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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission
on Sustainable Development
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Draft Updated Review and Assessment of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

**Delegates are kindly requested to bring their documents to the meeting.
Documents will be distributed on CD Rom**

**REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (NSSDs) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

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REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (NSSDs) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

PREFACE

The following text from the introduction to the new (draft) French NSSD Strategy 2009- 2012¹ illustrates the very broad, contemporary interpretation of the sustainable development perspective and sets a framework for the assessment of such Strategies:

“The needs of the present generation should be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. This objective of sustainable development proposed by the United Nations in 1987, is enshrined in the Charter of the Environment, the French Constitution and the objectives of the European Union (Amsterdam Treaty). It seeks to reconcile a dynamic economy, a high level of education, protection of health, social and territorial cohesion and environmental protection in a world of peace and safety, respecting cultural diversity.”

In its 2000 Strategic Review of sustainable development² in the Region, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) highlighted the urgent need for serious policy reforms and the promotion of an effective culture of change towards another type of less production-related growth and development, a type which is more respectful of the Mediterranean ecosystem and its natural resources.

The above Review identified the limited influence that the “*sustainable development fashion*” had exerted on the policies of many partners in the Mediterranean, apart from its environmental protection component: sectoral visions and priorities still predominate, and environmental policies have little impact on development policies: and economic efficiency continues to be the driving force behind policy for most Mediterranean countries.

One could add that the current international situation of globalization and competitiveness, coupled with the on- going global economic crisis, exert further pressure for the stronger pursued of this aim.

With different names, and in both the South and the North, a multiplicity of integrated frameworks related to sustainable development have been adopted and the situation is rapidly evolving. Almost all countries have by now prepared or are preparing their own NSSDs, in addition to National Agendas 21 and other cross-sectoral strategic frameworks which have also set out principles and priorities encompassing sustainable development concerns and issues.

In most cases, international and regional institutions, organizations, processes and initiatives have played a major role in raising awareness and inducing the preparation of national strategies, or at least the decision to do so. These include, mainly, the Earth Summit, the World Summit, UNCSD, UNDP, OECD, EU and the UNEP/MAP.

¹ Commissariat General au Developpement Durable, Strategie Nationale du Developpement Durable, 2009- 2012 (Version Provisoire), Fevier 2009.

² The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region, UNEP/MAP, Athens, 2001.

The MAP Secretariat, utilizing its own limited funds as seed money as well as additional voluntary financial support from **Italy, Monaco, Spain** and the UNDP Small Grant Programme, assists **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia** in preparing their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSSDs).

Drawing lessons from the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), a similar approach was suggested to countries when preparing NSSDs. This process encompasses four phases, which are more or less overlapping: political (consultation, partners, ownership and support); technical (stocktaking and preparation of reports); stakeholder participation (working sessions, workshops, association of stakeholders, including civil society); and financial support (mobilization of resources for the preparatory phase, appraisal of needs and identification of sources for implementation).

In 2005, the MAP Secretariat prepared a Regional Review and Assessment Report on sustainable development initiatives in the Mediterranean, meant to take stock of the status of activities in relation to sustainable development in the Region. The present 2009 edited, updated and expanded version aims to allow for a new appreciation of the state of play with respect to the development of NSSDs, their strengths and shortcomings.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By assembling information, papers and reports on different frameworks and processes, and compiling and analysing it, this Review highlights the present state of things; points out to promising practices and problems; and presents some orientations, principles and measures for the formulation or improvement of strategic initiatives for sustainable development.

It is very clear that it is still early to expect dramatic results and changes. The last few years have more or less been transitional, with countries preparing new strategies; revising older ones; transforming relevant initiatives; putting in place coherent systems; and trying to cope with renewed efforts to monitor regional and international commitments.

Strategic frameworks

All countries in the Region have, one way or another, begun addressing the sustainable development challenge. The following categorization is illustrative of the situation:

- National Strategies for Sustainable Development or Agendas 21: **Croatia, Cyprus, France, Israel** (strategies at each Ministry), **Greece, Malta, Montenegro, Spain, Tunisia** and **Turkey**; **Slovenia** also considers its Development Strategy as being in place of a NSSD. The same holds true for **Israel's** Ministries sectoral strategies.
- National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development; National Strategy or Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development: **Algeria, Italy, Morocco**.
- National Environment Action Strategies or/and Plans (NEAPS): **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon, Slovenia, Syria, Turkey**.

France is currently finalizing its new NSSD; those for **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria** and **Tunisia** are at various stages of preparation/ finalization; **Italy** is preparing a new one to replace its Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development. **Cyprus** is also revising its 2007 Strategy. The revised **Greek** Strategy is under adoption.

Whether in the South or in the North, there is therefore a profusion of integrated frameworks relevant to sustainable development. This does not automatically translate into strategies being in conformity with overall sustainable development objectives. In fact, although almost all strategies are structured around the three pillars of sustainable development, most often than not the environmental issues overshadow the other two pillars. Nevertheless, the most recent NSSDs are more balanced in their content. In general, the environment- social or economic-social interfaces have to be addressed more consistently and thoroughly.

Major regional processes that have reached maturity over the last few years are having a catalytic influence on activities and initiatives in the Region as far as commitments and the preparation of strategies are concerned: they will no doubt do much in the medium- term. These processes are the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; the Millennium Development Goals delivery process; and the European Union's Sustainable Development Strategy, and its Policies for Enlargement, Western Balkans and Neighbourhood.

Political will and commitment

The Strategy development process followed is, in general, backed by a strong political commitment from Ministries at high government level, sometimes the Head of State. Although this ensures, to a degree, cross-government support, sustained efforts are needed for this commitment to be effectively shared by various sectors and levels of government.

Because in particular of international and regional commitments and processes, a sense of urgency is maintained by governments. However, it is premature to say that such a commitment is there to stay.

Establishing a clear legal, preferably Constitutional, mandate for a sustainable development strategy would improve considerably the potentials for the achievement of the overall goals, since it would secure endorsement at the highest level and make the process largely immune from political changes and preferences.

Integration and coherence

Non-environmental branches of Government are progressively integrating the notion of sustainable development and its three traditional pillars in their policies. Continuous attention and efforts are needed in this area, in order to ensure that there is, both a shared vision of what needs to be done in the future, as well as agreement on courses of action.

As is often the case when government mandates and horizons are short to mid-term, the time dimension appears to be very difficult to factor into a policy process. Despite the inherently longer-term nature of sustainable development, the bulk of the Strategies have been provided with short to mid-term time horizons (mostly 5 years, in some cases extended to 10). To this respect, on the planning and programming levels the establishment of strong linkages between immediate and mid-term undertakings and their monitoring and evaluation remains a challenge.

In many countries of the Region, decentralization is a key dimension of government policies. Institutions and non-government stakeholders at the local level have shown their commitment to sustainable development through various initiatives. Support to, and coordination of these initiatives and their mainstreaming into national efforts will contribute to better forge wide- spread national commitment and link national and local priorities and actions in a two-way interactive process.

All countries now display a set of methods, instruments and legislation that bring together different aspects of sustainable development. Regulatory instruments continue to be the overriding tools in all countries. Despite the broad interest exhibited towards economic instruments and some very interesting breakthroughs, their effective utilization within a relevant integrated and comprehensive policy still requires a lot of effort.

Stakeholder involvement

Mechanisms are in place in all countries to foster multi stakeholder participation in Strategy formulation and follow up activities. National councils, commissions and steering committees are the most common consultation mechanisms. The mandates and composition of such bodies are broadly similar, although the level of the engagement of the different stakeholders varies substantially across countries.

This Review did not identify any national mechanisms in place for the evaluation of and feedback on consultation events or mechanisms. The influence of these mechanisms on the decision-making process needs to be assessed by independent bodies.

In most countries, modern information and communication techniques are being used to foster dissemination. National media and NGOs are also playing a significant role in spreading the sustainable development concept. Although such activities have contributed to raise awareness, it is yet too early to assess their effectiveness in changing behaviour and influencing governance.

The same level of information does not exist for all countries. Indeed it varies considerably. The information from websites and reports does not reflect a constantly evolving situation, but tends to offer a selective snapshot of the situation at a specific period of time.

Almost all strategic frameworks include or make reference to, the elaboration of a range of indicators that would allow monitoring the progress made. The situation varies considerably between countries, but it is gradually being improved, with common indicators being developed, approved and monitored.

As far as monitoring and review are concerned, all frameworks incorporate appropriate provisions. The most prevalent types of reviews are those carried out by a public agency, based on information on progress supplied by other agencies, a situation that does not always guarantee objectiveness.

Management systems

Although there is a variety of country situations, most often a single government institution, usually a Ministry of Environment, coordinates the process. Progressively, the management set-ups are being changed to cope with the demands, such as with the merging of Ministries; the assignment of high level overseeing responsibilities to special units or committees; the establishment of special teams at sector Ministries; regional structures; etc.

All public agencies assigned the responsibility to coordinate the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies are facing the challenge of providing leadership and impetus whilst hampered by limited resources and incorporating into the decision-making process new actors and interest groups with interests that do not always coincide.

The governance sections in Strategies need considerable enhancement, with clear provisions on who does what and when, and effective conflict arrangements; feedback mechanisms; reviews- including peer reviews; etc.

New Review

The next Regional (stocktaking) Review is suggested to be carried out in 2011, to be made available during the Rio+20 period.

REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (NSSDs) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

1. THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN'S REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF NSSDs¹

1.1 Method and response

In 2005, the MAP Secretariat prepared a Regional Review and Assessment Report on sustainable development initiatives in the Mediterranean, on the basis— partially- of information received from the countries. A straightforward set of questions was circulated, targeting a number of pertinent issues (**Annex I**). Accompanied by country profiles- characterised by very large discrepancies in detail- the Report assessed the status of activities in relation to sustainable development in the Region.

The Report was approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia in 2005. Some of its tables were partially updated in 2006.

The present Report is an edited, updated and expanded version of the initial report and was prepared in the first half of 2009. A detailed annotated reporting format was circulated in the form of a questionnaire was used (**Annex II**), based on the one used in the previous review, the EU SDS review, as well as the content of the MSSD and the EU SDS. Following a number of reminders, only about half of the countries provided inputs of a varying degree of detail. Response to the revised draft Country Profiles (**Annex IV**), circulated for comments, has been poorer.

1.2 Availability of information

During both reviews an extensive list of information sources were consulted, particularly useful being those of OECD, UN DESA, the European Commission, IIED, UNDP, UNEP/ MAP, UNEP/BP, and the ESDN.

A list of useful general references and relevant websites is provided in **Annex III**.

Despite the post- Rio reporting and other related processes, the same level of information does not exist for all countries although reporting obligations are common. Information in websites and reports does not account for a constantly evolving situation. Different country documents are issued by different government sources, at different times. Websites and reports may not adequately reflect processes at play (e.g. the effectiveness of a consultation or coordination mechanism). Notably, independent assessments are not habitually made.

This has led to the necessity to seek information through the Internet from a variety of sites, national and international, which again are characterised by wide discrepancies in detail. A large number of reports were also scrutinized, even if they appeared not to be directly relevant, in the search for useful information and insights. Some direct communication was also attempted, with mixed results.

¹ The first review, published in 2005, was prepared by Mr. Philippe Alirol, MAP expert/ consultant. The present 2009 revised version was prepared by Mr. Nicos Georgiades, MAP expert/ consultant.

Information on the country status has been collected from official websites of competent Ministries (see **Table I**), the national reports, specific regional or global reviews, etc.

From **Table II**, it is evident how uneven the situation is as far as accessibility to related information is concerned. The Table identifies the availability of main reports directly or indirectly relevant to the situation in the various countries and the EU. Discrepancies and gaps between countries are very obvious. Regarding the directly relevant texts, the situation is better for EU member states. From the rest, indirectly relevant reports are more numerous for those countries participating in various EU regional initiatives.

In view of the above, there are some gaps in the Review that have to be highlighted for a future update. This applies in particular to: defining key problems and constraints; identifying good practices; funding; common challenges, practices and innovations; the extent to which adaptation and mitigation to climate change have been integrated into national and sectoral development processes; and the assessment of the output and results achieved by regional Institutions.

The updated Country (and other) Profiles are attached as **Annex IV**.

1.3 Timing of the Review

One issue of particular relevance not only to this Review but to all reviews carried out either on a regional or national level, is the matter of timing. At this particular point in time, it is still too early to really attempt to measure impacts directly attributable to NSSDs, particularly so as most of the latter have actually been adopted at the second half of the present decade.

Such a drawback was fully accepted by the European Commission when preparing the first EU SDS Progress Report, in 2007. As it was deemed that it would not be possible to show meaningful trends on the basis of one year's data, the year 2000 was taken as a baseline against which progress in the different areas was measured.

In addition, and although the present international economic and social crisis advocate towards a new restructured global sustainable economic development system, in the short run, however, this crisis may tend to relegate to secondary importance mainstream sustainable development concerns. On the other hand, international commitments have brought in a wide range of strategies, programmes and action plans that it is very difficult, politically and socially, to put aside.

As stated in the EU 2009 SDS Review *“The current economic and financial crisis has shown that sustainability is also a key factor for our financial systems and the economy as a whole.....The EU should turn the crisis into an opportunity to address financial and ecological sustainability and develop a dynamic low-carbon and resource-efficient, knowledge-based, socially inclusive society, and promote this approach globally.”*²

² European Commission (2009): Communication, Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development (COM(2009) 400 final).

It is therefore very clear that it is too early to expect dramatic results and changes. The last few years have more or less been transitional, with countries preparing new strategies; revising older ones; transforming relevant initiatives; putting in place coherent systems; and trying to cope with renewed efforts to monitor global commitments.

Although differing in their approaches, countries are confronted with similar challenges. In all cases, the effort would require time and be incremental and cumulative by necessity.

1.4 Pertinence of the Review

Despite the above, this updated Review contains enough information and insights – the latter mostly coming from related assessments carried out under other processes- to provide an overall assessment of the actions and initiatives carried out so far by the Mediterranean countries for sustainable development and hence allow for a better appreciation of the state of play.

2. REGIONAL STOCKTAKING

In the period that has elapsed since the last Review (2005, but mostly based on 2004 or earlier information), 6 major processes reached maturity, having catalytic influence on activities and initiatives in the Region as far as commitments and the preparation of strategies is concerned. They will no doubt do much in the medium- term in improving implementation and conditions on the ground and this is expected to be duly reflected in the next Review, suggested to be carried out in 2011, to be made available for the Rio+20 period.

These processes are:

- the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- the EU Review of its Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and the renewed Strategy
- the EU Enlargement process
- the EU Western Balkans policy
- the EU Neighbourhood policy
- the intensification of the Millennium Development Goals reporting process

2.1 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

In 2001, in **Monaco**, the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided to prepare a wide- ranging Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

This Strategy was prepared and subsequently endorsed at the Convention's 14th Conference in Portoroz, **Slovenia**, in November 2005.

The MSSD calls for action towards sustainable development goals so as to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity.

This Strategy is structured around 4 objectives and 7 interlinked priority fields.

The main objectives are:

- contributing to economic development by enhancing the Mediterranean assets
- reducing social disparities by implementing the UN Millennium Development Goals and improving cultural integration
- changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources
- improving governance at the local, national and regional levels

The priority fields of action are:

- water resources
- energy management and addressing the impacts of climate change
- transport
- tourism
- urban development
- agriculture
- management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources

The Strategy provides for its review by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) every two years, and for its revision every five years. To this respect, 34 indicators are annexed to enable monitoring and follow-up.

Being party to the Barcelona Convention and having endorsed the MSSD, all Contracting Parties have undertaken obligations to implement its provisions and report on progress.

To help countries in their obligations, the MAP Coordinating Unit initiated a process for assisting in the preparation of National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSSDs). So far, eight countries have taken advantage from this assistance, four with financial support from **Italy** and **Monaco** (**Egypt**, **Morocco**, **Serbia** and **Montenegro** and **Syria**) and four with support from Spain (**Albania**, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Lebanon** and **Tunisia**).

According to the standard MoU signed with the countries, the MAP-assisted NSSD preparation process involves: securing high level political support; establishing a small secretariat or using an already existing unit to coordinate; establishing a multi-stakeholder steering entity (or using an already existing one); identifying major stakeholders and exploring consultation mechanisms; etc.

Based on a broadly approved vision, orientations and complementary studies, the NSSD document to be prepared under the above processes will include: goals; objectives; steps and activities; measures and mechanisms to achieve integration/convergence and to involve stakeholders; responsibilities of the different actors; organizational aspects; resource availability; and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Recently, MAP-assisted studies have also been launched on adaptation to climate change in three of the above countries, namely **Egypt**, **Montenegro** and **Syria**. The

studies aim at a participatory assessment of vulnerabilities to climate change variability and to extreme events and to the identification of key adaptation measures, such as policy reforms; improved legal and institutional frameworks; mobilization of appropriate economic instruments; and capacity building.

However, considering the amount allocated (approx. 10.000 Euros per study) and the basic terms of reference, these latter studies will by necessity be limited to reviewing available information, exploring the potentials of available frameworks and tools, and enumerating current and planned measures.

A similar exercise will be carried out in another two countries yet to be identified.

2.2 The 4 European Union Processes

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)

The first EU SDS, of a rather limited scope and extent, was adopted in 2001, aimed to add a third, environmental dimension to the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs.

The review of the first EU SDS was a lengthy process which began in early 2004 and was finalized in mid- 2006 with the adoption of the renewed SDS in June 2006.

Compared to the first Strategy, the renewed EU SDS is more comprehensive and it includes a clearer governance cycle and an outline of implementation provisions.

Of the new Strategy's parameters, the following are highlighted:

The Strategy includes 7 key challenges:

- climate change and clean energy
- sustainable transport
- sustainable consumption and production (new challenge as compared to the previous Strategy)
- conservation and management of natural resources
- public health
- social inclusion, demography and migration (new challenge)
- global poverty and SD challenges (new challenge)

Additionally, the renewed EU SDS includes two cross-cutting policies that aim to contribute to the knowledge society, namely-

- education and training
- research and development

The renewed EU SDS also defines policy guiding principles and ways for better policy-making, the most notable being the integration of sectoral policies and securing a coherent approach for sustainable development on all political levels.

The Strategy provides that every two years a progress report will be prepared and published on its implementation in the EU and its member states. The first report

was prepared in 2007, the second was published in July 2009.

As suggested in the latter³, new challenges to SD are emerging, which are currently not included or covered only marginally in the EU SDS. They include energy security; adaptation to climate change; food security; land use; sustainability of public finances; and the external dimension of sustainable development. As regards the external dimension, priority areas should remain climate change and energy together with achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The renewed EU SDS has begun having a catalytic influence on the 7 EU Mediterranean member states⁴ for some of which (**Cyprus, Greece, Spain**), the EU SDS provided a strong impetus to review or develop their NSSDs. **France** has already prepared a revised NSSD (draft) structured according to the 2006 EU SDS. The other countries are in the process of revising their national strategies to bring them in line with the EU SDS.

The EU- non member Mediterranean countries

Three major processes involving agreements, strategies and action plans aim to bring Mediterranean countries progressively closer to the EU. These processes entail, either the full adoption of the EU policies, including the EU SDS (Enlargement, Western Balkans) or its partial adoption (e.g. health; social policies; education; gender; transport; energy; and environment) as far as the Neighbourhood policy is concerned. These processes are supported by funding and lending instruments and annual monitoring.

The processes involve the following Mediterranean countries:

Enlargement process- candidate countries: Croatia and Turkey.

Western Balkans Policy- potential candidate countries: Stabilisation and Association Agreements are being implemented in partnership with **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.**

Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, as well as the **Palestinian Authority.**

The EU has no contractual relationships with **Libya.**

2.3 Millennium Development Goals(MDGs)/ UNDP

The U.N. Millennium Development Goals were approved in 2000. One of the eight MDGs is ensuring environmental sustainability. Most of the others also refer to broader sustainable development issues, such as water, sanitation, poverty, gender, health, education, etc. The MDGs now constitute the main focus of UNDP activities, mostly

³ European Commission (2009): Communication, Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development (COM(2009) 400 final).

⁴ **Cyprus, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain.**

through Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and national MDGs review reports. The intensification of the monitoring process and the reporting activities as regards the MDGs is also exercising an influence on sustainable development initiatives.

2.4 Other Regional Processes

The Mediterranean countries - with some isolated exceptions- have ratified several if not all international and regional environmental conventions, particularly the Barcelona Convention, although the record is less encouraging as regards to some of its Protocols, e.g. the new Emergency or the Hazardous Wastes Protocols.

Invariably, the Med countries also participate at regional initiatives such as those of the Council of Arab Ministers for the Environment; the African Ministers Conference on the Environment; the Mediterranean Action Plan; the Regional Convention for the Protection of the Red Sea; the Euro- Mediterranean partnership; and the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

All countries have bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements on environmental and sustainability issues.

2.5 Triggers

At a regional level, and in addition to the above- mentioned broader processes, the European Commission is playing a catalytic role in inspiring its member or accession countries for action in sustainable development, and is actively promoting the integration of sustainable development concerns into policies. For instance, the **Italian** National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development (NESSD) was developed in accordance with the 6th Environmental Action Plan and the guidelines of the Barcelona 2002 European Council. Prior to their accession, **Cyprus, Malta** and **Slovenia** developed National Programmes for Harmonization with the European Union's Environmental Acquis Communautaire.

Other EU SD-relevant Frameworks and Linkages are the Lisbon Strategy; the Environment Policy Review; and the Horizon 2020 initiative.

The role of organizations like the OECD or international and bilateral agencies is also important. OECD's Environmental Performance Reviews have influenced the environmental policies of members and other countries towards adopting a sustainable development perspective. In some countries (for instance, **France**), the NSSD meets OECD Environmental Performance Study recommendations on the integration of sustainable development. Other countries in the Region have developed sustainable development frameworks with donor support. The UNDP- supported National Agenda 21 in **Tunisia**, the World Bank- assisted National Environmental Action Programme in **Albania**, and **Montenegro's** cooperation with the European Centre for Peace and Development, are a few examples of such cooperation.

