerranéenne représente en 2007 8% de la consommation mondiale d'énergie primaire, à l'horizon 2025 celle-ci pourrait atteindre 1457 MTep soit un accroissement annuel moyen de l'ordre de 2,4%. Selon ce scénario, les énergies fossiles représenteraient encore près de 85 de la demande contre seulement 6,2% pour les énergies renouvelables.

Dans un scénario alternatif prenant en compte notamment une amélioration de l'efficacité énergétique, le développement rapide d'énergies renouvelables, la demande d'énergie primaire pourrait être contenue autour de 1160 MTep satisfaite encore à hauteur de 35% par le pétrole soit un niveau proche de celui de 2007. Selon ce scénario, les impacts environnementaux du secteur énergétique seraient fortement réduits avec, en particulier, une diminution des émissions de Gaz à effet de serre de près de 25%.

Considérant ce scénario encore insuffisamment ambitieux au regard des enjeux de développement durable en Méditerranée, le Plan Bleu a mis en chantier un scénario de rupture et examine actuellement sa faisabilité sur quelques secteurs clefs en particulier le bâtiment.

### **CP/RAC support to the MSSD work Programme in 2010**

The mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) is to promote mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and sound chemical management in the Mediterranean. This mission supports the third major objective of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) *to change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources*.

Accordingly, the SCP approach has been the basis of CP/RAC activities during 2010. In doing so the Centre has also attempted to address many of the MSSD's priority fields for action. The centre has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment of Croatia, in collaboration with MEDU and UNEP/PROE, in the elaboration of a **Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan**, a policy document covering strategic sectors - tourism, food, industry, waste, etc - that will be approved by the corresponding Minister. The Center has also launched an initiative to promote **Green Entrepreneurship** in the Mediterranean; as first stage of the initiative, CP/RAC is collecting case studies from Mediterranean countries and is supporting a project focused on **promoting sustainable entrepreneurship of women from rural areas** in Syria. CP/RAC is actively participating in the Sub-Group on Capacity Building (CB) of **Horizon 2020** and is leading the organization of 30 CB seminars on SCP tools as cleaner production, Green Public Procurement (GPP), green jobs and green economy. CP/RAC has continued its work with the **GRECO Initiative** as a tool to include the environment as a strategic profitable element for Mediterranean companies.

The Initiative has been presented in relevant forums in Lebanon, Algeria, Jordan and Syria and has been followed up in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunis through "training of trainers" workshops. Likewise, the Centre co-organized, together with ASCAME, the 4<sup>th</sup> Ecomeda Green Forum which creates a framework for discussion on the integration of the environment as a relevant element in the company's strategy in terms of profitability and competitiveness. As parallel event to the Forum, CP/RAC organized a Mediterranean workshop on GPP. The Center has continued publishing **MedCleans**, practical cases of actions of waste and emission minimization carried out by companies related to the chemical, graphic arts, hotels and cement sectors; and

has also expanded its **Technology Data Base**, a reference tool on technologies of pollution prevention applicable to different industrial sectors, including manufacture of chemicals, cement, printing and service activities, tourism and hotels.

With regard to agricultural and rural development, CP/RAC has signed an agreement with the World Bank to participate in 2011 in a project focused at **improving olive oil** sector in Palestine by minimizing environmental impact and reducing waste. On the other hand CP/RAC collaborated with CITET in the launching of the Tunisian **ecolabel in bottled olive oil sector** in an event held in Tunis where good practices in that field were shared and discussed. Concerning coastal integrated management, CP/RAC has introduced SCP aspects (sustainable fishing, good environmental practices in hotels, sustainability at school, etc.) in the development of the **CAMP** Almeria (Spain) led by PAP/RAC.

With regard to the SCP focus on prevention of toxic substances, the Centre has collaborated with MEDPOL in the preparation of 3 Regional Plans for Mercury, the Food sector and new POPs in the Mediterranean Region that will be presented as legally binding measures to the next COP 17. Namely, the Centre prepared two studies on the state of the art on mercury and the new POPs in the Mediterranean together with guidelines on Best available Techniques for the reduction of BOD from the food sector. In order to raise civil society awareness on POPs CP/RAC has created **animation videos** on those toxic substances and it has published a new issue of the **CP/RAC Annual Technical Publication** focusing on "Chemicals in the Mediterranean" to improve knowledge on that field.

The Centre is participating in the **project "Environmental sound management of equipments, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries"** developed within the GEF Medpartnership Initiative. CP/RAC has participated in four missions in Albania, Syria, Egypt and Libya in order to identify the national needs concerning the project. On the other hand, CP/RAC is currently preparing a project proposal for submission to the 5th Replenishment of GEF, whose objective is the reduction of unintentional POPs, the emission of greenhouse gases and heavy metals by developing and implementing of BATs and BEP in Mediterranean countries. In order to provide civil society with tools on education for sustainable consumption and lifestyles, CP/RAC has updated **Consumpediamed**, a website that provides useful and educational information of products and existing alternatives for sustainable consumption. Likewise the centre launched the **Green Shots Award**, a contest to collect ideas of daily activities environmentally sustainable that were produced as animated videos. Finally, the Centre is leading an initiative for Mediterranean Green events within which it has organized training seminars for H2020 experts, MAP components and university students.

## **Implementation of the MSSD by the MED POL Programme during 2009-2010**

### *2.6. Promoting sustainable urban development*

#### *Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities*

The appropriate management, operation and maintenance of waste water treatment plants as well as the capacity building activities including training on urban waste water management and reuse has continued to be of high priority for MED POL as it directly contributes to the improvement of the quality of life. During 2010, in order to update the ongoing work of

continued evaluation of the treatment of municipal waste waters being done by WHO/MED POL, an inventory was made of the waste waters (treated and untreated) discharged into the Mediterranean river basins, as well as for Mediterranean coastal cities with population of more than 2000 inhabitants. As a result, the information MED POL has on the existence of treatment plants and on discharge loads from coastal towns and cities, has been updated, showing positive trends. In addition, during 2009, three training courses on the management of waste water treatment plants and three on the waste water reuse were held in Mediterranean countries

## *2.7. Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of the coastal zones*

### *Preventing and reducing land-based pollution*

The Mediterranean region entered into a new era of pollution control as a result of the adoption by the 16<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties meeting of three legally-binding regional plans as requested by Article 15 of LBS Protocol, namely : Reduction of BOD for municipal wastewater; Phasing out of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlore, Mirex and Toxaphene; Phasing out of DDT. The three plans, including programmes and measures, were prepared taking into account the new elements of the strategy which was adopted in Aix -en Provence meeting in 2009 and became legally binding on June 2010. At the 16<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties Meeting the countries also requested MEDPOL to prepare, in cooperation with CP/RAC, three additional regional plans to reduce the inputs of Mercury, BOD from selected food sectors and 9 chemicals which have recently been added to the Stockholm Convention. MEDPOL will submit these regional plans for possible adoption by the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2011.

MEDPOL started the implementation of activities related to pollution control in the frame work of the GEP Strategic Partnership for the conservation of LME(GEF SP) of the Mediterranean in September 2009. In this context, four demonstration projects to address four industrial priority sectors identified in the NAPs to address LBS pollution, two regional assessments which would facilitate the development of regional policies to address nutrients and four pilot projects on disposal of PCBs are currently under implementation in several Mediterranean countries. These activities would be considered as milestones in the replication strategy of the GEF SP.

The overall objective of these activities is to induce policy reforms in pollution control at national and regional levels, build national capacities and facilitate the implementation the NAPs to address LBS of pollution.

In parallel to the above, MED POL is substantially contributing to the process of ensuring financial sustainability to the long-term implementation of the NAPs. MED POL has in fact been particularly active in the process of implementation of the pollution reduction component of the EC Horizon 2020 initiative, the Mediterranean hot spots Investments programme (MeHSIP) and the Mediterranean Sustainability Programme of the World Bank.

### **PAP/RAC - Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

The adoption of the ICZM Protocol was the most important objective of the MSSD related to coastal zone management. All the efforts that followed were focused on the follow-up of this

crucial milestone for ICZM in the Mediterranean. Six countries ratified the Protocol to date and it should enter into force shortly.

At a more strategic level, following the decision of the Bureau meeting (November 2010), PAP/RAC together with the Secretariat started the preparation of an Action Plan to implement the ICZM Protocol. Its first draft is going to be discussed at the PAP/RAC Focal Points meeting and it is expected to be adopted by the CPs at their next meeting in November 2011. Also, an innovative methodology for convergence of sectoral methodologies (water resources, aquifers, climate change and biodiversity) within ICZM umbrella was initiated and is being tested on the ground by preparation of ICZM Plans/Strategies. Methodologies on how to prepare those plans and strategies are under preparation, too. An Explanatory guide is in preparation that will provide more technical explanation of the Protocol requirements. In order to start the preparation of a common regional framework for ICZM a stocktaking report is being prepared. Countries, with the assistance of PAP/RAC, are preparing answers to the questionnaire. All these will serve the ICZM Governance platform that is also in preparation. The Reporting format and related effectiveness indicators for this legal instrument are also in progress.

A Position paper on climate change in coastal areas of the Mediterranean was prepared and will serve as an important input for the preparation of a regional adaptation framework to become a new chapter in the MSSD. Contributions were made to the assessment of the MSSD which is under revision.

PAP/RAC provided assistance at various levels, including: analysing of national legal systems and comparing them with the requirements of the Protocol (Croatia, Montenegro); testing the Protocol provision requiring establishment of a 100 m setback line and effects on national spatial documents (Montenegro); supporting the establishment or improvement of co-ordination mechanisms for ICZM (Syria, Croatia); and assisting the preparation of national ICZM Strategies (Egypt) - preparatory work started in some countries (Algeria, Albania), as well as the preparation of ICZM Plans (Algeria, Albania/Montenegro).

Several other methodologies and tools for management of urban waters, coastal landscapes, development of sustainable tourism, and management of beaches were prepared and disseminated. Training courses to promote ICZM were organised, such as the advanced MedOpen internet-based training course, and several awareness-raising activities were organised, such as the Coast Day events.

In addition to demonstration projects mentioned above, PAP/RAC has been promoting integrated management approaches and projects dealing with coastal zones with the involvement of local authorities, stakeholders and NGOs by implementing several CAMP projects. These are the following (at various stages of implementation): CAMP Levante de Almeria, Spain; CAMP Morocco; CAMP Montenegro; CAMP Italy; and CAMP France.

### **Contribution of REMPEC to the MSSD implementation**

1- As a background it has to be recalled that in the field of maritime transport, the MSSD calls for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which is being used as the roadmap for the activities implemented by the Centre.

2- Of particular interest for the MCSD, since the last meeting the Centre has supported activities in the field of reducing voluntary discharges from ships at sea. In particular a coordinated operation (OSCAR MED) was organized by the Centre and took place in October 2009. Spain Italy France participated in the operation which was also attended by Tunisia and Monaco. This was the first such operation in the Mediterranean Sea. As a follow up to this operation, REMPEC together with the World Bank and the French Ministry of justice participated in two inception meetings of a regional network of law enforcement officials. Law enforcement officials, mainly from the judiciary, from 14 Contracting Parties participated in these meetings and agreed on the need to foster the cooperation in the field of environmental crime. The network, which is to be developed within the "Sustainable Med" GEF project, will first address the issue of enforcement of MARPOL annex I.

3- A draft strategy on Ballast water management together with an action plan has been agreed by a regional task force, to be submitted to the approval of the Contracting Parties. By engaging in this important topic the Contracting parties will address one major threat to the sustainability of some marine species in the Med.

## **RAC/SPA activities towards implementing the MSSD, (Jan 2009-Jan 2011)**

### **1. Accelerating the implementation of the SAP BIO**

Two major projects currently help to boost the implementation of SAP BIO through activities aimed to creating marine and coastal protected areas, including pelagic and deep habitats and high sea zones:

The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems considers within it the implementation of the SAP-BIO regarding coastal protected areas promotion, specifically through the following two areas of focus:

Sub-Component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network – led by UNEP/MAP's SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO; and

Sub-Component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches – led by FAO.

The project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas is further described in the chapters below.

Also an updating of SAP BIO on Climate change issues will help to develop actions on that field.

### **2. Encouraging biodiversity protection compatible fishing and aquaculture practices**

Sustainable fishing is encouraged by way of activities designed to be implemented through the above mentioned Partnership, both in transboundary areas (FAO, GFCM), and coastal MPAs (RAC/SPA); and also through the regional action plan for the conservation of elasmobranch fishes. Collaboration was done with FAO and GFCM to design regional activities aimed to reduce by-catch and to apply the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the region. Within that frame a Mediterranean MPA regional training workshop on planning for sustainable fisheries in marine protected areas was done in 2010.