2.6 The League of Arab States and the Baltic 21 Initiatives

These two initiatives were included in the 2005 Review and have been retained in the present one as well, because they are of interest to the Med countries for a number of reasons: firstly, the first initiative involves the participation of almost half of the Med

countries⁵; secondly, the Baltic 21 process has recently undergone a major review and some very important decisions have been taken as regards to its future; furthermore, the European Commission has just presented its EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, signifying the first time that a comprehensive Strategy covering several Community policies is targeted on a 'macro-Region'.

League of Arab States

The League of Arab States adopted a comprehensive regional approach through the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and other specialized Ministerial Councils and in cooperation with international, regional and Arab organizations. This approach aims at developing a Regional Programme for sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region addresses the challenges faced by the Arab countries to achieve sustainable development, particularly in the light of globalization and its impacts, as well as constituting a mechanism to pursue the financing of programmes for environmental protection and sustainable development.

In addition to peace and security, the following priority areas and related actions have been identified:

- poverty alleviation, while giving due consideration to the role of women
- population and health
- education, awareness, scientific research & technology transfer
- resources management
- production and consumption
- globalization, trade and investment

The Initiative is implemented through building partnerships with the other regions, specialized Arab organizations, groups and international organizations and institutions, and with the involvement of all the stakeholders at the national and regional level.

A joint secretariat composed of the technical secretariat of CAMRE, the secretariat of the Arab Economic & Social Council, UNEP, and the Economic & Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) is in charge of the coordination and implementation of the Action Plan.

The Initiative provides for the submission of periodic reports on the implementation of the Action Plan to the Arab Summit through the Arab Economic and Social Council.

More details are provided in the Profiles (**Annex IV**).

Baltic 21

Baltic 21 is a regional multi-stakeholder process for sustainable development of the

⁵ **Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.**

eleven member states of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)⁶. The Baltic 21 Action Programme was adopted in June 1998.

The mission of the process is to actively contribute towards advancing sustainable development in the region by coordinating goals and activities and serving as a forum for cooperation.

Baltic 21 focuses on seven sectors of crucial economic and environmental importance to the Region (agriculture, energy, fisheries, forests, industry, tourism and transport, and spatial planning), Joint Actions (issues concerning several sectors) and Lighthouse projects.

The Action Programme comprises Joint Actions and actions to be implemented by sectors and spatial planning. Institution-strengthening, structural changes, education, exchange of experience and other non-technical initiatives are at the core of the Programme.

Baltic 21 is steered by the Senior Officials Group (SOG), with members from the Governments of the CBSS and the European Commission, intergovernmental organisations and the international development banks and a number of non-governmental organizations.

Between the Fall of 2008 and Spring 2009, Baltic 21 carried out both a self-evaluation as well as an external evaluation of its work over the last ten years. The review was presented and discussed at the SOG's Meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia in April 2009.

The new mandate for Baltic 21 agreed at the above meeting has the following basic ingredients, aimed to integrate B21 into CBSS:

- The mission remains to continue to actively contribute towards advancing sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.
- The principal functions to achieve the overall mission, are to support the Council in its long-term priorities and foster synergies on sustainable development.
- The **future key strategic areas** of cooperation shall focus on the following:
 - climate change
 - sustainable urban and rural development
 - sustainable consumption and production
 - innovation and education for sustainable development
- Baltic 21 shall work on the basis of a multi-year Programme of Work, its activities serviced by the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

More details are provided in the Profiles (**Annex IV**).

⁶ **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, European Commission.**

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region⁷

The European Commission has prepared an EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This is a relatively short Strategy, but accompanied by 80 flagship projects listed in the accompanying Action Plan, which will be reviewed regularly.

The four cornerstones of the Strategy are to make this part of Europe more:

- environmentally sustainable (e.g. reducing pollution in the sea)
- prosperous (e.g. promoting innovation in small and medium enterprises)
- accessible and attractive (e.g. better transport links)
- safe and secure (e.g. improving accident response)

The Action Plan consists of priority areas divided into thematic pillars plus horizontal actions. The latter include strategic and cooperation actions, and flagship projects.

The European Commission adopted the Communication on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region on 10 June, 2009.

The proposal is now being discussed by the European Parliament and member states. Agreement is expected by the end of the year. It is also one of the priority issues for the Swedish EU Presidency (second half of 2009).

3. NATIONAL STOCKTAKING

3.1 Strategic frameworks

Table III summarizes the situation in the Region regarding national frameworks.

Different strategic frameworks, action programmes or action plans are inspired by sustainable development considerations and principles:

- **Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) or Agendas 21: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Israel** (strategies at each Ministry), **Greece, Malta, Montenegro, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey; Slovenia** considers its Development Strategy as being in place of a NSSD; the same holds true for **Israel's** sectoral Ministry strategies
- **National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development; National Strategy or Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development: Algeria, Italy, Morocco**
- **National Environment Action Strategies or/and Plans (NEAPS): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon, Slovenia, Syria, Turkey**

France is currently finalizing its new NSSD. The NSSDs for **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria** and **Tunisia** are at various stages of preparation/

⁷ Commission of the European Communities (Com(2009) 248 Final), Communication Concerning the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

finalization. **Italy** is preparing a new one to replace its Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development. **Cyprus** is currently revising its 2007 Strategy. The revised **Greek** Strategy is under adoption.

Other comprehensive frameworks that can be built upon to meet the OECD definition of a national sustainable development strategy include periodic National Development Plans as well as externally stimulated initiatives⁸.

Besides National Conservation Strategies that are more frequent in the southern part of the Region, most countries have developed National Plans and Strategies in conjunction with the implementation of international Conventions such as UN CBD and UNFCCC. Countries that are Parties to the UNCCD have also prepared National Action Plans to Combat Desertification.

Comprehensive Development Frameworks (CDFs) also strive to reinforce long term strategic horizon and vision, ownership, partnerships between stakeholders as well as country accountability, all being basic ingredients of sustainable development. Under CDF, Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) deserve a special mention because they are opportunities to integrate environmental considerations in addition to social and economic aspects. The example of **Albania** illustrates how the National Strategy of Social and Economic Development - Poverty Reduction Strategy (launched in 2001) considers different sustainable development dimensions.

Slovenia's 2005 Development Strategy (SDS) replaced the 1995/ 2001 Strategy for the Economic Development of Slovenia (SEDS). The SDS also represents Slovenia's Sustainable Development Strategy, as it covers all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Reference is also made to **Israel's** Ministries Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development, prepared following a 2003 Government Decision on Sustainable Development. The latter declared that the policy of the Government of Israel would be based on the principles of sustainable development and would follow the Plan of Implementation adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit. It went on to instruct all Ministries to draft strategic plans for sustainable development up to the year 2020, to be constantly updated.

Close to the criteria is also **Morocco's** Strategy for Land Management and Sustainable Development.

Very pertinent characteristics are also found in the EU Harmonization Programmes, Enlargement Strategies, Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes prepared, implemented and monitored under EU Accession Partnerships, Stabilization and Association Agreements or the Neighbourhood and Partnership policies of the EU with **Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Turkey.**

⁸ See: OECD (2001). The DAC Guidelines. Strategies for Sustainable Development. Guidance for Development Cooperation. OECD, Paris. And Dalal-Clayton and Stephen Bass (2002). Sustainable Development Strategies: A Resource Book. IIED 2002.

Mention is also made to the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategies of **Albania, Lebanon** and **Montenegro**.

Whether in the south or in the north there is, therefore, a profusion of integrated frameworks relevant to sustainable development.

A wide range of other relevant thematic frameworks can also be identified in all countries. Some pertinent examples follow:

Albania

Management Programme of the Coastal Zone (1996)
 National Plan for Waste Management (1996)
 National Action Plan for Health and Environment (1998)
 Green Strategy for Agriculture (1998)
 Strategy for Forests and Pastures Development (1998)
 National Water Strategy (1998)
 National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity (2000)
 National Strategy for Water (2004)
 National Strategy for Energy
 National Plan to Combat Desertification
 Nation Plan for Land Management

Croatia

Transport Development Strategy (1999)
 Physical Planning Programme (1999)
 Environmental Protection Emergency Plan (1999, 2001)
 National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (2000)
 National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (2002)
 Energy Development Strategy (2002)
 National Forest Policy and Strategy (2003)
 Waste Management Strategy (2005)
 National Population Policy (2006)
 Strategic Development Framework (2006 – 2013)
 National Health Development Strategy (2006 – 2011)
 Water Management Strategy (2008)
 EU Accession Partnership with Croatia (2008)
 National Chemical Safety Strategy (2008)
 Energy Efficiency Programme (2008-2010)
 Environmental Information System Operation Programme (2009-2012)

Cyprus

Programme for the Adoption of the Environmental Acquis Communautaire (2000)
 Strategic Development Plan for Tourism (2003-2010)
 Strategy for Social Protection and Social Inclusion (2006-2008)
 Green Procurement Action Plan (2007-2009)
 Drought Mitigation and Response Plan (2008)
 National Biomass Action Plan (2008)
 National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2008)

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Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) (2008)
 National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2008)
 Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2010- 2020)
 Strategic Plan for the Management of Solid Waste
 National Strategic Reference Framework

Spain

National Energy Plan
 National Plan for Sustainable Tourism
 National Strategy for Forests and Forest Plan
 National Programme to Combat Desertification
 National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity
 National Strategy on Climate Change
 National Purification and Drainage Plan
 Waste Management Plan

Tunisia

National Land Use Plan (1997)
 National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
 National Urban Development Strategy
 National Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources

3.2 Principles of Strategies

Most strategies define general principles, focus on issues and themes and identify priority areas.

With regards to the two most relevant regional strategies the following are pointed out:

The EU SDS is guided by four key objectives:

- environmental protection
- social equity and cohesion
- economic prosperity
- meeting our international responsibilities

The EU SDS guiding principles are:

- promotion and protection of fundamental rights
- solidarity within and between generations
- open and democratic society
- involvement of citizens
- involvement of businesses and social partners
- policy coherence and governance
- policy integration
- use best available knowledge
- precautionary principle
- make polluters pay

The main objectives of the MSSD are:

- contributing to economic development by enhancing Mediterranean assets
- reducing social disparities by implementing the MDGs and improving cultural integration
- changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources
- improving governance at the local, national, and regional levels

Table IV summarizes the founding principles in the strategic frameworks of the 21 partners in the Region.

Countries that have adopted the NEAP approach (e.g. **Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina**) share the same principles which include: integration of environmental policy into the sector policies; partnership and shared responsibilities; changes in behaviour/attitude in production and consumption; establishment of several instruments for implementation of a set of activities.

The seven EU member states are converging towards the common principles of the EU SDS and to a similar direction are also moving the Accession (**Croatia, Turkey**) and the potential accession (**Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina** and **Montenegro**) countries.

Some principles are gradually becoming more broadly adopted – at least on paper-, particularly: integration; change behaviour in production and consumption; social cohesion and development; partnership, shared responsibilities, equity; improving education, awareness and participation. Others are still not broadly endorsed, such as: balance economic growth with sustainable production/consumption; decouple economic growth and environmental pressure; identify/manage carrying capacity; conserving human patrimony.

From the more recent Strategies, the following are noted:

Montenegro NSSD

General goals:

- accelerate economic growth and development, and reduce regional development disparities
- reduce poverty and ensure equitable access to services and resources
- ensure efficient pollution control and reduction, and sustainable management of natural resources
- improve governance system and public participation, mobilise all stakeholders and build capacities at all levels
- preserve cultural diversity and identities

Principles:

- integration of environmental concerns into development policies
- internalisation of environmental costs
- participation of all stakeholders

- access to information and justice
- equity among generations and equity within the same generation
- the precautionary principle
- the principle of subsidiarity and interdependency
- access to services and financial resources necessary to meet the basic needs

Egypt NSSD

- strategic planning
- setting flexible and realistic goals
- interrelationship between the budget and strategic priorities
- integrated policy between the different sectors
- good governance
- decentralization of authority and delegation
- raise awareness
- equal distribution between different generations
- social justice
- conservation of natural resources
- joint responsibilities
- prevention
- planning, urban development, and land use

3.3 Issues, themes and priority areas of Strategies

The MCSDD priority fields of action are:

- water resources
- energy management and addressing impacts of climate change
- transport
- tourism
- urban development
- agriculture
- management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources

In the EU SDS seven key challenges have been targeted:

- limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment
- ensure that the transport systems meet society's economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts
- promote sustainable consumption and production patterns
- improve management and avoid overexploitation of natural resources, recognising the value of ecosystem services
- promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats
- create a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations and securing and increasing the quality of life of citizens as a precondition for lasting individual well-being

- actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments

As shown in **Table V**, the themes and priority areas vary significantly across countries. All issues, themes and priority areas have social, economic or environmental aspects or dimensions although it cannot be said that all dimensions are "covered" in a sustainable development sense. Also, from the latter perspective, interactions between the different dimensions are often more important than the dimensions themselves..

Some broad conclusions that can be drawn from **Table V** have as follows:

Horizontally, environmental themes as well as the cross-sectoral ones that have been promoted in the Region for some time, are very widespread among countries. They include environmental protection; protection of natural ecosystems; management of natural resources; sustainable agriculture; air and water pollution control; energy; transport; public health; social solidarity; and public awareness and participation.

On the other hand, issues such as sustainable land management, sustainable industrial production, economic instruments and environmental norms, equal access to natural resources, sustainable state and cultural heritage, need to be more integrated into the strategies.

There are also commonalities between clusters, such as for the EU member states; the accession countries and Western Balkans; and the countries of the southern rim.

Differences tend to be blurred with time owing to the strong ties of almost all countries with EU processes.

Some examples are highlighted below:

Egypt

- economy
- agriculture
- climate change
- sustainable tourism
- water quality
- air quality
- biodiversity
- renewable resources
- gender equality
- urban development
- housing

The (draft) French National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSSD) 2009-2012

- climate change and clean energy
- transport and sustainable mobility
- sustainable consumption and production

- conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources
- public health, prevention and risk management
- social inclusion, demography and migration
- challenges for sustainable development and poverty in the world
- knowledge society
 - education and training
 - research and development
- governance and territories

Montenegro

Economic development: macro-economic developments; regional development and employment; transport; tourism; agriculture and rural development; energy; industry; new technologies.

Environment and natural resources: protection of biodiversity and conservation of natural values; water, air, soil, forests; environmental management system; spatial planning; the sea and the coastal zone; climate change and protection of the ozone layer; waste.

Social development: governance and public participation in decision-making; education; health care system; equity and social protection; culture and media; urban development.

Syria

Macro-economic aspects: trade; agriculture and Irrigation; manufacturing; tourism; transport; energy generation; construction.

Environmental aspects: water resources; marine and coastal zone; land; forests and biodiversity; air quality; mineral resources

Social aspects: urban development; poverty and income distribution; employment; private sector; public health; public education; gender equality; local administration, civil society, and public participation.

3.4 Integration and convergence

In many countries, sector Ministries have integrated sustainable development phraseology in their policy and programme documents. However, this does not necessarily translate into actual sustainable development approaches. Only few countries pursue the introduction of sustainable development considerations into sector policies objectives and programmes, for instance by providing specific guidance and guidelines to different line agencies. **Greece** and **Israel** illustrate these government efforts.

As shown in **Table VI**, the more wide-spread instruments are the more conventional ones, such as harmonization workshops; inter ministerial committees, inter sector working groups, councils and commissions; EIA and SEA; the polluter pays principle and resource use charges; spatial planning; and eco- management and audit schemes.

On the other hand, more complicated to design, approve and enforce instruments are less popular, such as guidelines and guidance to sectors; sector programmes for sustainable development implementation; constitutional provisions; sustainable development principles in periodic national economic development plans; integrated Market Based Instruments policies; and national environmental accounting

The following more recent country policies are highlighted:

Albania: A Ministry of Integration was established, as well as integration units in all ministries.

France: Since March 2005, sustainable development is included in the French Constitution with the adoption of the Environmental Charter. This guarantees stronger integration of sustainable development in the work of all public institutions.

In 2004, the post of Inter- Ministerial Delegate was created in order to lead and coordinate the actions of the administration on behalf of the Prime Minister in promoting sustainable development.

The NSSD attempts to establish a linkage to the planning and/or budgeting system and integrate institutional law to the finance laws in a system described as "la loi organique sur les lois de finances" (LOLF).

Greece: The NSSD document indicates ways towards integration of sustainable development into specific sector policies.

The Ministries of Agriculture, of the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, and of National Economy, have prepared a manual setting out Greece's approach to poverty reduction, gender equality and the environment.

Israel: Sustainable development considerations and principles are systematically built into national, regional or local master plans for particular sectors (e.g. airports, railways) as well as into cross sector master plans (e.g. Integrated National Master Plan on Planning, Building and Conservation).

Guidelines have been prepared and specific indications were given to the Ministries as to which aspects of their mandate are particularly relevant to sustainable development.

Turkey: A UNDP- managed and financed Project was launched for the Integration of Sustainable Development into Sectoral Policies. Its timeline was March 2006-November 2007. The project has three components: Capacity building for sustainable development; Grants for demonstration projects; and Advocacy for awareness-raising.

Tunisia: Agenda 21 priorities have been integrated in the country's successive Development Plans, which have adopted a long time perspective.

Streamlining sustainable development into overall national planning and policy documents (overall coherence)

In the Region, most countries prepare periodic national economic development plans. Usually, the line ministries prepare their sectors' chapters following guidance issued by a

national planning commission or equivalent coordinating entity. These sector plans tend to be linked into the annual budgets or to the medium term expenditure framework.

While economic concerns remain predominant, national economic development plans are increasingly incorporating social and environmental considerations. In some countries, sustainable development is directly factored into national plans, by grounding and sourcing their periodic formulation on the very Strategy document itself.

The **Lisbon Strategy** is a commitment to bring about economic, social and environmental renewal in the EU and affects all seven member states as it is mutually reinforcing with the EU SDS. This ten-year Strategy - adopted in March 2000 and simplified and re-launched in 2005- aims to make the EU the world's most dynamic and competitive economy driving job creation alongside social and environmental policies that ensure sustainable development and social inclusion.

Italy: The integration of different political levels is ensured by the State-Regions Permanent Conference. The Technical Board of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning's (CIPE) Commission on SD, was formed by representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Regions and other Ministry representatives with competencies for SD policies.

Slovenia: Links between national objectives and Regional Programmes are secured by the Office for Regional Development that coordinates multi-level governance issues with the NCSD; a Decree making it mandatory for all political levels to take into account sustainable development principles in development policy has been issued. The Government Office for Growth is the focal point for monitoring the EU SDS.

Syria: The Tenth Five Year Plan (2006-2010) is deemed to promote sustainable development in Syria, including a national vision for Syria up to 2020.

Tunisia: The concern for regional needs, the adoption of a long time perspective and the integration of Agenda 21 priorities in a special chapter of the 10th Social and Economic Development Plan (2002-2006) indicate strong linkages and continuing commitment.

The systematic involvement of ministries responsible for finance and economic planning in the preparation and implementation of sustainable development strategies also contributes to integration. Unfortunately this is not the usual practice and often national agencies that tend to take major development decisions may feel excluded. Exceptions include, **France, Greece and Cyprus.**

Promoting linkages and coordination (horizontal integration)

Assessing the linkages between different planning frames (strategic frameworks, cross sector or sector-wide strategies and plans) proves to be difficult on the basis of existing documents.

Table VII shows that most countries in the Region have set up inter ministerial bodies that provide for coordination and linkages between sectors in the formulation and implementation of Strategies.

In addition, the participation of the same sector representatives in various mechanisms primarily destined to obtain stakeholder inputs and foster participation also facilitates linkages between sectors.

With the view to promote convergence and horizontal integration, some countries have also set up a formal network of sustainable development focal points in the different sector agencies. Few examples follow:

Israel: The Ministry of Environment established a professional unit to, inter alia, identify common/ problematic inter-ministerial or inter-sectoral issues in Strategic Plans and propose ways to deal with them.

Malta: The merger between the Environment Protection Department and the Planning Authority in 2002 was also aimed to ensure closer coordination between spatial and environmental planning.

France: The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development (CIDD) is responsible for the definition, coordination and follow-up of the Government's sustainable development policy. The ICS is chaired by the Prime Minister and the Minister in charge of sustainable development. It includes all other relevant Ministers.

Morocco: The National Action Plan for the Environment (PANE), the National Scheme for Land Management and Sustainable Development, the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PDSE) and other national initiatives in the context of international commitments (e.g. National Action Plan to Combat Desertification) include harmonization actions as a result of consultation with all concerned stakeholders.

Utilization of planning tools and instruments that promote integration

Table VII clearly identifies the use of legal instruments and the Environmental Impact Assessment process as the most broadly spread tools for planning and integration in practically all countries. EMAS and Eco-label are also prevalent -but to a lesser extent. Strategic Environmental Assessment is yet to extend beyond the EU member states for which the tool is compulsory, anyway. Fiscal instruments are more widely spread, but in most cases they are basically charges for water (**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia**) and wastes (**Cyprus, Greece**) for revenue collection and not part of a broad strategy for their deliberate use to alter behaviour.

Cyprus plans the screening and re-examination of approved subsidy schemes in the area of environment and natural resources.

In **Italy**, the NSSD envisages different tools including environmental fiscal reform, internalization of environmental costs, development of new environmental quality indicators and finalization of the Framework Act on Environmental Accounting. In fact, this country increasingly relies on environmental taxes and charges, e.g. carbon taxes on fossil fuels, tax on pesticides, vehicle taxation reform to take greater account of environmental impacts, increased water and waste charges, etc.

Malta's national land-use planning system strives to internalize social and environmental costs through mitigation of impact and planning agreements. The country's Market

Based Instruments include, but are not limited to:

- eco-contribution on products
- 'eco-wardens' (aka environment field Inspectors)
- water and electricity rates
- grants on renewable energy and energy efficient devices
- landfill fee for C&D waste
- "marketable permits" with regards to air and land pollution
- Controlled Vehicular Access system in Valletta
- the emission trading scheme at an EU level
- tourism eco-certification scheme
- Green Office Label
- Blue Flag Programme

In **Spain** the NSSD document provides for the evaluation of market based instruments and public intervention and voluntary agreements.