The activities within this chapter include the preparation of guidelines and a code of conduct for the management of shark and ray sport/recreational fishing. These will promote catch and

release, tagging, describe protocols for handling catches in order to minimise stress and improve survival, and encourage reporting of such catches.

### **3. Creating marine and coastal protected areas, including pelagic and deep habitats and high sea zones**

In 2009, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have adopted the “Regional working programme for the coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean including the high seas” which aims to support the establishment of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of coastal and marine protected areas.

Through two complementary projects, the RAC-SPA provides technical and financial support to the development of a Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas network in coastal and open sea waters:

- The MedMPAnet project which aims to develop Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas network through assisting single countries in establishing, better managing and networking marine protected areas. These protected areas should be representative of biodiversity hotspots and sites of interest at national level, and connected through corridors to allow better resilience, which favour adaptation to climate change. The final step of this process will be joining the SPAMI List that would represent in future coming years, a representative network of MAPs for the Mediterranean region.
- The project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas which aim to facilitate the process of designating as SPAMIs sites included in areas identified as areas for conservation interest in the open seas, including the deep seas. This project focuses on pelagic ecosystems and deep habitats.

### **4. Increasing the number of protected areas to reach 10% of coastal and marine habitats / 5. Promote a representative network of protected marine and coastal areas**

In order to increase the capacity to conserve regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity through the creation of an ecologically representative, coherent and effective MPA network in the Mediterranean region supported by a region-wide network of MPA managers, SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO are implementing complementary activities, where SPA/RAC's focus is the identification and creation of new MPAs and WWF-MedPO's focus is for the improved management of existing MPAs, as well as several joint activities for training, coordination and communication. It should be noted that the activities implemented by SPA/RAC have been given the name of "MedMPAnet Project" and those executed by WWF-MedPo have been named "MedPan South".

A number of preliminary activities and meetings have been undertaken to establish the priority activities needed to create MPAs in Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro and Syria. In Morocco, the MedMPAnet project has run a Planning and Coordination Meeting on 9-11 December 2010, in which the project work-plan has been presented and agreed upon by all concerned partners, and the intervention sites have been identified, during a rapid prospecting of the Northern Moroccan coasts near the Nador area.

## **6. Strengthening cooperation between MAP and the GFCM**

Agreement was done with the GFCM during its 34<sup>th</sup> session to work together along 2010-11 for the elaboration of diverse elasmobranches documents and undertaking common workshops and meetings

Thorough work to help addressing by-catch and incidental catches of threatened species has been done in this frame. Outputs included guidelines and recommendations for reducing by catch and reinforcing laws and regulations for the conservation and management of species such as cartilaginous fish, seabirds and monk seals. RAC/SPA participates to the Scientific Committee and Subcommittees of the GFCM, as well as to their COP as observer.

Activities within the MAP Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish are also on this line, such as revising the status of selected Mediterranean elasmobranches, so as to eventually:

- propose their inclusion/uplisting in the SPA Protocol annexes
  - propose fishing management measures for their sustainable exploitation by GFCM Parties in the different GFCM areas

RAC/SPA supported the participation to GFCM meetings of relevant experts to:

- Revise the sustainable fisheries issues related to European eel
- Formulate technical advice on selectivity improvement and bycatch reduction implementation measures by Mediterranean fishing fleets in the different GFCM areas for birds and marine mammals.
- Asses the status and fisheries issues related to the Mediterranean red coral

RAC/SPA is preparing relevant documents of use also for GFCM, including guidelines on recreational fishing targeting elasmobranches

## **7. Strengthening institutional and human capacity for management of the interactions between human activities and marine and coastal biodiversity**

The updating of SAP BIO with regard to the Climate Change, together with National, subregional and regional overviews on vulnerability and impacts of climate change on marine and coastal biological diversity in the Mediterranean region was undertaken and processed to be made available and distributed to public and potential donors It allowed priorities of the SAP BIO Programme to be set for a proper management of the CC implications on Marine biodiversity.

## **8. Strengthen the synergies between international organizations and networks**

RAC/SPA is closely collaborating with all intergovernmental, non-governmental institutions, international agreements, in order to plan and implement all its activities. RAC/SPA is actually collaborating with: ACCOBAMS, IUCN, WWF- MedPO, WWF-France, FAO/GFCM, IMO, Bern Convention, EC, AEWA, Conservatoire du Littoral Français, MedPAN Network, to achieve activities having common objectives such, meetings, conferences, workshops, etc...).

With reference to the implementation of regional programmes; RAC/SPA is working to define adequate means in order to contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan 2011-2020, adopted during the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CBD Contracting Parties (Nagoya, 2010) and the EU

Marine Strategy; For that purpose it prepared and presented during that gathering a regional frame document with regard to the status of ecosystems, pressures, impacts and future priorities.



## **ANNEX II**

### **FUNCTIONING OF MCSD**

#### ***Introduction***

In Marrakesh at the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting the Contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention (IG 19/8) have requested the Secretariat to proceed with a five-year (2005-10) assessment of MSSD and an assessment of MCSD modalities to be carried out by the Secretariat in three key domains: *Working methods. Composition. New members* (Decisions IG 17/5 in 2008 and IG 19/16 in 2009). In this respect the Secretariat would like to share the following points with the Steering Committee of MCSD for further discussion.

#### ***Past and present***

The Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention in the context of UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan have established in 1996 the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development as a think tank, an advisory body and a forum for dialogue on policies for promoting sustainable development in the region<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, the CoPs adopted in 2005 the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The purpose of this framework Strategy<sup>2</sup> is to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies and to initiate a dynamic partnership between countries at different levels of development.

The MCSD was created (15 years ago) on the basis of the prevalent conception of the period about sustainable development (just after Rio) and the need to bridge perspectives on development and conservation of the environment. In essence the role of MCSD, as a Commission for SD was focusing on raising awareness on the need to consider environmental issues (protection of biodiversity and natural resources) in development policies. In the case of MCSD, as part of MAP, its basic role was to assist Environment Ministries in the Mediterranean to support their policies and activities vis-à-vis Development (Sectoral) Ministries by pulling together State, local authorities and NGOs.

Several activities have been undertaken, the most prominent of which is the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. At present an assessment of MSSD from 2005 to 2010 is considered, as provided for in the Strategy itself.

Almost fifteen years after its launching MCSD has contributed in many ways to MAP and its activities by broadening perspectives and linking environmental protection to development issues, enriching discussions and eventually policies and actions on environmental management around the Mediterranean. MCSD has been an innovation at global scale, as a special SD Commission at the Regional Seas level of UNEP, benefiting from a long established cooperation on environmental protection in the Region under the Barcelona Convention (and Protocols).