In Slovenia, economic instruments include: direct aid or loans with a subsidised interest rate for environmental investments; favourable prices for electricity from RES or by cogeneration; conditional exemption from CO₂ tax; exemption from excise duties for biofuels; reliefs for investments in R&D; charges for waste disposal, end-of-life motor vehicles, waste packaging, waste electric and electronic equipment, lubricating liquids and waste tyres.

Slovenia is also currently preparing an environmental reform of its public finances, which also includes a system of gradual reduction of fiscal burdens or charges on labour and capital transactions and a parallel increase of fiscal burdens (taxes, fees, excise duties) as regards the use of environmental goods (soil, water, air, energy, raw materials, etc.) or impairment of the environment.

Tunisia's economic instruments are:

- code of incentives for Investments (CII)
- Fund for pollution abatement (FODEP)
- tax for the costs of control and monitoring
- tax on older vehicles (more than 10 years old)
- pricing of water and electricity
- charges for urban sewerage (households and industry)
- charges to the ecological system "ECO-LEF"

Linkages between different planning horizons

At the country level, there are often different types of planning frameworks, strategies and/or plans and programmes to address sustainable development concerns. On the one hand, a Strategy conveys a long-term vision and sets out policy directions and principles for future action and strategic objectives. On the other hand, plans and programmes usually propose shorter term, concrete measures and activities.

Although the intergenerational dimension of sustainable development is, probably, its most essential ingredient, linkages and synergies between policies and planning frames

with different time horizons (long-, mid-, and short-term) are not discernible in Strategies. The work on sustainable development indicators undertaken by all countries under the auspices of the CSD and other regional processes has not been effectively anchored in the reality of measurable time-bound targets.

In most countries, the long-term vision contained in the Strategy document does not clearly connect to short-term actions and targets in plans. Only few countries have strived to link different time perspectives. Their Strategies comprise or are complemented by separate, more detailed sectoral action plans and programmes. For instance, in **Morocco** the Strategy serves as a basis for the National Action Plan for the Environment and a Priority Action Plan, and the **Italian** and **Greek** Strategies propose quantitative targets (often based on EU directives) for some areas of action and sectors. For a number of its key issues, the **Italian** Strategy foresees either quantified or qualified objectives and measures.

Table VII also gives examples of mechanisms that promote vertical and horizontal integration.

Decentralization and local level initiatives⁹

Follow-up measures to UNCED have precipitated the preparation of Local Agendas 21 by local governments throughout the Region (**Table VII**).

In many cases, the central authorities have supported local initiatives through funding, capacity building, networking and guidance. The following paragraphs give a panorama of the variety of local initiatives and related support arrangements:

Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey have all prepared or are actively promoting Local Agendas 21.

Other forms at the sub-national level include: **Albania's** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina's** Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs); **Egypt's** Governorate Environmental Action Plans; **Israel's** Master Plans for Local Sustainable Development; **Italy's** Regional Sustainable Development Strategies; **Slovenia's** Regional Environmental Action Programmes; **Spain's** Sustainable Development Strategies of the Autonomous Regions; and **Tunisia's** Governorates Environmental Strategies and Regional Action Plans.

Notable are the following examples:

France: A new national approach to "Shared Governance" («gouvernance partagée») has been adopted. A National Agenda 21 Network was established. Local Agendas 21 are encouraged, based on a "Framework of reference for territorial sustainable development projects". There are 14 Regional Agenda 21 initiatives and appr. 500 Local

⁹ For the broad contribution of regional and local authorities, see Committee of the Regions (2009), Contributions of the Regional and Local Authorities to Sustainable Development Strategies, RIMAS.

Agendas 21, the goal being for 800 Local Agendas 21 by 2012. Contracts between the State and the Regions or other local authorities (“contrats pays”) are concluded for the integration of sustainable development concerns into local actions. State strategic action plans with sustainable development objectives were prepared for each of the 26 Regions. There are also ‘State-territory Intervention Programme’ (CPER) contracts between the national level and local authorities. An important initiative currently in progress will provide evaluation guidelines (methodology and indicators) suitable for every local or regional strategy.

Italy: In line with the National SDS and the objectives of the State-Region Permanent Conference, sub national planning and policy processes have evolved into Local Agendas 21 and Regional Sustainable Development Strategies (at the moment only one of the latter). Approximately 140 local public administrations have joined the Italian Local Agenda 21 Network. Co- financing is available for sustainable development programmes and for implementing Local Agendas 21.

3.5 Stakeholders involvement

Twelve¹⁰ of the Barcelona Convention Parties which are also members of the UN Economic Commission for Europe have ratified the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision- making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters. Therefore, their legal and institutional systems have progressively been adjusted to accommodate the obligations undertaken on the highly important issues regulated by this treaty. The rest are also falling in line with some of the Convention’s main issues, particularly regarding participation and information.

A balanced representation of civil society, stakeholder groups, business as well as government, is fundamental to sustainable development. Effective participation is a key principle of sustainable development strategies. It develops a sense of common ownership among stakeholders at central and local levels.

Stakeholders can be involved at different stages of the Strategy preparation-implementation process: developing a vision, goals, and principles; establishing priorities, defining system components, pilot activities, targets and responsibilities; implementing and monitoring.

Governments have a vital role to play in creating an enabling environment and organizing participation. Under legal and policy frameworks, governments can provide leadership, incentives and financial resources to facilitate participation.

Different levels and forms of involvement into policy processes exist. Usually, a representative multi-stakeholder body is necessary to ensure overseeing the Strategy, make the key policy decisions and engage partners who are indispensable for effective implementation of changes and reforms. Broad public participation¹¹ builds up

¹⁰ **Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, the European Community, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia and Spain.**

¹¹ UN DESA (2002) Guidance in Preparing a National Sustainable Development Strategy: Managing Sustainable Development in the New Millennium. Background Paper No.13. (DESA/DSD/PC2/BP13). Dalal-Clayton and Stephen Bass (2002). Sustainable Development Strategies: A Resource Book. IIED 2002. Compiled by Barry

legitimacy and strengthens governance.

Other essential mechanisms include: institutionalised public communication and awareness raising (e.g. through media, websites) based on transparency and accountability; and, strategic partnerships to share responsibilities¹².

Multi stakeholder steering entities

Both UNDESA and OECD Guidelines stress that multi stakeholder structures, such as national commissions or steering committees, should have overall responsibility for the Strategy processes.

Under various names (e.g. national council¹³, commission, steering committee, assembly for sustainable development), multi stakeholder structures have proved useful in bringing various groups together for the formulation and implementation of a Strategy. They are the key to good governance and essential to participation.

As indicated in **Table VIII**, most countries have established a multi stakeholder steering body. Whereas the composition of these structures is broadly similar across the countries, the mandate, degree of authority and chairmanship, as well as organization vary from country to country.

Composition

Multi stakeholder structures have been established by legislation or government decree. Throughout the Region, the stakeholder groups involved include government (at all levels), civil society, the private sector and academia. The selection criteria and procedures for the representatives are not well documented. Usually, governments appoint their representatives and decide which other major groups ought to be involved which, in turn, nominate their own representatives. In the few cases they have been appointed, eminent personalities are usually directly nominated by governments. In rare cases politically elected representatives, labour unions and the media may also be represented.

Mandate

Most mandates on sustainable development issues now include the following:

- providing forums for debates across actors and sectors and between levels
- rendering advice and making recommendations to governments

Dalal-Clayton and Stephen Bass for OECD and UNDP.

¹² Promoting and building partnerships with the civil society, business, community and interest groups as well as government is seen as a major mechanism to involve a variety of stakeholders (UNDESA , 2001).

¹³ Over the past decade, the Earth Council has supported the creation of National Councils or Commissions for Sustainable Development (NCSD) in many countries. According to various reviews, their success is rather mixed. Source: Earth Council 2002.

- establishing national strategic options and priorities
- assessing trends
- providing guidance
- preparing, or advising on NSSDs
- adopting appropriate methodologies for consultation
- disseminating reports on achievements
- overseeing and sometimes contributing to implementation
- reviewing the results of monitoring
- raising public awareness

Chairmanship and degree of authority

According to most guidelines, a multi stakeholder entity makes key decisions. It needs to be seen both to have and to be able to exercise the powers required to formulate a Strategy, achieve consensus on its scope and content, and monitor its implementation and impacts.

When supervisory functions are emphasized and pertain to coordination, multi stakeholder structures are usually more effective if chaired at high political level. In the Region, in a few instances the chairpersons are the Heads of Government (e.g. **Algeria's** High Council of the Environment and Sustainable Development, **Malta's** and **Tunisia's** National Commissions on Sustainable Development, **Turkey's** Higher Council for the Environment).

The degree of political influence of a multi stakeholder structure depends on its chair and composition but also on its legal empowerment, its organizational structure, the services put at its disposal, and the links with other government entities.

Organisation structure of multi stakeholder entities

The most common component of multi stakeholder structures is the Board which, at least on paper, meets at regular intervals. Whereas such meetings for Strategy preparation are well documented, little to no information is available on subsequent implementation meetings. Most countries have established technical committees or working groups, based on themes or sectors, to undertake technical work such as preparing documents and reports for consideration by the Board. Sometimes, outside experts are employed on an ad-hoc basis. A secretariat usually provides administrative support. Often the secretariat functions are performed by a government unit placed in the lead ministry.

To recapitulate, the following examples illustrate the variety of situations in the Region:

Croatia: The Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection has an advisory role. The Council has 9 members including its President. They are appointed among scientists, experts, public and other employees, central state administration bodies and civil society organisations.

Egypt: The members of the National Committee for Sustainable Development come from 30 line ministries and relevant parties. This Committee is assisted by the Technical Committee for Sustainable Development based in the Ministry of State for

Environmental Affairs.

France: The National Council for Sustainable Development (CNDD) is an independent body at the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development but placed under the authority of the Prime Minister. A new Council is expected to succeed the current one in 2009 as a follow up to the 'grenelle de l'environnement' process.

Greece: The National Council for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development formulates opinions to the Minister for Environment, Public Works and Physical Planning, for issues concerning spatial planning, the environment and sustainable development.

Italy: The Commission on Sustainable Development of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) is organised into six Commissions, one of which is devoted to Sustainable Development.

Morocco: The National Council for the Environment (CNE) operates through technical commissions (human settlements, legislation and international affairs, pollution control, information, communication, education).

Tunisia: The National Commission for Sustainable Development (CNDD) is assisted by a technical committee, various sector committees and national committees established under different international Conventions.

Turkey: The Higher Council for the Environment includes observers from various Commerce and Industry Chambers, the Chambers of Architects and Engineers, workers, etc.

Involving stakeholders in Strategy formulation/ consultation events

In most countries, although Prime Ministers or Councils of Ministers nominally hold overall responsibility for the preparation of the Strategy, the actual overall coordination is usually carried out by the designated lead government agency.

The majority of national strategies have been prepared under the leadership of Ministries of the Environment. Although National Planning Agencies or Finance Ministries rarely have a central role, they invariably participate in the process and, owing to their economic and planning clout and influence, they do have a significant impact on the outcome.

The main substantive contribution is made by the Ministries of Environment, which usually prepare the draft Strategy. In most cases, different sector ministries contribute to the preparation process. This involvement ranges from consultation to inter-ministerial commissions to substantial contributions from technical committees or expert consultations.

The involvement of stakeholders varies significantly across countries in terms of intensity (from consultation to substantial contribution and to effective validation) and timing (often a one off consultation at the end of the preparation process, less frequently regular consultations). In general, the creation of a national commission, committee, or council and/or the organisation of workshops allow for the ad-hoc consultation of major

groups, including the private sector, academia and NGOs. This consultation may be thematic and take place before the preparation of a draft, or be organized to obtain reactions and feedback on a draft Strategy. In few cases only has this consultation been systematic and has evolved into an interactive process merging top-down and bottom-up approaches. In some cases, regional workshops were organized to review the draft Strategy. Beyond the formal participation of stakeholder groups, the interface with the general public is limited to the organization of public hearings and the provision of information on the government's intentions and, more recently, through the use of websites.

Multi-layered multi-activity events at national or decentralised levels provide opportunities to inform the general public, sometimes to obtain feedback, more rarely to reach or improve consensus. In general, representative multi stakeholder entities like NCSDs lend themselves better to obtaining feedback and consensus than larger, less formal structures. These events take various forms: national conferences, workshops, forums, roundtables, public hearings, thematic or sector workshops, e-consultation, etc.

Therefore, although across countries the preparation process follows the same overall pattern of participation, the depth, timing, objectives and breadth of stakeholder involvement and consultation events vary significantly:

Some noteworthy variations from the norms are the following:

Croatia: Public and non-governmental organisations were consulted through two public debates and by the opportunity to comment on the draft text of the Strategy, which was placed on a website for 30 days.

European Community: The renewed EU SDS was prepared following a fully transparent and participatory review launched by the Commission and on the basis of contributions from the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, and others.

France: A country-wide stakeholder consultation process called 'grenelle de l' environnement' was organised. The Economic and Social Council as well as the Parliament were also consulted.

Malta: A consultation meeting was held for the Cabinet Committee for the Environment, the Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and the media. In addition to the normal stakeholders, focus groups were held with members of the public from different backgrounds, including village band club members, young mothers, law students and agriculture school students.

Morocco: A national survey was conducted in order to broaden the public consultation for the preparation of the NSSD orientations. The survey covered the Parliament, the 14 Governorates and the public sector, the private sector, NGOs, unions, and academia.

Slovenia: The consultation process included an independent evaluation of the preparation process of the draft SDS and an analysis of the public debate carried out.

Spain: The NSSD preparation process included a national 3-day stakeholder

Conference convened within the CAMA (Environmental Advisory Council), which is made up of 18 organisations representing civil society.

Table VIII summarizes the situation regarding coordination, participation and consultation.

3.6 Using and building up knowledge, information, communication and awareness- raising

Although this Review did not look into the details of all Strategies in the Region, the analysis carried out on few examples verifies a conclusion reached elsewhere¹⁴: strategies are often based on a very weak analysis.

The EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development, also accessible to non- EU member states, is making a very substantial contribution in setting up or strengthening research structures and in financing projects on sustainable development research and its evolving science.

In general, there is very little information on the knowledge base for sustainable development¹⁵, or at least such a base is not easily identified, although many reports and websites do mention institutions involved in environmental or sustainable development research, information collection and analysis. However, it should be mentioned that, as a follow-up to UNCED, the EU SDS and MAP's MSSD, all countries are engaged in the development of national indicators for sustainable development that will improve the knowledge and information base. Reference is made to the Region-specific MED-ERMIS project which involved the computation of 100 indicators based on a methodology endorsed by the MCSD.

Almost all strategic frameworks include (or make reference to), the elaboration of a range of indicators that would allow monitoring progress vis a vis the objectives and targets of an NSSDs. Following the lead of the EU SDS, the 7 EU member states have adopted a common set of headline indicators, in most cases accompanied by a larger set of supporting ones. This approach has begun influencing other countries as well.

Following the Aarhus Convention and related processes, extensive awareness- raising campaigns and information provisions activities are carried out in all countries, involving media campaigns, school activities, etc. A considerable number of information leaflets, posters and fact sheets have been produced and distributed. Information is also provided in national websites. Many countries publish State of Environment Reports (e.g. **Albania, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Malta**).

National and local media play a vital role in Strategy formulation and implementation, keeping stakeholders and the public regularly informed, generating a wider

¹⁴ Reviews by UNDESA, OECD, IISD, etc.

¹⁵ In UNDESA's 2002 Country Profiles (Chapter 35 Science for Sustainable development and Chapter 40 Information for decision-making) not much information is given on the comprehensiveness and reliability of information available.

understanding of sustainable development, and encouraging participation. Information and Communication Technologies are increasingly being utilized.

The following examples illustrate the variety of actions taken:

Algeria: The Environment Train consists of five cars devoted to: education and awareness; a clean city; nature; appropriate industry; and exhibition.

Cyprus: The Research Promotion Foundation - a non-profit organization, supported by the government- has the mission to encourage and finance national research programmes.

Egypt: An Annual Guide for Environmental Data and Indicators was initiated with **Italian** cooperation in 2005.

European Commission: A comprehensive set of sustainable development indicators was adopted in 2005, further reviewed in 2007.

France: The right to information on the environment is a new Constitutional right (Article 7 of the Environmental Charter).

Israel: The Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Environment are developing sustainability indicators to communicate environmental information to the public and decision-makers. An initial booklet of 11 indicators has been published.

Italy: The Italian National Statistic Institute (ISTAT) and the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) are preparing a data base of indicators in historic series.

Malta: Approximately 8.000 schools are members of the Eco-Schools (Ecoskola) project, aimed to empower children to act environmentally responsibly.

Montenegro: The NSSD Action Plan contains a large number of process indicators attached to certain NSSD measures and/or objectives.

Morocco: The National Observatory of the Environment (ONEM), the National Center for Land Management and Sustainable Development (CNATDD) and the National Laboratory of the Environment (ONEM) collect, maintain, analyze and disseminate extensive information on the environment and sustainable development issues.

Slovenia: The findings in the Development Reports are mainly based on the results obtained through the set of indicators that was designed to monitor development.

Tunisia: The National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (OTED) collects, produces, disseminates and analyses SD information.

Turkey: The 1999 report on 'National and International Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators' aimed to establish ultimately a National Environment and Development Observatory.

3.7 Monitoring, reporting, review and evaluation

In all strategies there are in-built provisions or references to a monitoring process, usually annual or bi-annual, as well as to mid-term reviews. Monitoring can take many forms and directions or combinations of the same, such as of the Strategy's stage reached or the Strategy's outputs or its outcomes or impacts.

Some examples follow:

Croatia: During a ten year period, the implementation of NSSD will be monitored through periodic reports. Additionally, the State of the Environment Report, prepared every four years, has to include an evaluation of the progress towards the NSSD goals.

European Community: Progress in the implementation of the EU SDS is assessed by the European Commission every two years. The first progress report was adopted in October 2007. The second report was published in July 2009.

France: France was the first EU member state that organized in 2005 a peer review process to evaluate the implementation of the NSSD with the inclusion of four peer countries (**Belgium, Ghana, Mauritius and the UK**); according to the draft new NSSD, the preparation of annual reports on implementation which are communicated to Parliament and to the National Sustainable Development Council, will continue.

Italy: The Technical Board of CIPE in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, prepares annual assessment reports on the implementation of the NSSD.

Montenegro: The basic cycle for the monitoring of implementation is a one-year period. A mid-term report with proposals for changes will be prepared in 2010. Detailed evaluation and review is planned at the end of the first implementation period, at the end of 2012.

Spain: The Inter-ministerial Group which drafted the Strategy will be in charge of preparing the corresponding follow-up reports that will be publicised, and for the holding of a Sustainable Development Conference.

3.8 Organisational arrangements

In most countries the lead Ministries are the Ministries of Environment or equivalent (**Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Slovenia, Spain, and Turkey**), also providing the secretariats for sustainable development with special units or affiliated agencies. They are invariably in charge of coordination, monitoring implementation, reporting, and advising on a variety of issues. Sectoral issues remain with line Ministries.

There are, however, countries with variations from the norms and/ or more elaborate structures:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Ministry responsible is the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations.

France: The government's policy on sustainable development is based on the work of

the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development (ICS) chaired by the Prime Minister. The ICS is responsible for the definition, coordination and follow-up of the Government's sustainable development policy. The ICS is supported by the Permanent Committee on Sustainable Development involving Senior Civil Servants.

Italy: The set-up includes the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea; the Interministerial Committee for Community Affairs (EU SDS, Lisbon Strategy); the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE); and the Technical Board of its Commission for Sustainable Development.

Montenegro: Overall co-ordination of implementation efforts is the task of the Office for Sustainable Development which is considered as well positioned in the organisational structure of the Government. The OSD is the secretariat to the NCSD, coordinates actors working in fields of sustainable development, promotes international cooperation and fosters bilateral relations.

Tunisia: The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD-recently reshuffled), is supported by specialist public agencies such as the National Environment Protection Agency (ANPE) and the Tunisian Observatory for Environment and Sustainable development (OTED). The latter acts as a permanent secretariat to the National Commission for Sustainable Development. It is also in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy.

4.RESULTS ON THE GROUND¹⁶

The measures taken in the multitude of sectors covered by the strategic frameworks or similar ones are in the hundreds, in all countries, albeit not under a sustainable development umbrella. Enumerating them would serve no useful purpose, as they are mentioned in the Strategies, Agreements, processes, Conventions, etc. to which all countries have subscribed in. Some major ones are also identified in the Country Profiles in **Annex IV**.

A 2004 IISD country case study research¹⁷ illustrated that many innovative approaches and tools for strategic and coordinated action for sustainable development have been developed and applied over the past decade.

There is no question that there is a time differential between the adoption of any Strategy, the initiation of action based upon it, and the identification of changes or impacts. In addition, it is always a multitude of measures that interact to influence a particular sector and rarely only one particular activity.

¹⁶ The text in the chapters that follow is, to a very large extent, a digest of observations and recommendations arising from a number of reviews/ reports, such as the French Peer Review; the Council of the Regions study; the EU SDS Review and Progress Reports; some of the returned questionnaires regarding the 2009 NSSD review; the EU assessments and country reports regarding Enlargement, the Western Balkans, and the Neighbourhood Policy; the OECD; the ESDN; the IISD; etc. The most relevant texts are referenced in Annex III.

¹⁷ European Union "National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Approaches, and Innovations Based on a 19-country Analysis." , IISD, GTZ, June 2004.

Considering the above, coupled with the fact that so far countries have been striving to translate strategies into practical programmes, projects and other measures, it would be logical not to expect, yet, visible significant results on the ground.

Nevertheless, the following are some broad conclusions reached on a sub- Regional scale.

Regional situation

On the broader regional level, all Mediterranean countries, in particular under the aegis of the Mediterranean Action Plan, have implemented joint programmes, particularly related to capacity building, pollution control, coastal area management and protecting biodiversity. All the Mediterranean countries have also introduced environmental policies, and clear examples of progress can be seen everywhere.

Despite these achievements, however, according to a recent report by the Blue Plan¹⁸ the tensions forecasted by the Blue Plan in 1989 regarding natural resources and environmental degradation have now been confirmed. They are a heavy burden for the poorest populations and tend to impede, if not jeopardize, economic and social development.

One key question remains as pertinent and pressing as ever: how to reconcile economic growth with more sustainable patterns of economic development.

EU Mediterranean member states

In the north, institutional set- ups, prevention mechanisms, correction technologies, appropriate legal frameworks and substantial funds have been in place before the formal requirement for NSSDs was established. Under the umbrella of the European Union, substantial policy initiatives were taken and programmes developed at a European and member states level. All the above have led to an increasing convergence between the different stakeholders on priorities, and collective efforts are targeting widely agreed upon common concerns.

Inter alia, progress has been considered as encouraging in such areas as product lifecycle thinking; areas with protected status; energy efficiency; organic farming; and active labour market and poverty eradication and social integration policies. Simultaneously, Official Development Assistance is increasing in order to live up to global obligations regarding the Millennium Objectives.

At a country level, measures have and are constantly been taken or intensified and a lot of initiatives are now in place to address sectoral issues, particularly the ones that are more straightforward (e.g. pollution control, waste management) where better results can be visible, early.

On the other hand, success has been limited on issues requiring difficult choices and

¹⁸ The Blue Plan's sustainable development outlook for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, Sophia Antipolis, July 2008.

sweeping reforms, such as on sustainable consumption or social inclusion. Also, according to the EEA there is no strong political will for the enforcement of environmental regulations¹⁹, whereas national reports give the strong impression that the objective of addressing global poverty and sustainable development is overstretched.

Mediterranean countries involved in the Enlargement, Western Balkans and Neighbourhood policies

According to EU's various country progress reports:

- remarkable progress has been achieved on reducing infant mortality and providing primary education
- significant efforts are under way to reduce the number of Mediterranean people with no access to drinking water, sanitation or energy
- a wide range of multi-annual strategies for social and child protection, integration of persons with disabilities, women, and migration have been developed in almost all countries
- countries have somewhat improved energy efficiency and started the process of promoting the use of clean energy, notably renewable energy
- countries are paying increased attention to the introduction of a life-long learning perspective as well as building up their research and innovation capacities

As far as problems are concerned,

- the southern Mediterranean Region is growing at the expense of the environment since neither the economic conditions nor the required technologies are available²⁰
- most countries lack an integrated approach which would have combined economic, employment and social objectives and suffer from poor administrative capacity
- in practice little progress has been made on improving protection from and raising awareness of gender-based discrimination

¹⁹ European Environment Agency (2006), Priority issues in the Mediterranean environment, EEA Report, No 4/2006.

²⁰ European Environment Agency (2006), Priority issues in the Mediterranean Environment, EEA Report, No 4/2006.

5 BROAD ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Influence of Strategies

In a broad sense, in all countries public strategic policy formulation and implementation processes go on without having established, at least so far, that they are substantially guided by a NSSD. Reporting is made of new laws, sectoral and lower-level strategies, and new procedures and measures either incorporated in NSSDs or being adopted or implemented. It cannot be inferred, however, neither has such an attempt been noticed, that they are a direct outcome of Strategy preparation or they are the result of commitments and decisions taken under other processes.

For example, in assessing the EU SDS it was pointed out that it is not at all clear whether the process provided an opportunity to focus on a range of sustainable development issues and their interrelationships. To the contrary, the impression given was that many national sustainable development policy initiatives would have as well been taken without an EU SDS.

5.2 Influence of UNEP-MAP

Similarly, in reviewing the changes since the 2005 NSSD Review, no evidence was found that the MSSD has begun having any worthwhile influence on national policies and that it has driven the many measures taken in specific sectors, although it is perhaps too early to expect such an influence.

MAP's initiative to assist in the preparation of NSSDs is worthwhile and has been embraced by a number of countries. The Strategy preparation process is a very well thought out one and includes a strong national capacity building component. Its stages, orientations and focus are in line with contemporary thinking on the matter. The Framework preparatory process is well articulated, but in the documents submitted so far there is no clear evidence as regards to the extent the process has actually been followed.

On the other hand, worries are caused by the fact that, so far, only **Egypt, Montenegro** and **Syria** have moved ahead considerably. **Morocco** did not complete the exercise. **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Lebanon** have not signed the MoU yet, for reasons that are related with internal matters. **Tunisia** has initiated the process but due to delays the first MoU was closed and a new one was drafted.

Some of the problems identified, such as limited resources and bureaucratic processes, have to be addressed.

5.3 Frameworks

NEAPs have been frequently equated with sustainable development strategies, particularly the second generation NEAPs, which have placed greater importance to social and economic issues.

Although by 2005 only few countries had adopted texts that could be considered as a pure NSSD, the panorama has since evolved considerably and it is still evolving, as more and more countries have prepared or are preparing or revising their own NSSDs.

5.4 Content and dimensions of Strategies

The MAP- assisted strategies are viewed as documents providing a framework for systematic thought across sectors, institutionalised consultation, negotiations and consensus building on priority societal issues, and informed decision-making.

Almost all strategies are structured around the three pillars of sustainable development. Even so, issues with environmental focus or connotation easily overshadow the other two pillars, usually being more precise or specific than them. NEAPs in particular, remain largely environment-oriented. Whereas first generation NEAPs were purely environmental, most environmentally- focused strategies evolved after UNCSO do consider, at least partly, economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The most recent NSSDs (e.g. **Cyprus, Malta, Montenegro**, draft new **French**) are more balanced in their content (regarding environmental, economic and social aspects) than the “older” ones who focused mostly on environmental aspects e.g. **Greece, Italy**.

The various dimensions and issues are as a norm dealt with independently, even if they are sections of the same text. Usually, objectives are separate. No efforts have been identified to establish inter linkages and trade-offs. Most strategies give the impression that they have put together sub-texts prepared independently of each other, with no interrelationships and synergies between them.

The degree of detail in the Strategies varies substantially, depending on the sector. In general, the more traditional the sector (e.g. nature protection, public health) the more structured and better articulated are the problems, challenges, objectives and measures planned.

5.5 Political commitment and country ownership

The Strategy development process is in general backed by a related political commitment by the respective government, usually in the form of a statement in a Strategy’s preamble. The sustainability of such commitments cannot yet be assessed. Despite the fact that an NSSD is not normally legally endorsed, it would be reasonable to assume that, because in particular of international and regional commitments, this priority is maintained by consecutive governments during the inevitably long-term perspective of sustainable development.

One issue of concern is whether various sectors and levels of government also share the same commitment and sense of ownership, although it would be correct to point out that all texts at least allude to, or assume cross-government and local level support.

The MAP- assisted NSSD Framework emphasizes the support of mainly national expertise and responsibility, since the appropriate Ministries undertook to secure high level political support; coordinate and manage the human and financial resources involved; and establish a secretariat and a multi- stakeholder steering entity. At least in theory, country ownership is thus encouraged.

5.6 Integration, coherence and synergies

It is rare the Strategy that has tried to integrate the, by definition, long-term objectives of sustainable development with the medium-to short-term ones of economic development policies. One reason is that sustainable development strategy processes are not connected with government planning, budgeting and budgeting.

As a result of the responsibility for sustainable development being usually assigned to Environment ministries – usually weak partners in government- the ability to secure and monitor proper integration in other policies is not the ideal one.

Non-environmental government sectors are gradually integrating the notion and phraseology of sustainable development and its three pillars in their policies and programmes. However, this does not necessarily translate into actual sustainable development approaches or in strategies and programmes which are in line with the sustainable development objectives. Neither are sustainable development priorities reflected in sectoral budget priorities nor are they fully internalized by monitoring mechanisms grounded on national sustainable development indicators recently formulated. Nevertheless, it appears that it is easier to consider the interactions between the environment and the economy than between all three of the pillars.

Coherence of sectoral policies is easier to achieve when interconnections are more straightforward and easy to point out, such as in the areas of energy and climate change, where strategic goals converge.

Although extensively used by practically all countries, procedures for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of projects still need strengthening and appropriate implementation. This necessity is even stronger regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment of programmes and plans. Practitioners and agencies are striving to broaden the scope of these widely used tools²¹.

The EU Better Regulation Programme is reported to have contributed to ensuring coherence across policy areas by requiring the systematic assessment of economic, social and environmental impacts of all major policy initiatives. Nevertheless, this process has not yet filtered down to member states or other countries where impact assessments and regulatory simplification have not yet been extensively applied.

Economic instruments are becoming popular in theory, are reported by many countries and are gradually taking their rightful place in the range of sustainable development tools. However, it has not been established whether such measures are part of a broader, targeted policy or they have been formulated at random, for a purpose other than collecting revenues. Neither are evident concrete policies for taxation reform, shifting the emphasis from labour to resources, although a couple of countries refer to this approach.

²¹ Philippe Alirol (2003). Linkages and Coordination between Environmental Assessments and Social Assessments. Draft report for the World Bank.

At the regional and local levels, stakeholders have shown their commitment to sustainable development, and local initiatives are gaining momentum and encouraged. Local authorities are involved in a variety of ways in the NSSD preparation. The breadth, depth and scope of participation varies significantly, depending, inter alia, on constitutional, historic and cultural circumstances. There were cases where sub-national authorities complained of being involved in the process of NSSD preparation at a late stage and of national ministries seeking endorsement from them rather than consultation. They also considered their impact on the decisions taken by national bodies as limited²².

Although LAs 21 are referred to in many NSSDs, the national levels mostly lack effective tools to steer them. In some countries, Local Agendas 21 do not clearly fit in into the national strategic framework, whereas their importance for sustainable development policy-making on the local level is decreasing. When local sustainable development initiatives exist in different places, they are not necessarily coordinated and do not converge systematically.

5.7 Stakeholder involvement and participation

The EU review process included a 2004 public consultation open for three months to stakeholders from all over the world, with online questionnaires. The opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee was also obtained. Extensive consultations with member states, other stakeholders and all major European Council formations were organized.

Participation is built into all sustainable development-related international obligations and all EU members have ratified the Aarhus Convention and have proceeded to incorporate public participation provisions in national legislation.

All countries involve stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of strategies. Committees or councils are most frequently used with broadly similar mandates and composition. One drawback is that, in many cases, the establishment and functioning of such bodies is based on ad hoc administrative decisions and is not embedded in legislation. Exceptions exist in countries that have acceded to the Aarhus Convention or where EIA procedures traditionally leave room to public consultation.

Although detail information on actual stakeholder involvement is not provided, the level of their involvement varies; the roles and responsibilities of different key participants are not always clearly defined; and the extent to which consultation effectively influenced the preparation of strategies cannot be deduced. The Review did not identify any national systems in place for the evaluation of and feedback on consultation events or mechanisms.

As documents merely enumerate the categories of stakeholders, no criteria for their selection and representativeness appear to have been established. Neither have conflict-resolution arrangements been identified.

²² Gerald Berger & Michal Sedlacko, Involvement of sub-national authorities in National Sustainable Development Strategy processes, ESDN Quarterly Report, March 2009.

5.8 Information

In most countries, modern information and communication techniques are used for information dissemination and awareness- raising; national media and NGOs are playing a significant role in spreading the sustainable development concept. The extent to which they have contributed to raise awareness, alter behaviour, influence governance and engage responsibility needs, however, to be established.

The availability of information ranges significantly between countries and the same level of information does not exist for all countries. The establishment of Observatories or the strengthening of other bodies for information collection, analysis and dissemination is gradually spreading, a process that is bringing in considerable improvements.

The information provided in country reports is rather selective, being mostly limited to extensive references on what strategies provide for. Normally, problems and weaknesses are not reported.

Many websites are poor in content, not regularly updated, and in a variety of formats and languages; even the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) reporting website is sparse for a number of countries. The Mediterranean Region countries that have lodged their national sustainable development report with the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development by the end of 2007 were only **Croatia, France, Israel, and Spain**.

5.9 Indicators/ monitoring, reporting and review

As far as indicators are concerned, the general situation is that this sector is gradually bettering itself. Common indicators are developed, approved and monitored. EUROSTAT and the Blue Plan are contributing substantially to this process.

The tables of indicators are characterized by large variations in quality and relevance and they are usually partial or in insufficient detail. Also, they normally appear as Annexes or additional texts and their interrelationships with specific goals and objectives in a Strategy are weakly identified.

Monitoring and assessment is improving with the activities of MAP, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency, Eurostat, OECD and other initiatives. In 2006, the European Economic and Social Committee has set up its own Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO)²³.

Provisions in Strategies do not usually go into details regarding the review process. It is left to the agency responsible to coordinate the monitoring process to decide which method to use and which parameters to include or place emphasis upon.

The most prevalent types of reviews are those carried out by a public agency, based on information on progress supplied by other agencies. The final report is a compilation of

²³ <http://www.eesc.europa.eu>

the inputs with very limited attempts to interrelate reports, draw conclusions and make recommendations.

National reporting tends to focus on enumerating, sometimes extensively, the prevailing situation without coupling this to specific policy initiatives. Countries are reluctant to report on areas where progress is limited or where actions are non-existent.

As it is the practice, the European Commission commissioned consultants for the 2007 review of its SDS.

National voluntary peer reviews by other countries are advocated by the EU SDS, and the European Commission has developed a relevant handbook²⁴. So far, only **France** undertook such a peer review of its NSSD, in 2004-05.

Parliamentary, Budgetary, Public or Local reviews have not been identified.

5.10 Management systems/ institutional arrangements/ mechanisms

Although there is a variety of country situations, most often a single government institution coordinates the process, extensively utilizing formal or ad hoc arrangements such as working groups, sustainable development councils/commissions and inter-ministerial committees.

In most countries, the preparation, coordination and monitoring of implementation of an NSSD has been assigned to the Ministry of the Environment although in some countries the broader responsibility has been elevated to the Prime Minister's Office.

Almost all countries have established National Councils/ Commissions for Sustainable Development, with extensive stakeholder participation, whose common responsibilities include horizontal integration, providing advice to national governments, drafting progress or indicator reports and overseeing NSSD implementation.

The 2006 EU SDS has been instrumental in initiating changes in governance structures. Inter alia, each member state has appointed a SDS coordinator and the European Commission set up a SDS Coordinators group which also works with the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). Similar arrangements could be extended to the rest of the Mediterranean countries.

The lead Ministries usually provide the secretariat and technical support to the process. Whether they, in all cases, possess the required empowerment, influence, resources or skills to effectively carry out their responsibilities remains to be assessed. As a general observation, when the institution is a line agency with limited influence then its coordination capacity and technical leadership have to be built up. Moreover, key ministries, such as finance or economic planning and development are gradually being involved in the preparation of NSSDs.

²⁴ European Commission, Peer Review Improvement through Mutual Exchange on Sustainable Development: A guidebook for peer reviews of national sustainable development strategies , IEEP and SERI, February 2006.

As a rule, addressing the complex governance aspects of sustainable development is avoided in NSSDs documents. Yet, according to the Blue Plan²⁵, by 2025 if trends towards largely centralised environmental policies being more curative than preventive were to continue, this would prove to be a hindrance to environmental governance in the face of sustainable development stakes. Blue Plan goes on to say that, despite the adoption back in 2005 of the MSSD, the officials in charge were not really able to implement its recommendations.

The same held true as regards to this Review. Despite their participation (and hence commitments) in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, the response of countries in appropriately completing the relevant questionnaire could have been better.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MAJOR PARAMETERS OF A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In principle, it would be up to each country to tackle the issue, in accordance to its political, historical, cultural, economic and ecological circumstances. However, it cannot be ignored that when countries choose to belong to broader groups and economic integration organizations and sign treaties and conventions, they do relegate part of this right. In such cases, they would have to follow broader perspectives and norms - jointly agreed upon with the other parties- which, nevertheless, always leave room for flexibility that allows taking account of national specificities.

Drawing conclusions from this Review as well as from other similar ones, what follow are some suggestions that may better this broader supranational context and framework within which Mediterranean countries are functioning.

In all cases, however, it is imperative to ensure as much as possible a consistency in maintaining and expanding approaches that help balancing and integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions, with the timeframes, actors and means of implementation being well articulated.

Salient Characteristics and Principles of an NSSD²⁶

A widely accepted definition of sustainable development

A Strategy for sustainable development comprises a coordinated set of participatory and continuously improving non- exclusive public policy processes of analysis, debate, capacity strengthening, planning and investment. Such a Strategy is or should be frequently updated and revised based on experience. The aim is to guide and coordinate policies; secure coherence and synergies between strategies; and integrate the short and long term economic, social and environmental objectives of society- through mutually supportive approaches which aim to induce institutional change, influence

²⁵ The Blue Plan's sustainable development outlook for the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu, Sophia Antipolis, July 2008.

²⁶ Many of the issues raised were adapted from OECD DAC (2001), UN DESA (2002) and Dalal-Clayton and Stephen Bass (2002).

norms and values, and stimulate action.

Legitimacy

The legitimacy of an NSSD could be better established through,

- inclusion of the sustainable development concept and its driving principles in the Constitution or a special law
- securing Parliamentary endorsement
- adequate consultation with all concerned and as broad agreement as possible

Broader regional goal

The overriding goal to be pursued is reducing the gaps between the Northern rim countries and the Southern rim ones. The present situation is far from being one of "regional solidarity".

Objectives

- improve the quality of life and the standards of living
- increase employment opportunities and reduce unemployment
- reduce poverty and expand the coverage of social security
- eradicate illiteracy and develop education
- enhance human resources and institutional capacity
- increase women participation in development
- promote innovation, scientific research and technological development
- conserve the natural resources
- preserve and restore the environment

Characteristics

Integrating the OECD²⁷ and MAP²⁸ logic, an NSSD could have the following characteristics:

- country ownership and strong political commitment and leadership at the highest level
- policy and objectives integration and shared vision across sectors, territories, and generations
- long- term intergenerational timeframe
- integrated assessment tools and reliable analysis
- strong institutions with enough empowerment and good governance
- fully and substantially involved and empowered local administration
- broad and wide- ranging stakeholder participation with a sense of joint ownership
- effective partnerships based on equality and reciprocal commitments, building on and expanding existing knowledge and expertise

²⁷ OECD (2006), Good Practices in the National Sustainable Development Strategies, Sustainable Development Studies.

²⁸ MSSD; MoUs with Mediterranean Countries.

- effective and coherent regulatory, fiscal and voluntary means of implementation
- realistic and measurable targets and indicators
- monitoring, evaluation and feedback, including by peers and independent bodies

Some of these salient characteristics are further articulated below.

Policy integration, coherence and synergies

Links need to be established between: social, environmental and economic issues and actions; different sectors; local, national, regional and global priorities; and between the long, the medium and the short term time horizons.

Integration – horizontal as well as vertical- needs to be more systematically pursued by utilizing the potentials of such tools as national fiscal conditionality, Market Based Instruments, Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments, integration of sustainable development considerations into State reforms; linking strategies with the budgets, public spending and national economic development policies, including the fiscal ones; etc.

The policy framework in place should aim to balance all three pillars of sustainable development through practical and effective decision- making processes that improve consultation and co-ordination of objectives, strategies and policies.

A NSSD should be professionally implemented in order to be widely accepted as the umbrella strategy within the context and directions of which all other strategic are reformulated and implemented. To this respect, methodological development and multidisciplinary capacity-building will be necessary to guarantee endorsement by public agencies and civil society.

Stakeholder involvement and participation

The formulation, implementation, monitoring, review and revisions procedures in place should ensure:

- putting peoples at the centre stage
- consensus on long-term vision and well-defined, differentiated and agreed implementation responsibilities
- transparency and accountability
- access to information for all stakeholders and effective networking
- formalised channels for communication and interaction
- partnerships among government, civil society, private sector and external institutions
- timeliness and full involvement

The role of all main stakeholder groups needs to be well articulated, enhanced, promoted but also monitored and periodically assessed. Strategies should not limit commitments solely to the State but extend them to the rights and obligations of local authorities, economic and social actors, and NGOs.

Consultation and participation arrangements fostering stakeholder ownership require constant efforts to ensure that the vision for the future remains a common one.

A multi-stakeholder steering entity, comprising representatives of the public sector, the private sector and civil society has proven its worth in ensuring equitable governance of the Strategy processes.

Links with local levels/ Local Agendas 21²⁹

National authorities need to empower regional and local authorities to participate on an even position in national sustainable development processes and initiatives, and provide support for all programmes and partnerships aimed to deliver effective sustainable development outcomes at the local level. Through an interactive process, local administration needs to be provided with adequate resources and empowerment through, for example, de-concentration.

Local Agendas 21 represent a major innovation in local planning for sustainable development and they have effectively induced and encouraged city governments to not only acquire experiences but also start undertaking a share of their own responsibilities. Key factors for success identified by practitioners include:

- involvement in the planning process of a representative local stakeholder group serving as the coordination and policy body for preparing a local sustainable development action plan linking national and local priorities
- consultation with community groups, youth organisations, NGOs, business, churches, the academia, government agencies, professional groups and unions, in order to create a shared vision and to identify proposals and priorities for action
- participatory assessment of local social, economic and environmental conditions and needs
- monitoring and reporting procedures, including local indicators, to track progress and to allow participants to hold each other accountable to the action plan

Indicators/ monitoring and review

Monitoring and assessment of implementation should be pursued within a clearly identified integrated system which avoids duplication and allows for the early identification of problems and signs of misdirection. Independent, credible assessments based on a broadly agreed and measurable list of indicators, should be encouraged.

Mechanisms used could include objectives jointly agreed, guidelines, comparison of performance, etc.

Institutional mechanisms/ coordination and management systems³⁰

In order to effectively deliver on the challenge to anchor the different dimensions of sustainable development into institutional reality, the governance sections - which are

²⁹ Source: Dalal-Clayton and Stephen Bass (2002) modified from OECD DAC (2001).

³⁰ Source: Ditto.

presently virtually absent or extremely general and weak in all Strategies- need to be substantially strengthened and include provisions on who will do what, how and when, conflict resolution processes, etc.

The role of National Councils for Sustainable Development should be very clear and legally mandated.

As everything else in public governance, an effective Strategy for sustainable development requires good management that provides leadership, organizes, coordinates and administers the different processes, harnesses the human and financial capacities and potential, and monitors achievements. Whichever body or system of bodies is assigned such functions should be politically, legally and financially empowered.