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex I

<sup>2</sup> MSSD document (p.2 Introduction)

Beyond eventual achievements and success stories it is important to concentrate at some shortcomings about MCSD's role. So far, the role of MCSD has been limited in scope and certainly outcomes (and influence). This has been repeatedly stated on several occasions (Cavtat, etc) and contexts (studies i.e. NSSD assessment<sup>3</sup>).

### ***A changing context***

In the meantime broader changes in the wider context (global) have brought new perspectives on SD issues (i.e. climate change) enriching the agenda and new initiatives/actors (i.e. Union for the Mediterranean) are developing activities relating to SD in the Region.

#### **The wider context is changing: SD in the future**

##### *1. SD related shifts*

SD as a concept has been widened further in Johannesburg to include broader development issues, as expressed in the Millennium Goals, but also moved the emphasis from bridging environment/development issues to social development/environment issues bringing on the agenda traditional development issues such as poverty, etc. in relation to environmental protection thus enriching the dialogue but weakening eventually the environmental drive in SD. From think globally and act locally the focus is reversing seeking the contribution of the local level to global concerns (i.e. SCP, climate change, etc.). This has burdened further the role and focus of SD Commissions.

##### *2. Strengthening further the international dimension of environmental protection*

The context of environmental policy is becoming increasingly more 'international' in the sense that environmental issues and policies move up the institutional ladder as the global scale of issues becomes prominent. Evidence to that is the increasingly dominant role of supra-national regulation (i.e. in the context of the EU) and/or global governance (i.e. climate change or large scale ecosystem management).

##### *3. Institutional changes*

New (and old) actors are developing their own activities in environmental protection (and SD) at global, regional and national (including local) levels adding to the complexity of structures.

#### **The regional context is changing**

The changes in the broader context affect obviously the regional context as well. In addition, in the Mediterranean there has been an increasingly intensifying cooperation in environmental protection because of MAP. In this respect it is important to note the following:

##### *1. Broadening of the agenda*

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<sup>3</sup> NSSD Assessment

- Expansion of perspectives (from pollution to land based sources to 'ICZM')
- From the particular to the broader (from species to biodiversity to ecosystem management)
- Integration (from mitigation to adaptation)

## *2. Increasingly complex structures*

In the past decade or so, important developments have occurred in the Region (e.g. launching of the "Union for the Mediterranean", elaboration of the "Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean", promotion of the implementation of the "Horizon 2020" Initiative and the EU Water Initiative – Mediterranean Component etc.), and worldwide (e.g. outcomes of UNFCCC COP15) which have to be taken into consideration in order to assess the opportunities for complementarities and synergies towards better integration of activities and increased efficiency.

### ***Challenges and opportunities***

The emerging (new activities and actors) context provides an opportunity to re-think the role of MCSD (and MSSD) in:

- facilitating environmental mainstreaming and integration,
- strengthening cross-sectoral and intersectoral environment/development policy coordination at national and regional levels and
- seeking sectoral (development) policies with a long-term perspective on sustainable development.

In this context MCSD can provide an extremely valuable tool and platform of reference enhancing regional dialogue on environment/development issues:

- (i) exploring actions on environment/development issues by encompassing stakeholders/participants beyond Contracting parties, IGOs and NGOs and local authorities, bringing the private sector aboard
- (ii) assisting Contracting Parties to introduce environmental concerns in sectoral policies,, and
- (iii) addressing a regional sustainable development agenda raising issues and priorities relevant beyond the national level

It is evident that each task has positive and negative aspects, which have to be carefully weighted in conjunction with the orientations, opted for by the COPs:

A Forum provides the opportunity to discuss and debate new and ambivalent issues (with strong political component) with the aim to arrive at a basic consensus of principles, goals, priorities, strategies, actions, etc. Most of the sustainable development issues fall in this type of debate.

An Advisory Council provides a basis of reference for policy analysis issues exploring options for strategy development, actions, programme development, etc. often appropriate for policies with a economic/technical/scientific component. Environmental integration issues (i.e. applied SD policy making) are most suitable for this type of platform for discussion.

A Think Tank provides a sound basis of reference for in-depth analysis of complex issues bringing in new insight, enriching the perspectives, often suitable for unexplored and open questions/aspects, suitable for strategic level analysis which aim to bring in long term developments transcending the usual capacity of decision making systems.

	<b>FORUM</b>	<b>ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>	<b>THINK TANK</b>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Basic role</b>	A 'breakwater' of ideas and conflicts	Consultation	Foresight	Primary rationale and function for MAP
<b>Orientation</b>	Political support  Extrovert function	Administrative Efficiency  Extension function	Intelligence  Introvert	Goals
<b>Functions</b>	Consensus building  Communication Raising awareness	Smoothing and extension of environment policies	Policy analysis on regional perspectives Decision support	Objectives
<b>Issues/ themes</b>	Discuss Development/ environment problems, opportunities and conflicts	Seeking Environmental integration	In-depth analysis of policy agenda  Future issues	Operational purpose for MAP
<b>Expected outputs</b>	Raising global and regional awareness on Med development and environment issues	Raising public admin awareness on env. Issues  Info sharing among MAP countries	Sensitizing Environment Ministries on long-term future issues	Utility to COPs
<b>Operational Conditions</b>	Autonomy  Discussions  Small Secretariat  External organizational assistance	Advisory to MAP  Focusing on policy analysis  Small Secretariat/Exec Committee	Independence  Advisory to MAP  Ensuring High quality inputs  Core unit	Basics on operations
<b>Organization and Structure</b>	High level Loose and broad structure	Standard COP based/ Focal Points?	Ad hoc on the basis of issues	

		Ad hoc extensions		
<b>Participation</b>	Broader Representation Private and civic society Other Ministries Political fora	Extended representation  Other Min Env NGOs	Scientific Community  Eminent experts	Membership
<b>Agenda setting</b>	Global issues	Global/regional COP	Global/regional MAP	Driving factors
<b>Frequency</b>	Once every three years	Once a year	Twice a year	

## SWOT Analysis

The S.W.O.T. analysis which follows looks in very general terms on the advantages and disadvantages of the three functions of MCSD on the basis of the internal and external system characteristics.