Global

Cooperation between the different agencies involved in the use of aid in the Mediterranean could use more streamlining and coherence through the MCSD, the EU SDS and other related processes.

A greater volume of resources needs to be devoted to countries in need than those made available so far, in order to contribute to their sustainable development requirements and assist them in fulfilling their commitments, particularly in fighting poverty and social inequalities.

National Strategies are inherently unable to accommodate global processes such as poverty, globalization or trade, issues perhaps that should better be left to be dealt with under Regional strategies.

7. CONTENT OF A TYPICAL NSSD

While the general definition, characteristics and structure of national sustainable development strategies are broadly accepted and applied, the elements of a Strategy will vary across countries.

Using the information in this Review and the Country Profiles, as well as in other reviews and national experiences, countries may want to develop their own format for their NSSD, most certainly selecting and organising the elements that apply to a specific country's situation, building on what already exists, and making new arrangements when appropriate. In this approach, account should also be made of broader regional and global obligations and their respective frameworks,

One model of a potentially broadly relevant structure of a NSSD generally in line with the above is attached as **Annex V**.

This model has drawn from such texts as the ESDN Basics of SDS; the renewed EU SDS; the EU NSSD Peer Review Guidebook; the EU's Synthesis Report and Country Case Studies on NSSD; the OECD Guidance in preparing a NSSD; the DAC Guidelines for SSDs; the MAP's MOUs for the preparation of a NSSD; as well as on selected national strategies, such as the new (draft) French NSSD, the Montenegro NSSD, Canada's SDS, and the Australian NSESD. They are all referenced in **Annex III**

or in the Country Profiles (**Annex IV**).

As far as the sectoral/ horizontal issues are concerned, in order to target scarce resources, benefit from other experiences and ease reporting it is suggested that strategies concentrate on the following priority themes and sectors collectively agreed within the most relevant regional processes³¹:

- energy management and addressing the impacts of climate change
- sustainable transport
- tourism
- urban development
- agriculture
- food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
- fisheries
- management of coastal areas, the sea and marine resources
- conservation of natural resources
- sustainable consumption and production
- cultural protection
- peace and security
- human rights and the protection of minorities
- justice, freedom and security
- poverty alleviation
- population and public health
- employment, social policy, inclusion
- education and training
- research and development
- regional issues and international obligations
- globalization, trade and investment
- visa, border control, asylum and migration

³¹ MSSD; EU SDS, Enlargement/ Accession Strategy, Stabilization and Association Agreements; League of Arab States.

TABLES

ANNEXES

Table I. Available Main Websites on National Sustainable Development Strategies

Albania	http://www.nea.gov.al
Algeria	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	http://www.neapbih.ba/ http://www.bih.prsp.info/
Croatia	http://www.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?lang=en http://www.vlada.hr/default.asp?ru=2
Cyprus	http://www.moa.gov.cy
Egypt	http://www.eeaa.gov.eg
France	http://www1.environnement.gouv.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=9 http://www.environnement.gouv.fr/actua/com2003/developpement_durable/dossiersnd0 http://www.ue2008.fr
Greece	http://www.minenv.gr/1/18/e1802.html http://www.ekpaa.gr
Israel	www.environment.gov.il
Italy	http://www.minambiente.it/sito/news/strategie_sostenibilita.asp http://192.107.79.251/nuovo/home.htm
Lebanon	http://www.moe.gov.lb
Lybia	http://environment.org.ly
Malta	http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/ncsd/ http://www.mrra.gov.mt https://opm.gov.mt
Monaco	http://www.fpa2.mc
Morocco	http://www.matee.gov.ma/DAT/chart.htm http://www.minenv.gov.ma/ http://www.agenda21maroc.ma
Montenegro	www.mepp.cg.yu
Slovenia	http://svr.gov.si http://www.sigov.si/cgi-bin/wpl/mop/en/meni3.htm http://www.gov.si/mop/en/kdosmo/delovnatelesa_workprogramme.htm
Spain	http://www.mma.es http://www.esp-sostenible.org/eeds/contenidos.htm
Syria	http://www.mlac-sy.org
Tunisia	http://www.environnement.nat.tn/commission.htm http://www.environnement.nat.tn/observatoire.htm
Turkey	http://www.cevreorman.gov.tr

Table II. Availability of Major Texts/ Documents

	Annotated Reporting Format for the 2009 Review	Johannesburg Country Profile (2002)	SD Indicators	MAP Country Profile	SDS/NSSD	CSD/NSDS/EU SDS Reporting/ Assessments/Reviews	NEAP/ Environmental reports/ SMAP National Report	MDG reports	ESDN Profile 2008	EU Enlargement/Accession (Agreement/Screening/Country Reports/ Progress Reports/ Integration Programmes)	EU Partnership/ Neighbourhood Strategy/ Programmes/ Progress Reports	Supplemental texts
Albania		X		X (2006)	X(MOU,2008)			X(2007)			X(2007) X(2008) X(2008) X(2008)	
Algeria		X		X (2005)							X(2006)	
Arab League				X								
B21					X	X(2009)						
Bosnia and Herzegovina				X(2005)	X(MOU,2008)		X(2003) X(2008)	X(2004)			X(2008) X(2008) X(2008)	X(2008)
Croatia	X	X		X(2005)	X	X(CSD16/17, 2008 -Agriculture -Desertification -Drought -Land -Rural dev.)		X(2006)	X(2008)	X(2007) X(2007) X(2008) X(2008) X(2008) X(2008) X(2008)		
Cyprus	X	X		X(2005)	X(2007)	X(2004) X(2005)	X(2008)		X(2008)			
Egypt	X	X	X(2003) X(2008)	X(2004) X(2004)	X(5 Prep. doc.2006)			X(2008)			X(2005) X(2007) X(2007) X(2007) X(2008) X(2009)	
EU	X(partial)	X	Large number of docs.	X(2005) X(2009)	X(2005) X(2007)	X(2004) X(2007) X(2007) X(CSD Reports for all sessions) X(2009)						
France	X(partial)	X		X(2005)	X(2003, 2006) X(2009-Draft)	X(2004) X(2005) X(2007) X(CSD16/17, 2008 -Agriculture -Drought -Cross-sectoral -Rural dev. -Desertification)			X(2008)			
Greece	X(partial)	X	X(2003)	X(2004)	X(2008) X(2008) X(2008)	X(2004) X(2007) X(CSD12/13, 2004 -Water -Human sett -Sanitat.) List of document to be reviewed X(CSD 14/15, 2006 -Atmosphere -Energy -Industry - Other)	X(2005) X(2007)		X(2008)			X(2007)
Israel		X	X(2005)	X(2005)	X(Plan 2003)	X(2007) X(2008) X(CSD14/15, 2006 -Atmosphere -Energy -Industry)					X(2004) X(2004) X(2006) X(2006) X(2008) X(2009)	

						X(CSD16/17, 2008 -Drought -Rural dev. -Desertification -Land)						
Italy	X	X	X(2007)	X(2006)	X(2002) X (Profile, 2007)	X(2004) X (CSD14/15,2006 -Renewables)			X(2008)			
Lebanon		X		X(2005)	X(MOU, 2008)	X(2005)		X(2008)			X(2005) X(2006) X(2006) X(2007) X(2008) X(2009)	
Libya				X(2005)				X(2008)				
Malta	X(2009)	X		X(2005) X(2006)	X(2006)	X(2004) X(2007) X(CSD14/15, 2006 -Atmosphere -Energy -Industry)			X(2008)			
Monaco		X		X(2005)	X(Profile, 2006)							
Montenegro	X(partial)			X(2005)	X(2007)	X(2008)					X(2007) X(2007) X(2008) X(2008)	X(2007)
Morocco	X(partial)	X		X(2006)							X(2004) X(2006) X(2006) X(2006) X(2007) X(2009)	
Slovenia		X		X(2005)	X(Dev. Str.,2005)	X(2004) X(2007) X(CSD12/13, 2004 -Human sett. -Water -Sanit.) X(CSD14/15, 2006 -Renewables)			X(2008)			
Spain	.X(partial)	X		X(2005)	X(2007)	X(2004) X(2007) X(2007)			X(2008)			
Syria		X		X(2005)	X(5 Prep.doc., 2006)		X(2003) X(2008)	X(2005) X(2008)			X(2006) X(2007) X(2009)	
Tunisia		X		X(2006)	X(MOU,2008) X(Agenda21- 1995)	X(2003)		X(2004)			X(2004) X(2006) X(2006) X(2007) X(2009)	
Turkey		X		X(2005)		X(2006) X(2007) X(CSD12/13, 2004 -Human sett. -Water) X(CSD14/15, 2006 - Atmosphere -Energy)		X(2005)		X(2007) X(2007) X(2008) X(2008) X(2008)	X(2005)	

Table III. SD- related Strategic Initiatives and Frameworks

	National Strategy for Sustainable Development	National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development	National Environment Action Strategies or/and Plans	Links to overall national planning framework	Examples of other relevant Strategic Frameworks
Albania	NSSD (in progress)	1994, 2002 National Environment Action Plan	NEAP (1994, 2002) NES (2006, on-going)	National Strategy of Social and Economic Development (NSSED)	EU Stabilization and Association Agreement 2006-Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), (for MDG), 2007-2013
Algeria		National Action Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (2002)	National Strategy on the Environment	Strategy for Economic Revival (2001-2004)	Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2010 MDG Report
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NSSD (in progress)		NEAP (2003)		EU Enlargement Strategy 2008-2009
Croatia	NSSD (2009)	National Environmental Strategy (2002)	NEAP (2002)	Strategic Development Framework (2006-2013)	Priority Action Plan (PAP) 2008 EU Accession Partnership, Enlargement Strategy and Progress Report, 2008 MDG Report
Cyprus	NSSD (2007- revision in progress)			Strategic Development Plan (2004-2006) National Reform Programme Framework (Lisbon Strategy)	
Egypt	NSSD (in progress)		NEAP (2002-2017) EAP (1996) Action Plan for the Protection of the Environment	Development and Reconstruction Map of Egypt up to 2017	Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2010
France	NSSD (2003-2008- revised in 2006) NSSD (2009-2012- final draft)				
Greece	NSSD (2002- revision in progress)			National Reform Programme (Lisbon Strategy) 2008 General Framework for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development	

Israel	Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development in each Ministry (2003 +)			National Master Plan for Development and Conservation Coastal Area Management Programme (2002) Master Plan for the 21st century – Israel 2020	Sector Master Plans for Infrastructures and Protection of Natural Resources Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2010
Italy	NSSD (2002- revision in progress)	Environmental Strategy for Sustainable development (2002)		National Document for Economic and Financial Planning 2001-2004 National Reform Programme (Lisbon Strategy)	
Lebanon	NSSD – in progress)		NEAP (2005- Draft)		Poverty Reduction Strategy Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2010
Lybian Arab Jamahirrya		National Programme for Environmental Action- partial.			
Malta	NSSD (2007)			National Development Plan 2004-6 National Reform Programme (Lisbon Strategy)	Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands 1990
Monaco					
Morocco		National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (1995). National Action Plan for Environment (1998)		National Plan for Economic and Social development (1999-2003)	National Charter for Land Management and Sustainable Development (2004) Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 Revised National Indicative Programme 2007-2010
Montenegro	Sustainable Strategy of the Ecological State of Montenegro (1996) NSSD and Action Plan (2007)				Poverty Reduction Strategy European Partnership 2007
Slovenia	Slovenia Development Strategy (2005- new one prepared)		NEAP (1999)	Strategy for Economic Development (2001-2006) National Reform Programme (Lisbon Strategy)	
Spain	NSSD (2007)			National Reform Programme (Lisbon Strategy)	
Syria	NSSD (in progress)		NEAP (2001)	10 th Five-Year Plan 2006-2010	Country Strategy Paper

				CSP 2007-2013	2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2010
Tunisia	National Agenda 21 (1995) NSSD (in progress)			Xlth Development Plan 2007- 2011	Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2010
Turkey	National Agenda 21 (1999)		NEAP (1998)	FYP 1991-1996 and successors	EU Accession Partnership, Enlargement Strategy and Progress Report 2008

Table VI. *Process: Policy integration and convergence*

Component	Mechanisms and Tools	Examples
SD concern in sector vision	Guidelines and guidance to sectors Sector programmes for SD implementation SD Focal Points in sector ministries Environmental Units in sector Ministries/ Regions Harmonization workshops Inter ministerial committees, inter sector working groups	Greece, Israel, France Greece, Israel, Malta France, Israel, Morocco Egypt, Albania Many countries All countries
SD concern in overall national planning and budget	Planning commission and economic ministry representatives in coordinating or steering entities Constitutional provisions SD principles in periodic national economic development plans National environmental accounting	Croatia, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Malta France France, Slovenia, Algeria, Slovenia Italy
Local level initiatives	Regional/Local Agendas 21 Lower level initiatives (e.g. eco schools; communal charter) Global and regional and national networks of local initiatives Voluntary initiatives at municipal levels	Most countries Malta, Algeria, Cyprus Italy, Spain Spain, Italy, Turkey
Planning and economic tools	EIA, SEA, Polluter pays principle, environmental taxes Spatial Planning Eco management audit schemes	Almost all countries Quite a few countries Many countries Most countries
Linking different planning horizons	Overall goals linked to immediate targets Strategy contains/ provides for, implementation provisions and plan	Italy Tunisia, Croatia, Montenegro
Engaging government sectors	Inter-ministerial committees and working groups	All countries
Steering preparation and implementation	National council, commission, steering committee, inter-ministerial committees	All countries
Consultation	Forum, national conference e-consultation, expert consultation, Public hearings Decentralised events Network	France, Malta, Israel Montenegro, BiH, Croatia, Greece Croatia, Malta Malta, Egypt, Syria, Greece Spain
Communication and Awareness raising	Media	Morocco, Algeria

Table VII. Examples of Mechanisms for Vertical and Horizontal Integration

	Coordination between sectors	Local level initiatives	Promotion of integrating tools and instruments
Albania	Various decision-making and implementation inter-ministerial structures (committees, board, council), committee for NEAP implementation.	Local Environmental Action Plans Regional Environmental Agencies	SEA and EIA (drafted), Environment Taxes Environmental permits Law on environmental protection
Algeria	High Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Communal Charters- including Local Agendas 21	EIA (1990) Environment Taxes, polluter pays Framework legislation on environmental protection in a SD context, specific legislation (waste, energy, air quality). Legislation and Funds on Land use planning and SD
Bosnia and Herzegovina	National Steering Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development (2002)	Local Environmental Action Plans and Local Agendas 21	EIA Environment Taxes, (water, waste), economic instruments Environment Act (2007)
Croatia	Council for SD and Environmental Protection National SD Committee	Decentralization Commission Local Agendas 21	EIA (1984) Environment Taxes
Cyprus	Environmental Committee		EIA (1991) Fiscal tools
Egypt	National Commission for SD Environment units in sector ministries and in local governments	Governorate Environmental Action Plans Environmental Units at local government level	Environmental Protection Law (1994) EIA Polluter pays
France	New Ministry for Ecology, Energy, SD and Spatial Planning Inter-ministerial committee for SD, SD focal points in concerned ministries	"Contrats-pays" State Strategic Action Plans Regional Agendas 21 Local Agendas 21	EIA (1977), Environmental fiscal instruments Environment clause in French Constitution
Greece	Inter-ministerial coordination committee National Council for Spatial Planning and SD National Centre for Environment and SD	Local Agendas 21	SIA and EIA, various economic instruments
Israel	Inter-ministerial committee, SD focal points from concerned ministries	Local Agendas 21 Local Sustainability Centre	EIA Polluter pays principle, eco labelling, voluntary initiatives
Italy	Commission on SD of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE)	Regional SDS and Local Agenda 21	SEA and EIA, Framework Act on environmental Accounting, eco-taxes and eco labelling, quality certification, etc. State- Regions Permanent Conference
Lebanon	National (Higher) Council for the Environment	Local Agendas 21	
Lybia	Environment General Authority		Environmental Protection Law
Malta	NCSD in liaison with the Council for Economic and Social Development Green Leaders Scheme	Eco-schools	SEA and EIA , various fiscal instruments*
Monaco	Prince Albert II of Monaco Fund (2006)		
Morocco	National Council for the Environment	Local Agendas 21	EIA
Montenegro	National Council for SD	Local Environmental Action Plans	EIA (1997), SEA, environmental taxes and users fees, polluter pays
Slovenia	National Council for SD	Regional/ Local Agendas 21	EIA and SIA Economic instruments

Spain	Inter-ministerial commission for coordination of the NSDS Environmental Advisory Council (CAMA)	Autonomous Committees, Municipal and regional Agendas 21 Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces	EIA and SEA, various instruments*
Syria	Ministry of Local Administration and Environment Steering Committee liaises with Higher Council for Environmental protection	General Environment Directorates	EIA
Tunisia	National Commission for SD	Regional/ Local Agendas 21	EIA (1997) Five Year Plan Economic instruments
Turkey	Ministry of Environment and Forestry National Commission for Sustainable Development	Local Agendas 21	EIA

Table VIII. *Examples of Mechanisms for Stakeholder Involvement*

	Framework type (adoption date)	Lead organisation	Multi stakeholder steering body	Sector involvement and coordination	Substantive Inputs during preparation	Stakeholder consultation events during preparation
Albania	NEAP (2001) NSSD (in progress)	Ministry of the Environment. Forest and Water Administration	National/local Councils of Territory Regulation	Various decision-making and implementation inter- ministerial structures (committees, board), intersector committee for NEAP implementation	Expert consultations	Workshops and National meeting with stakeholders. National conference on environment and sustainable development (2002)
Algeria	National Action Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (NAPE- SD, 2002)	Ministry of Land Management and Environment	High Council of Environment and Sustainable Development (1994)			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NEAP (2002) NSSD (in progress)	NEAP Directorate	National Steering Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development (2002)	Environmental Steering Committee	NEAP Steering Committees	Workshops with stakeholders
Croatia	NEAP (2002) NSSD (2007?)	Strategic Planning Office Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and Construction	Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection	Steering Group	National Committee for the Development and Implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development. Central Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU Funds	Workshop with stakeholders. Public hearings on EIA
Cyprus	EAP (1996) Action Plan for the Protection of the Environment NSSD (2007)	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Council for the Environment	Environmental Committee		Meetings.
Egypt	NEAP (1999) National Agenda 21 NSSD (in progress)	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	National Committee for Sustainable Development Steering Committee	EEAA Board of Directorates; Environment units in sector ministries and in local governments	EEAA Board of directories include representatives from the line ministries headed by the minister of state for environmental affairs .	Consultation and participatory process with all relevant stakeholders, including the NGOs, local community
France	NSSD (2003, 2006) NSSD (new, final draft)	Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development	French Commission of Sustainable Development (CFDD)	Inter ministerial Committee of Environment (CIEN) Inter ministerial Committee of land planning and management (CIADT), SD	National Council for Sustainable Development	Meetings with stakeholders, Parliament, Economic &Social Council. Meetings to discuss the Environmental Charter

				focal points in concerned ministries		Working Groups
Greece	NSSD (2202, being revised)	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works Hellenic National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Coordination Committee of the Government Policy in Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development	Coordination Group for SD	Inter-ministerial Committee	Workshops Public consultation
Israel	Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development	Ministry of the Environment	Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development		Expert consultation	Reviewing public committees
Italy	NSSD (2002, being revised)	Ministry Environment, Land and Sea	Commission on Sustainable Development of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE)		Interministerial Committee for Community Affairs	Workshop with stakeholders Meetings
Lebanon	NSSD (in progress)	Ministry of Environment			Higher Council of the Environment	
Lybia		Environment Authority				
Malta	NSSD 92006)	Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment, Malta Environmental and Planning Authority	National Commission for Sustainable Development (2001)	NCSD Secretariat	Cabinet Committee for the Environment, the Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives	Conference, sectoral, stakeholder and regional seminars, focus groups Public consultations
Monaco						
Morocco	National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (1995) National Action Plan for Environ.(1998)	Ministry of Land Management, Water and Environment, State Secretariat for the Environment	National Council of Environment (1995), Steering Committee			
Montenegro	Sustainable Strategy of the Ecological State of Montenegro (1996) NSSD (2007)	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning Office for Sustainable Development	National Council for Sustainable Development (2002) Steering Committee.		Expert consultation National Council for Sustainable Development	Regional consultations Expert working groups Workshops
Slovenia	NEAP (1999) Slovenia Development Strategy (2005, new one being prepared)	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy	Slovenian Council for Sustainable Development		Slovenian Council for Sustainable Development (1997)	Public debates Workshops
Spain	NSSD (2007)	Economic Department of the Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Environment	National Council for Climate Environmental sector	Inter-ministerial commission for coordination	Inter Ministerial Commission Territorial Administrations,	Conference National and Regional events

			conference Council for Environmental evaluation	Network of environmental authorities (1997)	Economic & Social Council	
Syria	NEAP (2001) NSSD (in progress)	Ministry of Local Authorities and Environment	Steering Committee	Council for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development		Round tables and Workshops with stakeholders
Tunisia	National Agenda 21 (1995) NSSD (in progress)	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	National Commission of Sustainable Development (1993)			Workshop with stakeholders
Turkey	NEAP (1998)	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Higher Council for Environment, Environment National Council	National Commission for Sustainable Development (2004)		Workshop with stakeholders

ANNEX I. 2005 REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Strategic Frameworks

- What are the major strategic frameworks relating to sustainable development?
- What are the focus, principles and priority areas?
- What are the institutional arrangements and procedures for preparation, implementation and monitoring?
- Are there links between different strategic frameworks and linkages to the overall national decision-making and planning?

Processes and Mechanisms

(i) Achieving Policy Integration and Convergence.

- How are sustainable development concerns streamlined into sector policies and central planning and budgeting?
- What regulatory and fiscal instruments provide for integration?
- Do decentralization mechanisms foster the preparation of Local Agenda 21?
- How do national frameworks take regional initiatives and international agreements into account?

(ii) Stakeholder involvement in decision-making and partnerships

- What steering mechanism exists to represent stakeholders in the development or/and implementation of the strategic framework?
- What regular consultation forms have been used to engage the different stakeholders across sectors and between levels?
- What communication and information systems are being used to inform and raise awareness on sustainable development?
- What partnerships have been established?