	<b>FORUM</b>	<b>ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>	<b>THINK TANK</b>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Strengths</b>	Long cooperation in MAP  MSSD	Long cooperation in MAP  NSSDs  MCSD existing structure	Existing experience in some MAP components	
<b>Weaknesses</b>	Lack of regional stakeholders	Lack of experience in taking advantage  Limited Influence of Env Ministries in Public administration  Level of competence  Lack of actors	Capacity to 'exploit'  Regional capacity limited  Regional balance	
<b>Opportunities</b>	Bringing up Mediterranean env/dev issues at the forefront of the international agenda  Strengthening MAP Attracting funding  Building on the uniqueness of MAP cooperation record	Building on the uniqueness of MAP cooperation record	Contribution to global agenda  Build up of MAP as a model Regional Seas	
<b>Threats</b>	Losing ground  Loss of focus on	Marginalization of MAP	External competition	

	Med from global agenda  Multiplicity of actors and activities working at cross purposes	Economic restructuring and refocusing  Competition from governance streamlining	Loss of regional issue focus	
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### ***A synthetic view***

It is evident that each task has positive and negative aspects, which have to be carefully weighted in conjunction with the orientations, opted for by the COPs:

A Forum provides the opportunity to discuss and debate new and ambivalent issues (with strong political component) with the aim to arrive at a basic consensus of principles, goals, priorities, strategies, actions, etc. Most of the sustainable development issues fall in this type of debate.

An Advisory Council provides a basis of reference for policy analysis issues exploring options for strategy development, actions, programme development, etc. often appropriate for policies with a economic/technical/scientific component. Environmental integration issues (i.e. applied SD policy making) are most suitable for this type of platform for discussion.

A Think Tank provides a sound basis of reference for in-depth analysis of complex issues bringing in new insight, enriching the perspectives, often suitable for unexplored and open questions/aspects, suitable for strategic level analysis which aim to bring in long term developments transcending the usual capacity of decision making systems.

It is obvious that all three functions are important in policy making and it would be ideal to have access to them particularly in policy contexts which involve complex issues such as those related to sustainable development and Regional cooperation. Such an option could be a long-term objective in the context of MCSD

### ***Strengthening MCSD***

To strengthen MCSD it is important to consider the following basic assumptions:

-All three aspects/functions (forum, advisory council and think tank) are necessary as they provide advantages depending on the issues at stake.

-MCSD should be developed in the context of MAP and in close collaboration to MAP priorities and programme of work

-Priority on integration: on the basis of MAP priorities *extending MAP's capacity for environmental integration* is a central concern. Therefore in any alternative the 'consultative' function is the most important

-Priority on Regional issues in the sense to seek Regionally relevant issues and Regional responses to global issues.

Considering the above, a synthetic approach would be to enhance the Advisory role with a Forum and Think Tank in complementing functions. On the basis of the past experience of MCSD and its contribution to MAP it would be useful to focus on environmental integration issues in relation to sectoral and development goals and priorities. This function could assist MAP to strengthen its communication capacity in the Region in terms of environmental protection. It could strengthen Regional cooperation through awareness

and consensus building. To the extent that substantial changes in economic structural adjustments, social mobility and technological changes are expected to affect the Mediterranean, these will affect environmental policy and integration. So, it is important to develop also better operational capacity in assisting in fine-tuning of environmental integration policies and programmes to Regional level particularities.

These assume the necessity for improvements in mobilization and organization (and resources).

From the above it is evident that MCSD modalities, working methods and composition have to be carefully evaluated and re-organized in order to meet the future challenges of SD in the Mediterranean. Such an undertaking is central to the discussions on governance.

## **ANNEX III (corr.1)**

### **REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

#### **Background**

Mediterranean countries have recognized the problem of climate change. In the Almeria Declaration, adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Contracting Meeting in Almeria, Spain (January 2008), the Ministers and Head of the Delegation are calling for the problem of climate change to be seriously addressed, in order to reduce as rapidly as possible its effects on the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment.

During ministerial discussions held at the 16th Contracting parties meeting in Marrakech, Morocco (November 2009), the need for the Mediterranean region to collectively build a strong coalition and partnership for action on adaptation to climate change, the need for regional coordination for adaptation to climate change and for sharing of domestic adaptation related experiences and tools including the needs for capacity building was emphasised. The need for enhanced knowledge and scientific assessment as tools for policy makers to incorporate measures into adaptation plans was also underlined. The “Marrakech Declaration”, adopted at the meeting stressed that adaptation to climate change in marine and coastal areas is a major priority for the Mediterranean region and that it requires regional guidance and coordination.

Aware of the role of usable knowledge as a pre-requisite for successful adaptation efforts, the Marrakech Declaration also called for strengthening the Mediterranean cooperation by enhancing the institutional mechanisms, particularly to provide a mechanism for exchanges and the sharing of experience and knowledge with other regions of the world, and ensuring the sharing of experience in the field of surveillance (early-warning systems) and the development and implementation of adaptation and risk-management strategies.

Finally, it mandated the MAP/Barcelona Convention to explore the possibility of enriching the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted in 2005 with regional action plans including one on adaptation to climate change as well as to integrate adaptation into development policies at the national and regional level.

#### **Mediterranean context**

The Mediterranean region has been assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as one of the most vulnerable region to the impacts of climate change, particularly its southern and south-eastern parts.

Marine ecosystems and biodiversity, already under pressure from pollution and overfishing, will be affected by warmer temperatures and acidification, with changes in species reproduction, feeding and with changes in distributions of marine organisms,

more frequent algae blooms and shifts in plankton communities. Some coastal wetlands will disappear.

Delta areas are most vulnerable to a sea level rise because of their topography. Dams constructed upstream retain sediments, which are not able to rich the delta and consolidate it.

The priority risks of climate change in the Mediterranean coastal and marine zones are freshwater shortage, water temperature rise and threats of extreme weather events. Sea level rise is likely to affect parts of the coastline situated below 5 m elevation, resulting in a modest risk of coastal flooding. Up to 30% of the coastline may be affected by erosion. Large areas could be affected by saltwater intrusion with dry periods projected to increase in length and frequency, this would put additional pressure on freshwater availability.

Some Mediterranean countries are already undertaking efforts to alleviate the negative impacts of climate change, and increase the adaptive capacity of governance systems and institutions. Majority of the countries would need assistance in their efforts for adaptation to climate change.

To meet the challenges outlined above a Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation is being developed.

### **Regional Framework and its added value**

The Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation is the first regional document that enables establishment of regional institutional mechanisms for successful cooperation between all Mediterranean countries in dealing with adaptation to climate change impacts in coastal and marine areas.