(iii) Managing and Building up the Knowledge base

- What comprehensive tools or systems exist to understand the state of resources, trends in their quality and quantity, and the pressure upon them?
- How does the diversity of knowledge among stakeholders feed into policy decisions?
- What systems are in place to assess the outcomes of the sustainable development process?
- What measures are taken to build up the knowledge and capacity of different stakeholders?

Management systems

- Is there an institutional catalyst in charge of coordination?
- What are the mandates, organizational structures and membership (and chairmanship)?

ANNEX II. 2009 REVIEW ANNOTATED REPORTING FORMAT

1. **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS**

[Stocktaking of progress in significant activities, initiatives, measures, actions, good practices]

1.1. **Major Strategic Framework relating to sustainable development**

[existing/ revised/ new: type (framework strategies/ action programmes/ mixed approaches); extent (local/regional/national); dimensions (economic/ social/ environmental/ additional)]

1.2. **Focus, Principles and Priority Areas**

(a) Objectives and targets

(b) Priority areas/ sectors and (c) Themes comprising action programmes

[progress and good practices in priority areas, sectors/ themes: considering the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the European Union's renewed Sustainable Development Strategy and the League of Arab States Sustainable Development Initiative, reporting could concentrate in the following:

Integrated water resource and water demand management (including the protection of water resources from pollution; alternative water resources; technology for water desalination; rainwater harvesting; recycling and reuse of water)

Climate change and the sustainable management of energy (including clean energy and energy efficiency; mitigating of and adapting to the effects of climate change; emissions trading; development of carbon sinks)

Sustainable mobility through the appropriate management of transport (including alternative transport systems; public transport; cleaner vehicles and fuels)

Sustainable tourism (including tourism payback formulae; rehabilitation of degraded areas; carrying capacity tools)

Sustainable agricultural and rural development (including agricultural research; arid lands; mountain areas; afforestation and reforestation)

Sustainable urban development (including sustainable cities; improving air quality & pollution control; noise reduction; improving urban governance)

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones (including integrated management of coastal zones; protection and conservation of the quality of the marine environment and biodiversity)

Sustainable consumption and production¹ (including performance standards for products and processes; consumer awareness campaigns)

Conservation and management of natural resources (including forest and fisheries management; waste management; protection and management of biological diversity- areas and species)

Public health/ population and health (including environmental quality; food quality; population policies; primary health services; programs for family planning, motherhood and child care)

Social Inclusion, demography and migration² (including better social services; reducing child

¹ Basically for EU member states.

² Basically for EU member states.

poverty; gender equality)

Global poverty alleviation (including international initiatives for water and energy; financing projects and programmes; technical and institutional cooperation)

Managing disasters (including inspection and early warning systems)

Other]

1.3. Preparation aspects: Organization, Institutional and procedural settings, Participation

[related institutions, structures or mechanisms (established/ revised/ modified) and their objectives, mandates, responsibilities and capacities]

1.4. Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

[linkages to national decision-making and planning]

2. PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS (*cross cutting issues*)

2.1. Policy integration, coherence and convergence

2.1.1. Sector and institutional integration

[streamlining sustainable development concerns into sector policies; policy coordination between different sectors; measures for horizontal integration (guiding principles/ SWOT analysis/ IA/ EIA/ SEA/ etc.)]

2.1.2. Regulatory and economic instruments

[better regulation (legal instruments, simplifications/ improvements of working methods); inspectorates; economic instruments (national environmental accounting/ satellite accounts/ market-based instruments such as polluter pays, user pays, environmental taxes, fiscal incentives/ reform or elimination of negative subsidies); other such as green public procurement/ voluntary business initiatives/ EMAS and Ecolabel/regional and national prizes]

2.1.3. Decentralisation and Local level initiatives

[policies, programmes and actions at the sub-national level; local level initiatives such as local Agendas 21; fostering local capacities to deliver]

2.1.4. Relation to regional and global initiatives

[impacts and catalytic influence on the NSSDs from the adoption of the MSSD (2005); the renewed EU strategy for SD (2006)³; the Arab League's Initiative (2002); the CSD periodic reviews; etc.]

2.2. Stakeholders involvement in decision-making and Partnership

2.2.1. Actors and Steering Mechanisms

2.2.2. Consultation

2.2.3. Communication and Awareness-raising

[education and training: formal education programmes; communication and information systems to inform and raise awareness on sustainable development; guides of good practice]

2.2.4. Partnerships

[processes/ arrangements (institutional, legal, informal) for stakeholder (business/ workers' organisations/ nongovernmental organisations/ etc.) participation; civil society initiatives; national and regional Sustainable Development Networks]

2.3. Knowledge management

2.3.1. Comprehensive tools

[including tools or systems to understand trends and pressures; promotion of environmental technologies and innovation; Scientific Research & Technology development]

³ Basically for EU member states.

- 2.3.2. **Indicators for sustainable development**
- 2.3.3. **Leveraging the stakeholders' knowledge diversity**
- 2.3.4. **Capacity development**
[measures to build up the knowledge and capacity of different stakeholders]
- 2.3.5 **Monitoring, reporting, review and evaluation**
*[following implementation and outcomes: institutional arrangements;
voluntary peer reviews of NSSDs; monitoring cycles]*

3. COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- 3.1 **Mandate, Organizational structure, Membership and Chairmanship**
[related institutions, structures or mechanisms (established/ revised/ modified) and their objectives, mandates, responsibilities]
- 3.2 **Human and financial resources**
[human capacities; finances; synergies between financing mechanisms]

4. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

- 4.1 **Problems solved/tackled; new problems encountered**
[per sector and per cross cutting issue]
- 4.2 **Key strengths/constraints**
[political; policy- related; organizational; funding; participation; visibility; etc.]
- 4.3 **New challenges for sustainable development**
[issues to tackle; current "hot topics"]
- 4.4 **Upcoming national policy initiatives**
[new strategies; new reviews; new issues; organizational changes; etc.]

5. SOURCES

6. ANNEXES

- 6.1 **Sustainable Development Indicators**
- 6.2 **Other.....**

ANNEX III. USEFUL GENERAL REFERENCES AND RELEVANT WEBSITES¹

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UNEP

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UNEP/ MAP

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World Bank

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ANNEX IV. 2009 REVIEW PROFILES

COUNTRY PROFILE: ALBANIA

1. Strategic Frameworks

UNEP/MAP is currently providing technical and financial support to Albania to prepare a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD).

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

1993 Environmental Strategy Study
 1994, 2002 National Environment Action Plan
 2003 Millennium Development Goals for Albania
 National Strategy of Social and Economic Development (NSSED)
 Draft National Environmental Strategy (2006, on-going)

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

National Strategy of Social and Economic Development (NSSED)

The **NSSED** recognizes environment protection (and its implementation through healthy, sustainable and integrated policies) as an important factor for poverty reduction, growth of the economy, and long term development of the country.

Environment-related issues in NSSED include: governance structures; awareness-raising; public consultation and participation; the adoption of economic environmental policies and instruments; the development and sustainable exploitation of natural resources; etc.

The new **NSSD** document being prepared will include: goals; objectives; steps and activities; measures and mechanisms to achieve integration/convergence and to involve stakeholders; responsibilities of the different actors; organizational aspects; resource availability and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

2004 National Water Strategy
 2004 Water and Sewerage Strategy

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

2003 National Strategy for Energy
 2005 Energy Efficiency law

<i>Sustainable mobility</i>

Institute of Transport
 Albanian National Transport Plan (ANTP)
 2008 National Transport Strategy

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

1998 Green Strategy for Agriculture
 Law on Agriculture and Rural Development
 Agriculture and Food Sector Strategy and Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013
 2008 Food law
 2009(?) Agency for Programming Rural Development Support Measures

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

2002 Coastal Zone Management Programme

Conservation and management of natural resources

1996 National Waste Management Plan
 2000 National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity
 2007 Strategy for Forests and Pastures Development
 (draft) Strategy of Fishing and Aquaculture Development 2007-2015
 National Plan to Combat Desertification

Public health

1998 National Environmental Health Action Plan
 National Health System Strategy 2007 - 2013

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

2005 Living Standards Measurement Survey
 Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-2013
 Inspectorate of Social Services
 2006 Law on Domestic Violence
 2008 Gender Equality Legislation
 National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007-2010
 2006 amendments to the Criminal Code regarding the exploitation of children
 2008 Strategy on Foster Care
 2008 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 2008 Coordination and Monitoring Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy on Migration, including the Associated Action Plan

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

Albania is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. It has ratified MARPOL and all its annexes.

2001 National Strategy of Social and Economic Development (NSSSED, originally named Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy)
 2002 Millennium Development Goals for Albania
 2002 Environmental Performance Review of Albania
 2004 Strategy and Action Plan for the Implementation of Aarhus Convention in Albania

2004 Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Partnership
2005 National Plan for Approximation of Legislation with the EU
Governmental Programme 2005-2009
2005 Tourism Development Strategy
2006 Stabilization and Association Agreement
2007 inter-sectoral Environment Strategy
Albania EU Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009
2008 National Strategy for Development and Integration

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The Ministry of European Integration coordinates the EU integration process at the national level. Also the line ministries are about to set up EU Integration Units to coordinate the process at the sector level.

The 2002 law on Environment Protection and the 2003 law on Environmental Impact Assessment also aim at integration.

Integration is facilitated by the operation of several decision-making inter-ministry structures such as: the Councils of Territorial Regulation; the Intersectoral Committee for the Implementation of the NEAP; the National Council for Nature and Biodiversity; the Coordination Group for Controlling degradation and Desertification; the National Water Council; the National Committee of Energy; the Committee of Tourism Policies; etc.

Regulatory and economic instruments

To bring Albanian law closer to the European environmental law, several new laws on environment, air, waters, seas, solid wastes, protected areas, forestry, etc. have been approved recently.

According to the 2002 Law on Environmental Protection, activities that may have an impact on the environment require an environmental permit.

The General Directorate of Standardization approves Albanian standards and adjusts and adopts the European, ISO and other international standards.

The enforcement of environmental legislation is the responsibility of the inspectors from the 12 Regional Environmental Agencies.

The 2002 Law on Environmental Protection is based, among others on the Polluter Pays Principle and the Liability Principle.

The economic instruments in force include user charges for municipal services (for water supply, sewage collection, municipal waste collection and disposal), product charges (on transport vehicles), carbon tax, packaging tax, etc. Environmental taxes are introduced through the Law on Taxation.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

The 2000 Decentralisation law aims at strengthening of the local administration and increasing its responsibility, contribution and role in the country's development.

The line Ministries have pursued the decentralization process in their field regarding the delegation of competences, funds and budget.

The Department of Public Administration is currently drafting a strategy on public administration reform including sectoral training plans and covering local government bodies.

Some Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) have been prepared or are under preparation.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

2006 Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Albania and the EU.

Albania participates in regional initiatives, such as UNECE Conventions and the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea. It also has bilateral agreements with the neighbouring countries.

Albania signed the Stability Pact and in 2000 joined its Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP).

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-Making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The preparation of the country's National Report on Sustainable Development went through a participatory process involving representatives of Ministries and various NGOs working on related issues. Several consultations with experts and stakeholders workshops also took place with broad participation. A national meeting was also organised.

The National Strategy of Social and Economic Development (NSSED) process involved a range of civil society consultations and dialogue with different stakeholders (civil and business society, local governments) at central and local levels.

The NSSED stimulated the extensive and active participation of the interested groups not only in the compilation process but also in its implementation process.

In the process to prepare the NSSD a small secretariat was (?) to be established to coordinate and manage the human and financial resources involved in the process.

A multi-stakeholder steering committee was (?) also planned to be established comprising representatives of the government, the private sector and civil society. This body needs to have and exercise the powers required to formulate a strategy, achieve consensus on its scope and content, and monitor its development, implementation and

impacts.

In the NSSD preparation process, major stakeholders have to be identified and consultation mechanisms to be explored in order to promote their participation.

The number of environmental NGOs has increased significantly but their capacity to effectively participate is still limited.

Consultative forms of work are applied through different commissions, inter-sectorial working groups set up for several issues, round tables and experts meetings. These forms, both at national and local level, include the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

One of the priorities of the National Environmental Action Plan is the “development of environmental knowledge and increased public participation in environmental issues”.

Albania ratified the Aarhus Convention.

Environmental information is mainly disseminated through electronic and print media. Regular publications include the Environmental Bulletin of the Ministry of Environment; the State of the Environment Reports; the REC electronic Daily Environmental news and the bi-weekly magazine “Environment today”. A new bi-weekly newsletter “Eco-Movement” is published by “Eco-Movement”, a group of more than 11 NGOs.

The project “Quality and Equity in Education” is expected to help improve education quality and reach marginalized groups.

Strategy for Education 2007-2013.

Partnerships

Implementation of environmental policy is the responsibility not only of the Ministry of Environment but also of other ministries or authorities with environmental protection responsibilities.

The strengthening of public-private partnerships is one of the objectives of the 2002 NEAP.

EU, GEF, UNDP, WB, UNEP, METAP, the government of Germany, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, Netherland etc are some of the international partners that have mostly contributed to environmental protection and sustainable development.

Stability Pact

Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program

Adriatic Action Plan 2020

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative

Sustainable water management in the Balkan and Southeast Mediterranean area

Adriatic Ionian Initiative

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Since January 2008, Albania participates in the Seventh EC Framework Programme on research and technological development.

Fundex and Brain Gain programmes
Institute of Public Health
Institute of Hydrometeorology
Institute of Biological Research
Albanian Geological Survey
Museum of Natural Sciences
Soil Science Institute
Institute of Nuclear Physics
Institute of Environment
Institute of Forests and Pastures
Research Institute of Fishing

Indicators for sustainable development

The trend is to build environmental and other sectors indicators, including those on SD, MDG, etc. following international models, such as the UN, EU/EEA, etc.

Information Center - information to students, pupils and teachers
"Knowledge on environment" textbooks
"The green pack" multimedia curricula- being finalized

Monitoring, reporting, review and evaluation

Environmental monitoring is run by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA). Information is collected and analyzed by a number of institutes under contract. They provide data on groundwater, surface water (rivers, lakes, marine water quality), air quality, noise, quality of soils, forest ecosystems, biodiversity, etc.

3 Coordination and Management System

The MoEFWA is the higher level authority on environmental policy- making in the country. The Ministry was reorganized and strengthened in 2005. The Ministry is organized around a number of vertical (i.e. Nature Protection) or cross-sectoral (i.e. EIA) Directories.

There is a number of Regional Environment Agencies.

Efforts are geared at increasing the professional capacity and strengthening the environmental institutions.

4 Selective Sources

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COUNTRY PROFILE: ALGERIA

Algeria aims to give a major role to social and environmental aspects in its choice of model of society and economic development.

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

Algeria has developed the National Action Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (Plan national d'action pour l'environnement et le développement durable, PNAE-DD 2002) and the SNE (Stratégie nationale de l'environnement).

The aim is to define growth strategies sector by sector (environmental and heritage tourism, agricultural and rural development geared to the modernisation of farms and rural communities, including capacity-building at Algeria's national agricultural research institute, certain industries, etc.) A number of specific sectoral programmes have been adopted, in particular on desertification, waste management and the protection of coastal and marine areas.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Broader objectives of **government policy**:

- pursuing sustainable human development
- promoting a socio-cultural policy in keeping with national ambitions

Specific objectives

- management of migratory flows
- development of conditions favourable to the three pillars of sustainable development
- development of education and training, youth, higher education and scientific research
- strengthening social programmes while keeping the budget balanced

Promoting sustainable human development

- regional planning policy: improve the urban environment
- tackling the water challenge through the mobilisation, recovery and production of water, its efficient management and distribution, and the gradual reduction and prevention of water-related disasters
- preserving the environment for sustainable development

Promoting socio-cultural policy

- health care improvements- capacity, preventive medicine, curative care and hospital reform
- consolidating State action on the family and the situation of women
- implementing reform of the national education system

Priority areas

- improving health and quality of life: water supply and treatment, air quality and pollution control, waste management, urban environment
- preserving and improving the productivity of the natural assets: sustainable agriculture and land management, desertification control, protection of fragile ecosystems and coastal management
- reducing economic losses and improving competitiveness: better utilization of water, energy, and raw material by industry, clean production
- protecting the regional and global environment: protection of biological diversity, protected areas, reducing greenhouse gases
- fostering education, communication and sensitization
- promoting governance

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

2001 National Sanitation Office (ONA)- programme to overhaul ONA been formulated
Strengthening the Government's sewerage and waste-water treatment programme
On-ongoing sea-water desalinisation programme

Climate change and energy

Development of renewable energy sources and efficient energy use are encouraged

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

Help to achieve the objectives of the Horizon 2020 initiative

Conservation and management of natural resources

Conservation and management of Mediterranean fish stocks

Public health

Reorganisation of the health service and hospital reform

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

The EU's Association Agreement with Algeria came in force in 2005. The country Strategy Paper (CSP) 2007- 2013 established a strategic framework for EU cooperation with Algeria under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) over the period 2007-2013. The National Indicative Programme (NIP) is the operational response for the period 2007-2010, setting out the objectives, the expected results and conditions to be met in the priority areas of cooperation.

National Action Plan for Biodiversity
 National Action Plan for Climate Change
 National Action Plan for Desertification
 National Framework for Biosafety

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The three dimensions of sustainable development are considered in the Strategy for Economic Revival (Strategie de Relance Economique, 2001-2004). It includes: a new economic strategy induced by structural adjustment; a balanced demographic policy; the reform of the education system; a program to reduce unemployment; a new infrastructure policy integrating environmental aspects; a national plan for agriculture development; a protection policy for sensitive areas; a new industrial policy; a new policy and the redeployment of public administration; a policy to evaluate cultural heritage; new regional development; the implementation of participatory planning mechanisms; economic instruments and incitation measures; and institutional strengthening.

Regulatory and economic instruments

The NAPE-SD proposed: the development of new legislation (waste, coastal zone management); the modification of existing laws (environment and urban planning); the enforcement of energy and water legislation; and the clarification of land titles and user rights over natural resources.

EIA is applied since 1978 and was further strengthened in 1990.

So far, the following texts have been issued:

Law on the protection of the environment in the context of sustainable development
 Law on the management, control and disposal of solid waste
 Law on the promotion of renewable energies
 Law on the protection and enhancement of the coasts
 Law on the protection of mountain areas in the context of sustainable development
 Draft law on air quality and atmospheric protection
 Draft law on the movement of biological resources, the regulation of GMOs and the management of risks associated with the use of modern biotechnology

Adjusting existing tariffs of water and waste as well as setting up environmental taxation are also advocated in the NAPE-SD, to control processes and product quality (taxes against pollutions, certification) and support productive activities in the agriculture, fishery and industry sectors with due consideration to environmental and social aspects.

The ecological taxation system includes the following taxes:

- on garbage collection
- incentives from storage of waste associated with care activities
- incentives from storage of special industrial waste

- on plastic bags
- on polluting and hazardous activities
- on atmospheric emissions
- on industrial liquid effluents

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

At the local level the preparation of Communal Charts including Local Agendas 21 is promoted with the support of UNDP.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The preparation of the NAPE-SD by the Ministry of the Land Management and Environment involved different ministerial departments, institutes, Universities and Research centers as well as environmental NGOs.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

The School Charter of the Environment- by signing this charter, the Presidents of the Communal People's Assemblies (PCA), the directors of schools and students are committed to the principles of environmental protection.

The Environment Train- it consists of five cars devoted to: education and awareness; a clean city; nature our; appropriate industry; exhibition.

The Dounya Houses: - exhibits, events and meetings on the environment.

The Press Club- environmental information and communication tool open to journalists.

Partnership with NGOs Strategy.

Higher Education Programme- to extend access to higher education; improve the employability of young people; reduce unemployment among first-time jobseekers.

Partnerships

African Union Initiative on Promotion and Development of Agenda 21 in Africa
 Capacity Building on the applications of ICT for the establishment of Environmental Information Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa - SISEI
 EU Water Initiative: Water for Life
 Earth Observation for integrated water resources management in Africa TIGER-SHIP
 Establishment of and African Regional Centre for Infectious Diseases
 Expanded OUZIT Project - Okavango Upper Zambezi International Tourism Spatial Development Initiative
 Mediterranean Renewable Energy Program (MEDREP)
 SIRMA: Water economy in Irrigated Systems in North Africa

Southern Caucus of NGOs for Sustainable Development Five Multi Regional Partnership and Policy Centers
Sustainable Biotechnology and Agriculture in Africa
Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI)

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Environmental Information System

Indicators for sustainable development

Monitoring and review

3. Coordination and Management System

The High Council of the Environment and Sustainable Development established in 1994 is chaired by the Head of Government. The Ministry of Land Management and Environment acts as its Secretariat. The Council includes a large number of Ministers as well as personalities appointed by the Head of State and NGO representatives.

Two permanent commissions exist: commission on legal and economic aspects, commission on inter sector activities.

The Council establishes the main national strategic options; assesses environmental trends; monitors implementation of environmental laws; follows up on international environment-related policies; commissions prospective studies; advises on major environmental files; reports annually to the President on the state of environment and implementation.

The Ministry of Land Management and Environment emphasises institutional strengthening through the establishment of such entities as the :

National Observatory for Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)
National Conservatory for Training in the Environment (CNFE)
National Waste Agency (NDA)
National Center for Development of Biological Resources (CNDRB)
National Center for Cleaner Production Technologies (CNTPP)
National Coastal Commission (NLC)
National Climate Change Agency (ANCC)

4. Selective Sources

European Commission, Algeria- Eu Partnership Strategy Paper 2007 -2013 & National Indicative Programme 2007 -2010
European Commission (2009), Communication on the Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2008
Plan National d'Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable 2002
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<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/natlinfo.htm>
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Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire)
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PROFILE: ARAB LEAGUE

1. Strategic Frameworks

The Mediterranean members of the Arab League are: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia

Environment and Sustainable Development are a main theme on the agenda of the Specialized Arab Organizations. Since the Rio Summit, major accomplishments have been made in the Arab Region towards the achievement of sustainable development, particularly in the areas of education, health and improved standards of living. Based on the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development issued in Cairo on 25 October 2001, the League of Arab States adopted a comprehensive regional approach, through the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and other specialized Ministerial Councils and in cooperation with international, regional and Arab organizations. This approach aims at developing a regional program for sustainable development.

1.2 Major Strategic Framework relating to sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region addresses the challenges faced by the Arab Countries to achieve sustainable development. It asserts the commitment of the Arab countries to implement Agenda 21 and the development objectives the League of Arab States included in the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The initiative seeks to enhance the participation of the Arab countries with the aim of strengthening their efforts in realizing sustainable development, particularly in the light of globalization and its impacts, as well as finding a mechanism for financing the programs for environmental protection and sustainable development.

1.3 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

In addition to Peace and Security, the following priority areas and related actions have been identified:

Poverty Alleviation

Support to the plans of action and programs on the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, particularly through financing small-sized projects and through technical and institutional cooperation, with the aim of alleviating poverty while giving the role of women due consideration.

Population and Health

Support to the development of integrated population policies and improving primary health services and enhancing programs of awareness for family planning and motherhood and child care.

Support to the efforts for the development of population health through the provision of clean water, safe food, sanitary services and the control of chemical hazards and all forms of pollution.

Education, Awareness, Scientific Research, & Technology Transfer

Support to the development of strategies and national programs for education and illiteracy eradication as a part of the strategy for poverty alleviation and also through support to the implementation of the internationally agreed upon objectives on education, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Encourage the transfer and adaptation of the appropriate technology in the Arab region and developing the Arab capacities, and those of the institutions of scientific research and technology, to stand up to the challenges faced by the Arab region, as well as benefiting from the technical support provided by international organizations and institutions in this field and calling upon the industrial countries to fulfill their commitments on this matter contained in the relevant international agreements.

Support to the development of a system for information and technology through integrated initiatives and the creation of a conducive environment to attract investments to the Arab Region in this field.

Encourage initiatives to enhance the national and regional capacities in the field of environmental information, such as the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI).

Encourage the programs of Arab prizes related to environment and sustainable development such as 'the International Zayed Prize on Environment' and 'Sultan Qaboos Prize for the Protection of the Environment'.

Resources Management

Encourage the integrated management of water resources, including river basins and water catchments, on the basis of international law and existing agreements. This includes the development of legislation and the maximization of benefits on upstream, middle course and the downstream of existing activities.

Protect water resources, including groundwater and the environmental systems of wetlands, from pollution, including supporting the efforts to develop alternative water resources and developing new sources of technology for water desalination, rainwater harvesting and the recycling and reuse of water.

Support to the development and implementation of national policies and programs in the field of agricultural research, in particular the agricultural methods suitable for the region and harvest technology for arid lands.

Support the regional and sub-regional implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through the existing mechanisms in the region in order to develop and implement existing action programs.

Call upon the international community to support the efforts of the Arab countries:

- to implement the strategies of the integrated management of coastal zones, putting into consideration population concentration in coastal areas in the Arab region and the importance of the regional implementation of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities and other programs within regional seas regions for the protection and conservation of the quality of the marine environment and biodiversity
- to achieve sustainable development in mountain areas and in afforestation and reforestation in Arab countries and in capacity building in the field of sustainable management of mountains and forests
- to develop a regional program for the protection of biodiversity, including the establishment of a regional bank for genes and the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on biodiversity in the region
- to achieve sound management of chemicals, with special emphasis on hazardous chemicals and waste, through initiatives to identify national focal points for chemicals and wastes and assist Arab countries to establish national databases for chemicals and frameworks and national and regional strategies for the management of chemicals and waste
- to cope with the deterioration of the quality of the air in many Arab cities, including urban planning strategies, the specification of land use areas, programs of control of air emissions and the establishment of regional and sub regional systems and networks for sustainable transport

Support the promotion of mechanisms, and cleaner and safer production mechanisms and techniques, cleaner and more efficient utilization of oil and natural gas and the development of carbon sinks through afforestation.

Support Arab capabilities to implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their mechanisms, including technical and financial assistance from the international community.

Call upon industrial countries to implement their obligations under international environmental agreements through the abolition of all forms of subsidies to the energy sector in their countries, particularly those directed to nuclear energy and coal and the tax bias against petroleum products.

Provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of the Arab countries, including institutional and human capabilities to effectively manage disasters, including inspection and early warning systems.

Production and Consumption

Promotion of the concept of sustainable production and consumption in the Arab region and encouraging the use of products that contribute to the protection of the natural resources.

Globalization, Trade and Investment

Call upon the international community to support the efforts of the Arab countries to avoid the negative effects resulting from globalization on the economic, technical, environmental and social levels.

Support to the Arab efforts to improve inter-Arab trade through strengthening and supporting the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area.

Strengthening the competitiveness of Arab commodities and to endeavor to abolish all forms of subsidies, assistance and barriers imposed by the industrial countries to impede the access of Arab commodities to the international markets.

Aspiring to facilitate and speed up the accession of the Arab countries to the World Trade Organization and to enhance international efforts aiming at the diversification of their economic base.

Create a suitable investment environment that would be conducive to international and regional institutions to increase the investments directed to the Arab countries.

1.4 Other SD-relevant Frameworks and Linkages

The establishment of a program of action for this Initiative was based on:

- the Abu Dhabi Declaration on Perspectives of Arab Environmental Action (2001)
- the Oman Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development (2001)
- the outcome of the Amman International Forum on Environment and Sustainable Development (2001)
- the Jeddah Declaration on the Islamic Perspective for Environment (2002)
- the General Framework of Islamic Agenda for Sustainable Development (2002), and
- the Abu Dhabi Declaration for Agricultural Development and Combating Desertification

It will also take into consideration the outcome of the relevant international and regional conferences and symposiums, such as the Dubai Declaration on the Integrated Management of Water Resources in Arid Zones (2002) and the Muscat Declaration of the Oman International Conference for the Development and Management of Watercourses (2002).

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Stakeholders involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

The initiative is implemented through building partnerships with the other regions, specialized Arab organizations, groups and international organizations and institutions, as part of the international framework for achieving sustainable development, and with the involvement of all the stakeholders at the national and regional level, particularly the private sector, academia, and relevant civil society organizations, including the media.

The Arab Initiative calls for the support of partnership initiatives between developing countries, as called for in the Joint AMCEN/CAMRE Declaration on Sustainable

Development (Cairo 2002), between industrial and developing countries and between the states and the organizations of Civil Society and the private sector. Those partnerships are to be fair and not selective and should not include political or economic conditions.

3 Management System

A joint secretariat composed of the technical secretariat of CAMRE, secretariat of the Arab Economic & Social Council, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the Economic & Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) shall be in charge of the coordination and implementation of the Action Plan.

Implementation of the initiative Action plan shall be followed up within the framework of the Joint Committee for Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE).

Reports on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Initiative shall be submitted to the Arab Summit through the Arab Economic and Social council on a periodical basis.

The coordination necessary for implementation of this Action Plan shall be undertaken between the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region and NEPAD.

4 Sources

CAMRE Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region (SDIAR).

http://www.arableagueonline.org/las/index_en.jsp

PROFILE: BALTIC 21

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework relating to sustainable development

Baltic 21 is a regional multi-stakeholder process for sustainable development initiated in 1996 by the Prime Ministers from the eleven member states of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

The Baltic 21 Action Programme was initiated in 1996 and adopted by the 7th CBSS session in June 1998 (Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the Baltic Sea Region).

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas¹

Long-term aspects, regional co-operation, sector responsibility, and openness, democracy and transparency, are the pillars of the Baltic 21 process. Another important feature of Baltic 21 is that it is to complement international, national and local initiatives in the Baltic Sea Region.

Baltic 21 Mission

The mission is to actively contribute towards advancing sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region by coordinating goals and activities, and by serving as a forum for cooperation across borders and between stakeholders.

Strategic Guidelines

The Strategic Guidelines from 2004 are the following:

- supporting the Council of the Baltic Sea States in the pursuit of sustainable development
- strengthening cross-sectoral work and achieving agreed upon goals and visions
- acting as an umbrella for Lighthouse projects to demonstrate sustainable development in action
- identifying funding sources to support Lighthouse projects and other initiatives

Baltic 21 principles stipulate that:

- local and regional co-operation is based on democracy, openness and participation
- biological and ecosystem diversity and productivity should be restored or maintained
- pollution of the atmosphere, land and water should not exceed the carrying capacity of nature
- renewable resources should be efficiently used and managed within their regeneration capacity

¹ See 3 below for the new goals and focus.

- materials flow of non-renewable resources be made efficient and cyclic, and that renewable substitutes be created and promoted
- awareness of the elements and processes leading to sustainability should be high among different actors and levels of society

Priority areas

Baltic 21 focuses on seven sectors of crucial economic and environmental importance to the region (Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries, Forests, Industry, Tourism and Transport, and Spatial Planning), Joint actions and Lighthouse Projects.

The Action Programme comprises Joint Actions (issues concerning several sectors) and actions to be implemented by Sectors and Spatial Planning. Institution-strengthening, structural changes, education, exchange of experience and other non-technical initiatives are at the core of the Action Programme. For each sector, goals and scenarios for sustainable development have been elaborated, as well as a sector action programmes including time frames, actors and financing. The implementation phase begun as soon as the Action Programme was adopted.

Joint Actions

Increased production and use of bioenergy and other renewable energy
 Use of regional fora and networks for sustainable development
 Establishment of demonstration areas and pilot projects for proving sustainable development in practice
 City co-operation and sustainable development issues in cities and communities
 Procurement of technologies for sustainable development
 Information for sustainable development
 Increasing consumers awareness of sustainable development

Sector Actions

Agriculture sector

Education and training
 "Virtual Research Institute" for sustainable agriculture based on the already existing NOVABOVA in the Baltic Sea Region
 Elaborate and implement agro-environmental legislation and policies

Energy sector (BASREC)

Strengthening co-operation between authorities
 Increasing renewable energy and promoting increased energy efficiency and savings
 Co-operation on research and development

Fisheries sector (EU Commission)

Developing long term strategies for major fish stocks: Cod, Salmon, Herring and Sprat
 Restoration of habitats important to fish and fisheries in inland waters
 Achieving sustainable aquaculture

Forests sector

Promotion of sustainable forest management and efficiency in private forestry
Promotion of the use of wood, and wood- based products as natural renewable resource and environmentally friendly material and changing of consumption patterns in a more sustainable direction

Industry sector

Improvement of the framework for business operations
Harmonisation of legislation pertaining to industry
Implementation of international conventions and agreements
Implementing eco-efficiency in industry
Extending and improved co-operation on research and development

Tourism sector

Enforcement of legislation regarding sustainable development and tourism
Promoting Environmental Management Systems in the tourism industry

Transport sector

Carry out a project on developing guidelines for investments in sustainable transport
Establish and strengthen collaboration for more efficient goods transportation
Development of regional strategies to support sustainable sea transport.

Spatial Planning Actions (VASAB)

Implementation of the Stockholm Declaration on Sustainable Spatial Development Policy
Further Development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Integration of Baltic 21 into European spatial planning documents

In the **new mandate** adopted in April 2009, it was agreed that the content of the future work should be thematic, in line with the new Lighthouse projects approved in the EU BSR 2007-2013 programme, and be based on a few strong sectors. The following themes were considered:

- renewable energy and energy efficiency
- energy efficiency in agriculture and forestry
- biodiversity
- climate change: adaptation and imitation through new solutions
- sustainable production and consumption in the light of climate change
- sustainable innovation
- urban and rural development
- education

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy integration and convergence

Sector and institutional integration

In June 2004, in Estonia, the Heads of Government underlined the importance of integrating the principles of sustainable development into policy making by all relevant stakeholders. They also expressed their interest in the Baltic 21-proposed concept of making the Baltic Sea region an Eco-Region for Sustainable Development covering the economic, ecological and social spheres.

Local level initiatives

Baltic Local Agendas 21 have been encouraged. Five projects – two of them in Russia – have been executed to raise awareness and build engagement in both local and national-level sustainability initiatives.

Materials on Local Agenda 21 have been prepared in the local languages. As a result, programs are growing in St. Petersburg and the new EU member countries.

Specific projects have engaged young people, citizens, and civil servants on topics such as, EU environmental policy, local environmental planning, local participation in decision-making process and environmental education.

2.2 Stakeholders involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, Actors, Participation and Consultation

Baltic 21 is a multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development linking government, industry, finance and civil sector actors, together with the European Commission, around a specific program of action.

Baltic 21 is steered by the Senior Officials Group (SOG), with members from the Governments of the CBSS and the European Commission, intergovernmental organisations and the international development banks (World Bank, EBRD, EIB, NIB, NEFCO), and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The responsibility for the sector work was distributed among the SOG members. The seven sectors and their lead parties are: Agriculture (HELCOM and Sweden), Energy (Denmark and Estonia), Fisheries (IBSFC), Forestry (Finland and Lithuania), Industry (Russia and Sweden), Tourism (Estonia, Finland Baltic Sea Tourism Commission) and Transports (Germany and Latvia).

Work on the Baltic 21 initiative has involved some 300 persons in the region.

The constantly growing Baltic 21 membership aims at reaching out to all levels of the society and involving them in the work for sustainable development.

Communication and Awareness-raising

Information availability and transparency have been significantly improved during the first mandate period.

Baltic 21 has produced two integrated assessments of sustainable development trends in the Baltic Sea Region, and through its website, documentation on Baltic 21-sponsored sustainable development activity is easily accessible to the public.

In addition, the Baltic 21 Institute makes information available on partnership and funding possibilities for sustainability programs.

As regards to the Education parameter, the following are pursued:

- development of education of sustainable development curricula, programs courses
- competence development among officials, principals and staff
- continuing education which includes sustainability related knowledge and skills
- teaching and learning resources for schools, higher education and training
- R&D on education for sustainable development

Partnerships

Through the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), eleven specific joint cooperation projects link cities as well as the international agencies and organizations that support their Local Agenda 21 programs; 75% of regional cities who are members of UBC also participated in sustainability-related meetings, conferences, and projects. A cooperative network is in place.

3. Reviews and new developments

A mid-term review of Baltic 21 carried out in 2004, pointed out Baltic 21's strengths in its role as a multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue and cooperation and its potentials to strongly support regional initiatives and policy development and for the integration of sustainability into regional processes.

During the fall 2008 and until spring 2009, Baltic 21 carried out both a self-evaluation and an external evaluation of its work over the last ten years.

The external evaluation process (see **Appendix**) revealed both strengths and weaknesses of the current Baltic 21, the preferred modes of cooperation and the strategic areas for the future work. Although the multi-stakeholder and project-oriented approach was appreciated and supported by the participants in the assessment, the implementation of the project-policy cycle was considered weak and in some cases weak commitment was pointed out.

It was proposed that project results should be anchored in the line ministries which also need to feed into the process of project development and present their needs. The social dimension of sustainability should also be defined more precisely in the future.

The evaluator also suggested for the Baltic 21 network to take advantage of the currently increased attention to the BSR resulting from the EU BSR Strategy process, the CBSS reform and the available funding programmes. Attention was also drawn to the enhanced project and funding competition and the fact that sustainable development is increasingly integrated into sector policies in EU and national strategies.

Finally, the assessment brought up the question of the future institutional set-up for the Baltic 21 network outlining a number of options.

The review was presented and discussed at the Senior Officials Group 13th Meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia in April 23-24, 2009

The new **mandate** for Baltic 21 agreed at the above meeting has the following basic ingredients, aimed to integrate B21 into CBSS:

- The **Mission** remains to continue to actively contribute towards advancing sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region by coordinating goals and activities, and by serving as a forum for cooperation across borders and between stakeholders, as well as support the long-term priorities of the Council.

- The **Principal Functions** to achieve the overall mission, are the following:

- support the Council in its long-term priorities
- foster synergies on sustainable development

- The **Future key strategic areas** of cooperation shall focus on the following:

- climate change
- sustainable urban and rural development
- sustainable consumption and production
- innovation and education for sustainable development

- Baltic 21 shall work on the basis of a multi-year programme of work, its activities serviced by the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

4. Sources

An Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region - Baltic 21. Adopted at the 7th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Nyborg, June 22-23, 1998. Baltic 21 Series No 1/98

Five Years of Regional Progress Towards Sustainable Development: A Baltic 21 Report to the Prime Ministers of the Baltic Sea States. Baltic 21 Series no. 1/2004
2009 Review (document SOG 30/4/Info 1)

Senior Officials Group, Thirtieth Meeting Tallinn, Estonia April 23-24, 2009

<http://www.baltic21.org/>

<http://www.baltic21.org/?publications,1#83>

Appendix: The BALTIC 21 Review

After 10 years of existence, it was decided to carry out an assessment of the Baltic 21 Action Programme focusing on the future content and organization of the Baltic 21 intervention. The assessment was carried out both through an internal self-evaluation and an external assessment.

The external and independent assessment of the Baltic 21 cooperation from 1997 until 2008 took place between January to March 2009, and was presented at the 30th SOG meeting in Tallinn on the 23rd April 2009.

Conclusions

Overall successes and shortcomings of Baltic 21

The most referred to successes of the cooperation have been the network building process and the multi stakeholder involvement at the project level.

Sectoral activities demonstrated big variations in performances. Some sectors have been rather successful (Agriculture, Education, Forests, Tourism and Industry to a lesser extent), while others have had limited success such as Transport and Fisheries. During the period reviewed, two sectors were “transferred” to other organizations, Spatial Planning to VASAB and Energy to BASREC.

The so-called joint actions also show big variations in performance. Some of them were only active in the beginning of the period, while others lasted longer and were transferred to different Sectors or to the Baltic 21 Secretariat.

From 2004 Baltic 21 has focused more on cross-sectoral issues and project development.

The project development orientation based on a cross sectoral and integrated approach is generally considered a strength of Baltic 21 but makes it difficult for the Baltic 21 cooperation to ensure a ministerial policy and activity coordination across the countries in the region.

Relevance of the Baltic 21 for sustainable development

The relevance of Baltic 21 has diminished over the years and in particular after the EU enlargement in 2004. The relevance was high and the role appreciated by the countries. From 2004 and to 2008 the main effort of the countries (primary the new EU member states) has been targeted the EU.

Key strategic areas of Baltic 21

The key strategic areas for the Baltic 21 in the next period must combine the sectoral strengths proven so far with the cross cutting and integrated approach. The obvious sectors to keep operating are Agriculture, Education, Forests, Tourism and Industry. The most obvious thematic areas are the themes included in the four new EU projects, (bio-energy promotion; sustainable innovation; balanced urban and rural development; and eco-regions).

Relevance and performance of the organizational set-up

The current organizational set-up is not feasible in the future. It is not well functioning, and it is not considered relevant anymore by the majority of countries in the region, due to their EU orientation.

One major problem is the lack of a binding political mandate and a corresponding lack of commitment, participation and payments from a few of the member countries. A stronger and binding political mandate much be ensured, if the cooperation is continued. Another major weakness is that the organization does not ensure that the policy-project-policy loop works sufficiently well. A better linkage between practical political and administrative work in the Ministries and project content is asked for together with improved mechanisms for transfer of political needs and demands downwards and project results upwards.

The SWOT analysis presented makes it clear that the Baltic 21 organization must have a stronger binding political mandate in order to survive, either through a merger with CBSS or another organization (HELCOM).

Recommendations

In the short term, to work for a merger of Baltic 21 into CBSS. To ensure long term sustainability of the cooperation it is instead recommended to transfer the Baltic 21 into HELCOM, where the binding political mandate is clear, the organizational set-up is in place, and policy making is in direct compliance with and linked to EU and UN policies. The dominant work model should be project oriented, and the secretariat should assist in project development and implementation.

Content of the cooperation

The content of the future work is independent of the organizational structure and should be thematic in line with the new Lighthouse projects approved of the EU BSR 2007-2013 programme, and be based on a few strong sectors. The following themes are considered:

- renewable energy and energy efficiency
- energy efficiency in agriculture and forestry
- biodiversity
- climate change: adaption and limitation through new solutions
- sustainable production and consumption in the light of climate change
- sustainable innovation
- urban and rural development
- education

COUNTRY PROFILE: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is comprised of two Entities: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (F B&H) and Republika Srpska RS and Brčko District.

1. Strategic Frameworks

A National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) has been prepared with WB support and the participation of various stakeholders.

Presently, UNEP/MAP is providing technical and financial support to Bosnia and Herzegovina to prepare a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) with support by the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECI).

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

2003 National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The purpose of the NEAP is to facilitate the preparation of a unified environmental policy in the context of macroeconomic reforms, poverty reduction strategy and transition process.

According to NEAP, the principles of sustainable development include: integration of environmental policy into the sector policies; partnership and shared responsibilities; changes in behaviour/attitude in production and consumption; establishment of several instruments for implementation of a set of activities.

Eight priority areas of NEAP were established through a joint multidisciplinary approach:

- water resources/wastewater
- sustainable development of rural areas
- environmental management
- protection of biodiversity and landscape diversity
- waste/waste management
- economy
- public health
- demining

With regards to the NSSD under preparation, based on the Memorandum of Understanding, its context and rationale will have the following characteristics and principles:

- country ownership and strong political commitment
- integration of economic, social and environmental objectives and action across sectors, territories, and generations
- broad participation and effective partnerships
- development of capacity and enabling environment
- focus on outcomes and means of implementation

The NSSD document will include: goals; objectives; steps and activities; measures and mechanisms to achieve integration/convergence and to involve stakeholders; responsibilities of the different actors; organizational aspects; resource availability and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

Entity Water laws
2008 Water agencies

Climate change and energy

Promotion of sustainable biomass energy services
2008 Energy sector study

Sustainable mobility

Feasibility study for rehabilitation and re-establishment of navigability on the River Sava
Study on inter-modal transport

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

2008 Framework Law on agriculture, food and rural development
Strategic Plan for Harmonisation of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development 2008-2010

Natural Resources

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity project
Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Public health

Strategic Plan for development of the health sector 2008-2013

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

Revision of the Law on protection of women from domestic violence
Gender Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Country Gender Action Plan
Action Plan for Children
2007 migration information system
2008 temporary reception centre for irregular migrants

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

2000 UN joint study for BiH

2002 Report on the Status and Need for Environmental Legislation in BiH and its project of Building Capacities in Southeast Europe for Accession to European Union
 Global Framework for Economic Development Strategy for 2000 – 2004
 B&H Mid-Term Development Strategy (“Poverty Reduction Strategy”) 2004-2007
 Solid Waste Management Strategy in BiH

2. Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Regulatory and economic instruments

The 2004 Environmental Law is enforced in both entities of BiH: It consists of a set of six laws: Framework Environment Law; Law on Water Protection; Law on Waste; Law on Protection of Environment; Law on Protection of Air; and Law on Eco Fund. This Law prescribes the application of different instruments as following:

- EIA procedure- already applied
- Integrated Environment Permit (EIP)- being applied
- SIA - not yet been applied
- Eco labeling - not been applied

The new (post-war) Laws on Construction and Spatial Planning were adopted at entities level. Republika Srpska adopted several long-term strategic programmes which indirectly touch upon the sustainable development issues, such as the Spatial Plan 1996-2015.