The overall objectives of the Regional Framework are to:

- a) help building climate change resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and human activities in coastal and marine areas;
- b) support the introduction of climate change adaptation policies for coastal and marine areas at the regional and national levels;
- c) help countries to identify and undertake concrete adaptive actions to be taken in coastal and marine areas particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts;
- d) help establish mechanisms to exchange experience and disseminate knowledge, information and best practices on adaptation to climate change impacts throughout the region and with other regions.

The Regional Framework will focus on climate change adaptation policies and tools in key issues for Mediterranean coastal and marine areas such as:

- biodiversity
- freshwater resources

-coastal zones

...as they relate in particular to:

- coastal agriculture and fisheries
- energy
- tourism
- urban areas

By adopting and implementing the Regional Adaptation Framework, the Mediterranean countries will have an additional tool for introducing climate change issues in policies, plans and programs and for the timely implementation of relevant adaptation measures to address the impacts. Implementation of the Regional Framework will require adequate financing.

### **Procedure for its development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and revision**

An assessment of current practice in implementing adaptive measures in the Mediterranean countries, as well as needs for assistance expressed by the countries, will be a background for the document. In addition, major regional projects and initiatives, national and international institutions, potential financiers and stakeholders will be consulted too.

The draft document will be widely distributed for discussion, comments and proposals for its amendment. Before the submission into regular MAP procedure for adoption by the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties the draft Regional Adaptation Framework will be discussed at a regional workshop. The workshop will gather representatives of countries, national and international institutions, and potential financiers and other potential partners and stakeholders. The draft Regional Adaptation Framework will be further discussed during the next MCSD meeting.

Once adopted by the CPs, the Framework will be implemented, as agreed. Its implementation will be regularly monitored and, based on the monitoring results and new findings in adaptation to climate change impacts, accordingly modified.

## **Tentative outline of the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **Scope**

*The scope of the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation is to assist the Mediterranean countries to develop national and regional capabilities for adaptation to climate change impacts as much as possible.*

#### **Background**

*The process towards the development of a Regional Framework starting from the discussion at 16th Contracting Parties meeting, „The Marrakesh Declaration“, drafting procedure, discussion to adoption.*

## **Content**

*This section shall elaborate very briefly the difference between mitigation and adaptation to climate change, uncertainty in prediction of climate change and impacts, vulnerability assessment, mitigation and adaptation measures.*

## **II. THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT**

*This section will focus on climate change impact adaptation in Mediterranean coastal and marine areas.*

### **Biodiversity**

*Increasing sea-surface temperature, growing acidification of surface waters, and coastline erosion are likely to negatively impact coastal ecosystems with impacts on tourism and fisheries but also affecting in general the ability of society to face the risks of climate change.*

### **Freshwater resources**

*Climate change will impact water resources. Adaptation measures for water resources in the countries that are already severely water stressed involved new challenges. Therefore, it is urgent to plan adaptive strategies at the country and regional levels, and to work towards strengthening national capacities. Climate change is not the only factor that drives changes in water resources. A number of drivers are already changing patterns of demand. These drivers include population growth, land use change, economic growth and technological change.*

### **Coastal zones**

*The importance of coastal areas in terms of natural ecosystems and human activities in the Mediterranean requires a strong focus on them in terms of climate change impacts as a basis for adaptation policies and action. Of special interest in this context is coastal erosion (wetlands, beaches, land resources, etc.) and risks on coastal infrastructure (coastal defence, ports, fishing harbours and tourist marinas, etc.) but also in relation to extreme events.*

Early adaptation will be influenced by the extent to which climate change factors are incorporated into development and sectorial planning. This section will describe measures for adaptation to climate change impacts.

### **Agriculture and fisheries**

*Agriculture is highly dependent on climate. Climate change will have long-term effects on agricultural production. The chapter shall describe common measures and activities to adapt to climate change impacts.*

### **Energy**

*There are direct and indirect ways that energy relates to climate change adaptation among which from a Mediterranean coastal and marine areas perspective three are of special interest: shipping and transport in general, pollution risks from energy source exploitation and the use of renewable energy sources.*

### **Tourism**

*Coastal tourism is very important economic activity for entire Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean region presents a variety of touristic attractions, ranging from historic and cultural sites to conferences and environmental and recreational tourism. The impact of climate change on infrastructure and the natural environment has the potential to affect the tourism industry. In some cases this could result in social and economic impacts in areas with a high dependency on tourism as a source of income and employment. This chapter shall elaborate agreed adaptation measures and activities.*

### **Urban areas and urbanisation**

*Most of the Mediterranean big cities are located in coastal zone which is also subject to pressures for development and intense conflicts and competition for land use. Coastal areas would be affected by climate change impacts. This chapter shall describe policy tools, measures and activities to adapt to climate change impacts in urban planning and building construction activities.*

## **III. ADAPTATION POLICY CONTEXT**

### **Vision**

Building resilience to risks and impacts of climate change in Mediterranean societies.

### **Objectives**

The *strategic objective* of this Regional Adaptation Framework for Climate Change is to ensure the Mediterranean countries build their capacity to be resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change through:

- implementing adaptation measures on the basis of ecosystem based adaptation approaches;
- improving decision making and good governance;
- introducing climate change impacts in sectoral policies;
- education and awareness; and
- developing and strengthening partnership and cooperation.

The *specific objectives* are:

- a) Help build-up climate change resilience of vulnerable ecosystem and economies in coastal and marine areas;
- b) Support adaptation policy setting and planning in coastal and marine areas at the regional and national levels;
- c) Help countries to identify and undertake concrete adaptive actions to be taken in coastal and marine areas particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts;
- d) Help establish mechanisms to exchange experience and disseminate knowledge, information and best practices on adaptation to climate change impacts throughout the region and with other regions.

In this context it is important to identify the key elements in adaptation planning and programming

### **Commitment**

It is of particular importance to point out that leadership by governments on adaptation to climate change impacts is essential at this early stage in understanding and preparing for the impacts of climate change. National and local authorities have differing and complementary roles in climate change adaptation which include:

- a. Developing, implementing and reviewing policies and strategies concerning ICZM. This includes integrating climate change considerations into existing policies and strategies;
- b. Establishing and maintaining community and essential services to deal with the impacts of climate change;
- c. Building adaptive capacity, including providing tools and information, raising awareness of adaptation option, educating key professionals about adaptation and investing in climate change science as well as related social, ecological and economic studies; and
- d. Managing risks for climate change to their own programmes, activities and assets, including natural ecosystems and infrastructure.

### **Action in key areas**

Climate change is expected to create a range of adverse impacts in the Mediterranean Region. Many natural ecosystems are vulnerable to climate change and some will be irreversibly damaged. It is reasonable to conclude



that climate change poses a new and significant threat to achieving economic growth in many Mediterranean countries. The areas in the south and south east of the Mediterranean are the most vulnerable and will be disproportionately affected.

Three issues need to be addressed in order to strengthen adaptation responses to climate impacts in most of the Mediterranean countries:

- Better understanding of climate change impacts;
- Integration of climate change risks and adaptation measures into national policies, plans and programs, and
- Strengthening national adaptive capacity in different sectors.

Adaptive capacity to respond to climate change impacts includes:

- the ability to generate, access and interpret information about climate change impacts;
- suitable methods and tools for assessing potential adaptation strategies;
- appropriately skilled people;
- adequate financial and other resources;
- governance systems with sufficient flexibility and foresight to embrace adaptation planning; and
- willingness to adapt.

It is important to point out that adaptation is a long-term process and it will take time to quantify risks of climate change impacts and to build capacity to minimise costs and to take advantage of any benefits.



## **ANNEX IV**

### **MCS D THEMES FOR 2011**

In regard to the next MCS D, to be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 it was decided to adopt the two theme(s) selected for the global Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, namely:

- Green economy in the context of sustainable development;  
The issue of the green economy covers inter alia climate change with emphasis on both mitigation and adaptation as well as several other issues under MCS D mandate during the current cycle (ex. SCP).
- Institutional framework for sustainable development.

The MSSD assessment as well as the parallel internal reflections underway on ways to strengthen the MCS D role in line with the mandates it has been given by the Contracting Parties are directly linked to the issue of the Mediterranean “institutional framework for sustainable development”.

A separate document on the “Functioning of MCS D” (Appendix II) reflects some thoughts towards that end

Discussions during the next MCS D could focus on defining the Mediterranean perspective on these two themes thus contributing to both enhancing the MCS D work and contributing to the overall MSSD assessment.

### **Green economy towards poverty reduction in the context of SD**

1. “A *green economy* can be defined as an economy that results in improved human well-being and reduced inequalities over the long-term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities”<sup>1</sup>.

The concept of the green economy is one of the several mutually complementary approaches that have emerged in recent years to enhance convergence between the different dimensions of sustainable development<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP, 2011 Green Economy Report: A Preview. Green Economy Initiative . UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

<sup>2</sup> Other means include national sustainable development strategies, the Millennium Development Goals, integrated policy and planning (especially in key sectors), sustainable livelihood and pro-poor approaches, sustainable urban management, and sustainable consumption and production

The “green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” is one of the two themes of the next UN CSD (in 2012).

The green economy approach seeks, in principle, to unite under a single banner the entire suite of economic policies and modes of economic analyses of relevance to sustainable development<sup>3</sup>.

As a consequence, a green economy approach focuses on utilizing several types of policy instruments:

(a) Pricing, including removing harmful subsidies for the environment, valuing natural resources and imposing taxes applying the polluter-pays principle in order to internalize externalities, support sustainable consumption and provide incentives for businesses.

(b) Green public procurement policies and voluntary instruments of environmental management and eco-labeling to promote greening of business and markets;

(c) Ecological tax reforms correcting environmental externalities while boosting employment

(d) Public investment in sustainable infrastructure (including public transport, renewable energy and retrofitting of existing infrastructure and buildings for improved energy efficiency) and natural capital, to restore, maintain and, where possible, enhance the stock of natural capital.

(e) Targeted public support for research and development on environmentally sound technologies, to stimulate investments in critical areas (such as renewable energy) with potential for economic development, and discourage development of dirty and hazardous technologies;

(f) Strategic investment (projects, incentive programmes and partnerships) to support a self-sustaining process of socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth;

(g) Social policies to reconcile social goals with economic policies.

Several of these policy instruments are in use already to some extent. A green economy approach would mean to seek a wider use of such tools on a coherent manner meaning alleviating incompatibilities and enhancing their complementarities and synergies towards reforming and expanding economic and social development opportunities while respecting the environment.

A green economy approach can bring a new perspective on several sectoral policies (as for example in the attached list). In the context of the Mediterranean aside from the energy sector (and renewable energy sources) there are important opportunities to be

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<sup>3</sup> UNEP, 2010 *Report to the SG of UN*, May 2010

sought in developing green economy related jobs and income in several key policy areas such as in:

- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Urban areas
- Waste treatment

2. Green economy, as one of several approaches on sustainable development, is not a substitute for sustainable development strategy. Instead it complements it by bringing-in the potential of economic instruments towards balancing the goals of environmental conservation, social equity and economic efficiency, the three axes of SD. A basic re-orientation in this respect is to seek growth which is focusing in less intensive energy use and resource use as well as less pollution. As the need to change towards sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCP) (meaning a system which imposes lower pressures on natural resource stocks and the environment) has been widely recognized, the green economy has emerged as a framework for moving in that direction. In this respect it is important to consider how the greening of the economy can lead a long-term path towards sustainability.

There are various opportunities to enhance the greening of economy:

- Development of policy frameworks with measures to support green economy:
  - Fiscal incentives
  - Regulation
  - Sustainable procurement
  - Renewable energy
  - Green infrastructure investments
  - Energy efficiency improvement
  - Green industry development
- Policies to encourage investments in greening of sectors
- Promoting green-job creation
- Capacity building for green economy policy framework development
- Green economy measures towards social goals and poverty eradication
- Development of environmental standards (labeling, certification, etc.)
- Development of R+D in new technologies
- Mobilization of international financing towards making environmentally sound technologies accessible
- ...etc.

Broadening the concept of the green economy to make it applicable to sustainable development and poverty eradication addresses the eventual concerns that a green economy model could actually slow the development process. These concerns may focus on issues such as:

- The short-term effects of higher pricing of commodities (oil, gas, etc.) to reflect green concerns (internalize externalities) particularly for economies which depend on such imports.
- Eventual 'green protectionism' restricting trade which might affect certain economies with limited access to green technology and services
- Increasing economic and social disparities among and within countries

All these concerns which focus mostly on short term effects have to be addressed to through public policies. To this end it would be required to identify complementary policies and instruments, including safeguards, safety nets, targeting, capacity-building and eventually international support. Typical responses include:

- Direct poverty eradication measures such as investment in education
- Securing access to basic services (water, energy, sanitation)
- Prioritize green economy policies which can deliver social benefits
- Support for access of SMEs to clean technologies, new skill development, greening of supply chains, etc.
- Investments to enhance natural assets
- Support safety net for income and unemployment
- Community participation in natural resource management

The key issue in this context is how to take advantage of a “green economy” or “green growth” to accelerate advancement towards social and economic development. So, green growth can be interpreted as placing emphasis on “environmentally sustainable economic progress to foster low-carbon socially inclusive development<sup>4</sup>” and “green investments” for economic growth<sup>5</sup>.

Several typical responses can be drawn from the international experience:

- Green stimulus packages (concerted support for green economy investments)
- Eco-efficiency in production systems which use natural resources
- Greening of markets and public procurement
- Investment in green infrastructure (i.e. renewable energy, energy efficient buildings, green cities, sustainable transport, etc.)
- Restoration of natural capital by improving ecosystem services (i.e. sustainable agriculture, fisheries, etc.)
- Getting prices right (i.e. creating markets for ecosystem services)
- Eco-tax reforms

...in conjunction with:

- Developing National Strategies for Sustainable Development and ensure mainstreaming into economic planning processes
- Phasing-out environmentally harmful subsidies

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<sup>4</sup> UNESCAP 2010 Green Growth

<sup>5</sup> OECD 2010 Investment for green growth

- Strengthening regulations and incentives towards SCP
- Improving access to information for the poor and vulnerable groups
- Increase investments in science and technology

3. In the context of the Mediterranean where there is a regional strategy towards sustainable development (SD) and national strategies already developed a key challenge is to capture the opportunities offered by the green economy approach to enhance existing sectoral policies and actions in an effort to speed-up a transition towards sustainable development.

In this respect there are several options that need to be considered:

- Ensuring coherence and policy integration (strengthening capacities for integration of SD in sectors)
- Improving information and assessment on risks
- Strengthening implementation, monitoring and accountability

## Appendix

### **Investment and policy reform opportunities to transition to a Green Economy<sup>6</sup>**

**1. Agriculture** is the largest contributor to GDP in many developing countries and employs an estimated 1.3 billion workers globally. Sustainable agriculture and food system practices will increase the number of attractive, safe and knowledge intensive jobs in farming operations, non-farm (pre- and post-harvest) supply chains and market access infrastructures.

**2. Buildings** are responsible for over 40% of the world's total primary energy consumption. Retrofitting existing buildings has huge market potential and employment opportunities in developed countries. New green buildings can help developing countries meet additional demand for residential and commercial buildings while reducing energy consumption at low incremental investment cost.

**3. Cities** are where more than half of today's world population lives. Well-designed cities have great potential to combine resource efficiency with economic and social opportunity through proximity of urban functions, modal shifts in transportation, and increased efficiency in provision of infrastructure, utilities and energy.

**4. Energy** renewables supply nearly 15% of the world's primary energy demand, a share that needs to double by 2050 in a Green Economy scenario. Renewable energy investments can play a substantial role in meeting the Millennium Development Goals while adding significant co-benefits such as improved public health, energy security and economic activity.

**5. Fisheries** currently deliver annual profits to fishing enterprises worldwide of about \$8 billion, and directly and indirectly support 170 million jobs and \$35 billion in fishing household income a year. The sector, however, is underperforming. Rebuilding depleted stocks and putting in place effective management could increase marine fisheries catch from about 80 million tons to an estimated 112 million tons a year. This gives a total catch value or gross revenue of about \$119 billion annually.

**6. Forests** are being cleared or degraded at a rapid rate because of over-harvesting and pressure from other land uses, including agriculture and cattle. Action at international and national levels to negotiate a REDD+ regime and develop forest carbon projects open up the prospect of new types of forest-related employment, livelihoods and revenues, where local communities can be guardians of forests and forest carbon/ecosystem services.

**7. Manufacturing** consumes one-third of the global energy supply, emits a quarter of the total world greenhouse gas emissions, and represents a significant part of primary resource extraction. This chapter explores potential gains from investing in improved resource efficiency across a range of key industrial sectors.

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<sup>6</sup> UNEP, 2011 Green economy report: a preview



**8. Tourism** investments in sustainable tourism solutions can contribute to the sustainable development of the sector and the transformation to the Green Economy at the national and global level.

**9. Transport** costs, which can add up to nearly or over 10% of a country's GDP, are likely to grow further under the current trends of ever-increasing motorization. Investment in green transport could support cities by reducing congestion, air pollution and other costs through the creation of green jobs, particularly through the development of public transport infrastructure and operations, and by alleviating poverty through increased affordability of transport and improving accessibility to markets and other essential facilities.

**10. Waste** generates economic, social, and health-related costs and liabilities around the world. Solid waste services consume up to 2% of GDP in developing countries and up to 50% of cities' administrative budgets. By turning waste into a resource and encouraging the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste, significant gains can be achieved in decoupling waste production from economic growth.

**11. Water** scarcity is becoming a global phenomenon that will challenge the future of nations. Current water allocation, pricing and investment policies and practices are undermining opportunities for economic and social progress. Demand for access to water is rapidly increasing. Many supplies are becoming less reliable. Policy regimes that facilitate rapid adaptation to changing supply conditions and changing demands are essential.



**ANNEX V****MCS D Meeting (May 30-31, 2011 in Montenegro)****Preliminary Agenda of the Meeting**-May 30<sup>th</sup>

- 8.30-9.30 Registration:  
 9.30-10.30 Morning session:  
 -Agenda item 1: Opening –Greetings  
 -Agenda item 2: Election of the Steering Committee
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00-11.30 -Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work  
 11.30-13.00 -Agenda item 4: Report by the Secretariat on the progress achieved, sustainable development and emerging issues
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30-15.30 -Agenda item 5: MSSD Assessment  
 15.30-16.30 Agenda item 6: MCS D role
- 16.30-17.00 Coffee break
- 17.00-18.30 -Agenda item 7: Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation

-May 31<sup>st</sup>

- 9.00-10.30 -Agenda item 8: Theme 1 : Green economy
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00-13.00 -Agenda item 9: Theme 2: Institutional settings towards SD
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30-16.00 -Agenda item 10: MCS D Thematic Work Programme 2012-13  
 -Agenda item 11: Next MCS D Meeting
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30-17.00 -Agenda item 12: Other matters  
 17.00-19.00 -Agenda item 13: Adoption of Conclusions/Recommendations  
 19.00-19.30 -Agenda item 14: Closure of the Meeting