The use of environment-related economic instruments is limited to fees for water supply and waste-water disposal services paid by all users.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

2 Local Agendas 21 have been adopted. A number of new ones are being elaborated.

Two Mediterranean Municipalities have prepared Local Environmental Plans (LEAP). Such plans are mostly coordinated by NGOs and are elaborated by Municipal Authorities.

A key UNDP programme aims to improve local planning; enhance the management of environmental resources and delivery of services; and increase national awareness and action in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

BiH succeeded ex- Yugoslavia in the Barcelona Convention and four of its Protocols: (Dumping; Emergency; Land – Based sources; Specially protected areas.) B&H also joined the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and participates in its activities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an active party to the Danube River Protection Convention (ratified in 2004) and is involved in a number of Expert Groups of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU was signed in June 2008.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The preparation of the NEAP was coordinated by the NEAP Directorate with branch offices in relevant line ministries responsible for the environment.

The NEAP Steering Committees, the Environmental Steering Committee, the ministries in charge and the World Bank carried out supervision and follow-up of work, including coordination with other environmental projects and activities.

Several workshops were organized involving major stakeholders.

With regards to the NSSD under preparation the framework preparatory process is the one developed under MAP. The process involves the identification of major stakeholders and the exploration of consultation mechanisms including, when appropriate, multi and bilateral cooperation agencies. It includes the setting up of a multi-stakeholder steering entity comprising representatives of the government, the private sector and civil society. This body will formulate the strategy, achieve consensus on its scope and content, and monitor its development, implementation and impacts.

Necessary partners in the decision making process are ad hoc Inter-Ministerial or Steering Committees composed from Ministries, Universities, Industries, Public Companies, NGOs, International Organizations, etc. established for reviewing and following the work on sectoral policies.

Each new draft of a policy, strategic, planning or other document is open to the public for their opinion.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

The NGOs are mostly involved in communication, information and awareness raising campaigns on sustainable development.

In 2001, the «Ekološki forum BiH» (BiH Ecological Forum) was formed, gathering 38 non-governmental, non-political, non-profit environmental protection organisations from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Chamber of Commerce of the Sarajevo Canton has a programme to encourage the introduction of environmental goals as integral part of the management of enterprises.

State level law on vocational training
Conference of Ministers of Education

Strategic paper "Directions for Education Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2008-2015"

Partnerships

EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)

BiH Ecological Forum

Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (Aap2020)

Global Mapping

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative: People Shaping their Sustainable Futures

Sustainable water management in the Balkan and Southeast Mediterranean area

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Bosnia and Herzegovina expects to become full participant in the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) of the EU.

Indicators for sustainable development

Participation in the EEA European Observation Information Network (EIONET).

Participation in the MAP Program "130 Indicators for Sustainable Developments in the Mediterranean" 2000-2002.

Monitoring and Review

3. Coordination and Management System

The environmental and sustainable development management system hierarchy includes the BiH Presidency; the Council of Ministers; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations; the Directorate for European Integration; etc.

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations: It is responsible for the coordination of the activities regarding environmental issues and natural resources management, energy policy and international cooperation. In future, these functions will be delegated to the administrative structure at the state level.

The National Steering Committee for Sustainable Development and Environment and International Cooperation: Established in 2002, this Committee is composed of 54 representatives from public institutions from both entities and non government bodies including NGOs. It has established administrative committees and sub-committees responsible for international conventions and coordination of programmes and activities. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Affairs coordinates the proposals and forwards them to the Council of Ministers.

Two inter-entity steering committees, the Water Steering Committee (WSC) and Environmental Steering Committee (ESC) were established in 1998. The Framework

Environmental Protection Laws recognize these Committees as bodies for coordination and advice.

4. Selective Sources

BiH Medium-term Development Strategy (PRSP) (2004-2007):

<http://www.bih.prsp.info/>

B&H National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP):

<http://www.neapbih.ba/>

ECE Environment Performance Review 2004:

<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/countriesreviewed.htm>

European Commission (2008), (SEC(2008) 2693 Final), Staff Working Document,

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2008 Progress Report

European Commission (2008), (COM(2008)674), Communication, Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009

European Commission (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina Progress Report and

Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009

European Council Decision 2008/211/EC on the Principles, Priorities and Conditions

Contained in the European Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Repealing Decision 2006/55/EC

National Assessment of sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina for WSSD:

http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/prep_process/national_reports/bosnia_herzegovina2507.pdf

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper in Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNDESA (2002), Country Profiles: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>. and

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/natlinfo.htm>

UNDP (2000), Second country cooperation framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2003:

http://www.undp.ba/Documents/CCF_2001-2003.pdf

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http://www.undp.org/mdg/tracking_countryreports2.shtml

UNEP MAP (2000), Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire)

COUNTRY PROFILE: CROATIA

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1. Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

In line with the country's Environmental Protection Act of 2007, the new Strategy for Sustainable Development of Croatia (NSSD) was adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 20 February, 2009.

Earlier documents about sustainable development principles and an assessment of environmental problems and priorities were the National Environmental Strategy (2002) and the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP, 2002) and the Priority Action Plan (PAP) that describes immediate action in each area of concern. This earlier Strategy was replaced by the recent NSSD, while the NEAP and PAP remain in force until new ones, based on the new NSSD, are adopted.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The NSSD covers all three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It envisages the preparation of action plans.

Objectives and targets

The Strategy sets basic objectives and measures for sustainable development in the fields of economy, social development and environmental protection, and identifies key challenges to their achievement.

The Strategy contains in particular:

- an analysis of the existing economic, social and environmental status
- principles and criteria for determining the goals and priorities of sustainable development
- basic goals and measures of sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection by individual sectors
- institutions to be involved in the implementation of the Strategy
- method of implementation and liability for the implementation of the Strategy
- monitoring the implementation of the Strategy through a series of indicators

Priority areas/ sectors

NEAP priorities include: waste and water management, air quality, industry and mining, energy, agriculture and forestry, tourism, transport, noise protection, biological and landscape diversity, coastal and island management, institution building.

The Strategy particularly covers tourism; maritime affairs; energy; economy; environment; social welfare; transport; etc.

The Strategy identifies eight key areas:

- stimulation of population growth
- environment and natural resources
- sustainable consumption and production
- social and territorial cohesion and justice
- achievement of energy independence and growth of effective energy consumption
- strengthening of public health
- strengthening of internal transport
- protection of the Adriatic sea, coast and islands

For each area the current state of things is given and main goals and activities in achieving these goals are elaborated.

In one chapter of the Strategy several preconditions that are necessary for directing development toward sustainability are pointed out. They include:

- implementation of reforms and building-up an efficient state
- raising the education level for all citizens
- building a society based on knowledge for sustainable development
- support a research and investment culture for sustainable development
- and mitigation of and adaptation to climate changes

The Strategy also provides a framework for drawing up action plans and adopts indicators for monitoring its implementation.

Themes comprising action programmes

Action plans are currently being developed in coordination with all relevant stakeholders including the business sector and non-governmental organisations. Action plans will contain details of those responsible for the implementation of individual plans and projects envisaged by the Strategy, financial sources, the stakeholders in the plan or project, the deadlines for achieving the envisaged goals, the outcomes of plans and projects, and organisations responsible for monitoring.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

Convention on the Protection of the River Danube
 Convention on the Protection of the Adriatic from Pollution
 National Plan for Water Protection
 Project of Protection from polluted waters in the coastal area, 2003-2012
 Strategy for Improved wastewater management and water supply
 Water Sector Strategy, 2008-2023
 GEF Agricultural Pollution Control Project
 Environmental Operational Programme to protect water resources
 1995, 2005 Waters Act
 CROW Project (Croatian Concept of Reporting on Water) – development of INTRA

(database – Integrated reporting application for reporting on water)
 2008 Contingency Plan for accidental marine pollution
 National Programme of Adriatic Sea Pollution Monitoring

Climate change and energy

Draft National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol
 HEP ESCO company established to support the private sector in energy efficiency projects
 Energy Efficiency Project (EE) and Renewable Energy Resources Project (RER)
 2007 Law on renewable energy resources
 Energy Law (2001, 2004, 2007, 2008)
 2008 Act on Efficient Use of Energy in Direct Consumption
 2009 Plan on allocation of greenhouse gas emission quotas in the Republic of Croatia (National Allocation Plan)

Sustainable mobility

2007 Act on navigation and inland waters harbours
 Inland Waterways Transport Strategy, 2008-2018

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

Integrated Administrative and Control System (IACS)
 2001 Act on Organic Production of Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs
 2007 National Programme for the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS)
 2008 National strategy for rural development, 2008-2013
 2008 Strategy for Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement of the EU acquis
 2008 Act on Agricultural Land

Conservation and management of natural resources

Computerised fishing vessel register and satellite-based vessel monitoring system
 The Karst Ecosystem Conservation (KEC) Project
 GMO testing laboratory
 1999, 2008 Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity
 2005, 2008 Nature Protection Act
 2005 Act on Genetically Modified Organisms
 2005 Forests Act
 2007, 2008 Act on Biocidal Products
 National Waste Management Plan, 2007 – 2015
 Waste Act (2004, 2006 and 2008)

Public health

1986, 1993 National Programme for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS- being revised
 1998 Instruction for the Suppression and Prevention of Tuberculosis

2001 National Programme for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases
 2008 Act on the protection of the population against communicable diseases
 National Programmes for the Prevention of Malignant Breast and Cervical Cancer
 Women's Health Programme
 Healthy Child in a Healthy Environment Programme
 Prevention Programme for Disabled Persons
 2004, 2008 Air Protection Act
 2002 Programme on air quality measurement in the national air quality monitoring network
 National network for monitoring air quality- being developed
 National Air Quality Protection and Improvement Plan 2008-2011
 Programme for monitoring the quality of liquid oil fuels for 2009
 Coordinated inspections of IPPC installations

<i>Social Inclusion, demography and migration</i>

2002, 2004 Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
 National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, 2008–2011
 National Implementation Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007–2008
 2008 National Plan to Combat Discrimination
 Action plan for the implementation of the National Plan to Combat Discrimination, 2008-2009
 2009 Act on the Elimination of Discrimination
 Joint Assessment of Employment Policy Priorities (JAP) and the Joint Inclusion Memorandum (JIM)
 2008 Act on the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities
 3rd National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality, 2006-2010
 National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence, 2005 -2007/ 2008- 2010
 2008 Gender Equality Act
 The Ombudsman for Children
 Action Plan for the implementation of the Migration Policy, 2007-2008
 2008 Aliens Act

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

1999 Transport Development Strategy
 1999 Physical Planning Programme
 2000 Croatian National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
 1999, 2001 Environmental Protection Emergency Plan
 2002 National Environmental Strategy
 2002 National Environmental Action Plan
 2002 Energy Development Strategy
 2003 National Forest Policy and Strategy
 2005 Waste Management Strategy
 2006 National Population Policy
 Strategic Development Framework, 2006 – 2013
 National Health Development Strategy, 2006 – 2011
 2008 Water Management Strategy
 2008 EU Accession Partnership with Croatia
 2008 National Chemical Safety Strategy

Energy Efficiency Programme, 2008-2010
 First National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
 Environmental Information System Operation Programme, 2009-2012

2. Processes and Mechanisms

2.1. Policy Integration, Coherence and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The NSSD is a national strategic document. Development documents for individual sectors and activities cannot be contrary to it. Furthermore, enhanced sectoral and institutional integration will be achieved through future action plans.

Mechanisms of integration are described in the 2007 Environmental Protection Act, which sets out responsibilities for sustainable development on the different political levels, including the national government, counties, cities, and other relevant stakeholders.

The Environmental Protection Act also provides for Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.

Regulatory and economic instruments

A major strategic framework relating to SD is the Environmental Protection Act. The Act covers: protection and principles; environmental protection instruments; monitoring; access to information; public participation; access to justice; liability for damages; inspection; etc.

There are plans to introduce incentives to: encourage ecologically oriented businesses; the use of renewable sources of energy; reductions in the use of fossil fuels; the use of ecologically friendly technology; the reduction of waste; etc.

Environmental taxes are not widespread but exist in, e.g., the water management sector.

2003 Act on the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund- environmental fees

2007, 2008 Public Procurement Act

2008 Ordinance on the Environmental Label (Ecolabel)

Various Environmental Awards- preventing pollution; best production practices; research projects; international co-operation; etc

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

The Decentralisation Commission

Local Agendas 21 exist in some towns and municipalities.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Croatia is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The major influence exerted on the Croatian NSSD document has been from the renewed EU SDS, particularly regarding to key challenges and key areas.

The 2008 EU Accession Partnership leading to EU accession is also of overriding importance.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The National Environmental Strategy (2002) as well as the NEAP (2002) were prepared following broad stakeholder consultations.

The process of drafting the NSSD was carried out through the cooperation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction (MEPPPC) with a working group that was formed by representatives from central line government authorities, as well as with the Central Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU Funds.

The NSSD draft passed through several consultation processes. Cross-consultation was carried out with the Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection and the National Committee for the Development and Implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Public and non-governmental organisations were consulted through two public debates and by the opportunity to comment on the draft text of the Strategy, which was placed on the website of the Ministry for 30 days.

For drafting the Action Plans to be prepared, the steering group will comprise the Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection, the Physical Planning Council and representatives from ministries responsible for each key area of the Strategy, representatives from the business sector and non-governmental organisations.

One chapter of the NSSD is dedicated to the implementation of the strategy and participation and shared responsibility. It also specifies for each of the identified challenges the institutions involved.

Public involvement in environmental affairs is provided for in the Law on Environmental Protection.

The EIA procedures involve public hearings.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Formal education programmes are still in the development phase. Informal education is carried out in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and international organisations such as UNEP, UNDP, etc. In 2009, UNEP's publication "Resource Kit on Sustainable Consumption and Production" was translated into Croatian and slightly adapted by the MEPPPC. The document will be distributed to schools, to be used as supplemental teaching material. A lot is done to promote environmental protection

especially through cooperation with the National Geographic magazine – Croatian edition. Every year the Ministry organizes an event on Planet Earth Day to promote its work and environmental protection.

Decade of Literacy in Croatia Programme, 2003-2012
 2003, 2004, 2007 Science and Higher Education Act
 Education Sector Development Plan, 2005-2010
 Strategy for Development of the Vocational Education System, 2008–2013
 Community Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action Programmes
 National Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Partnerships

The Action Plans to be prepared will identify those responsible for the implementation of individual plans and projects, the stakeholder partners in the plan or project organisations responsible for monitoring, etc.

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

The Strategy points out to preconditions to sustainability, such as support to research and investment. However, the required tools will be elaborated in sectoral strategic documents.

2008 Strategic and Technology Council and the Council for the National Innovation System
 2008 Action Plan to Encourage Investment into Science and Research
 Action Plan 2007-2010 – Science and Technology Policy

Indicators for sustainable development

Work on the establishment of the Environmental Protection Information System (EPIS) is on-going.

Suggested thematic indicators for each key area are listed at the end of the Strategy, 130 in total. The indicators are grouped within each area by common themes. However, comprehensive national indicators of sustainable development have yet to be developed. This will be done in cooperation with the Croatian Environment Agency. During the development of Action Plans these indicators may be replaced or new ones added at the proposal of associated institutions, if the latest scientific knowledge shows that they are better suited for monitoring the status of sustainable development.

Monitoring and review

During a ten year period, the implementation of NSSD will be monitored through periodic reports. Additionally, the State of the Environment Report, prepared every four years, has to include an evaluation of the progress towards the NSSD goals.

3. Coordination and Management System

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and Construction is responsible for the implementation of the Strategy. For the coordination and management of specific action plans individual ministries will be nominated in accordance with their competences. In the MEPPPC, the Department in charge of SD issues is the Department for Sustainable Development.

The Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection was established in 2008, and holds quarterly sessions on various topics. It has an advisory role. The Council has 9 members including its President. They are appointed among scientists, experts, public and other employees, central state administration bodies and civil society organisations.

The Physical Planning Council of Croatia also has an advisory role in matters that affect the sustainable development of coastal areas, islands, cities and the landscape, especially relating to tourism, industry and infrastructure.

The Action Plan for setting up the necessary administrative capacities at national, regional and local level and required financial resources for implementing the European acquis has been adopted.

The financing of the Strategy is done out of the ministerial budget. Action Plans will be financed out of the budgets of other ministries depending on the respective key area and of the ministry appointed to be in charge of a specific sector.

4. Strengths and Weaknesses

Problems solved/tackled; new problems encountered

For the drafting of the NSSD the lack of expertise in some areas which are not under the scope of the work of the MEPPPC was overcome through the organisation/establishment of working groups.

Development of action plans represents a challenge, and they will be developed through workshops in a wider group of stakeholders. Work on the first one (Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production) has begun, and the first workshop for its drafting was held on 21-22 May 2009. A relevant Steering Committee was established, and members of the working group that is to draft the Plan are being nominated.

New challenges for sustainable development

Action Plans are to be developed in 2009 and this will require both raising awareness on SD issues and establishing a strong coordinating mechanism for their preparation. Workshops for drafting plans for each key area are planned during 2009, and work on these issues is beginning.

5. Selective Sources

European Commission (2007) (SEC(2007) 1431), Staff Working Document, Croatia 2007 Progress Report

European Commission (2007) (COM(2007) 663 Final), Communication, Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-2008

European Commission (2008) (SEC(2008) 2694), Staff Working Document, Croatia 2008 Progress Report

European Commission (2008) (COM(2008) 674), Communication, Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009

European Council Decision 2008/119/EC on the Principles, Priorities and Conditions Contained in the Accession Partnership with Croatia and Repealing Decision 2006/145/EC

European Sustainable Development Network Country Profiles:
[http://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country profiles](http://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country%20profiles)

Government sites:
<http://www.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=3967>
<http://www.vlada.hr/en>
<http://www.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=4716>
<http://www.uprava.hr>
<http://www.strategija.hr/Default.aspx?sec=2>

NSSD 2009 Review Annotated Questionnaire

UNDP (Millennium Development Goals):
http://www.undp.org/mdg/tracking_countryreports2.shtml

UNEP MAP (2000), Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire)

UNDESA (2002), Country Profiles: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>. and
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http://www.unece.org/env/epr/epr_studies/croatia.pdf
<http://www.unece.org>
<http://www.unep.org>

COUNTRY PROFILE: CYPRUS

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1. Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

In October 2007, the Council of Ministers approved the country's first National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD).

Currently, the Strategy is being revised, along with a process for the adoption of Sustainable Development Indicators is being prepared. This process is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Cyprus has incorporated the European Strategy for Sustainable Development within its own Strategy. The structure is also in line with the EU Strategy: chapters, broken down into the current situation, challenges, strategic objectives and actions.

The Strategy outlines the objectives and principles for sustainable development regarding energy, transport, sustainable consumption and production, protection of natural resources, and public health.

The main targets of the Cyprus NSSD:

- protection of the natural environment
- social justice and cohesion
- economic prosperity
- undertaking international responsibilities

The main challenges in achieving these targets include:

- reduction of impacts of climate change
- encouragement of sustainable transport systems
- encouragement of sustainable production and consumption
- improvement of the conservation and management of natural resources
- improvement of public health and protection against health threats and risks
- development of a society that is flexible to social integration, promotes solidarity among generations, and improves the quality of life of its citizens
- promotion of a global sustainable development model
- urban and rural development
- sustainable tourism
- education and training
- Research, Technology and Innovation

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

Strategy for the Implementation of a national plan for water resources, the implementation of a water quality monitoring programme and the enforcement of a water tax by 2010

Law on Water Protection and Management

Code of Practice for farmers regarding the use of recycled water

2008 Drought Mitigation and Response Plan- import of water; water restrictions; desalination

Climate change and energy

2004 Special Fund- levy on the consumption of electricity; financial incentives for energy conservation and the promotion of RES

Energy Savings Program 2006-2010

2006 Energy Efficiency of Buildings Law and Regulations

Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2010- 2020

National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocation Plan 2008-2012

2008 National Energy Efficiency Action Plan

2008 Project on prospects for cultivating a number of energy crops- completed

2009 National Biomass Action Plan- pending approval

Thematic Park on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency- to be established

Energy Centre (VEC)- expected to commence by 2013- with installations for LNG

Action Plan for Renewable Sources of Energy

Energy labelling of household appliances

Sustainable mobility

2005 Strategic Action Plan on street safety

Strategy for Reforming and upgrading the public transportation system

2007 incentives (excise duty, registration fees, penalties, subsidies for green vehicles)

2008 Introduction of a free-ride bus system for school children

2009 Introduction of Staggered working hours

Sustainable tourism

1990- present, Agrotourism scheme- conversion of traditional houses into lodgings;

Cyprus Agrotourism Company

Strategic Development Plan for Tourism 2003-2010- incentives for agrotourism

Promotion of quality and environmental systems/mechanisms (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, HACCP, OHSAS 18001, Green Globe, Green Key, EMAS)

Blue Flags Awards

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

Rural Development Plan 2007-2014- protection and enrichment of the environment;
 conservation of rural character and traditional agricultural landscapes
 Incentives to curb urbanization and maintain rural practices
 2008 (revised) Action Plan for Nitrate Vulnerable Areas

Sustainable urban development

National Reform Programme (Revised Lisbon Strategy- objectives: balanced spatial development; establishment of viable communities
 Establishment of viable communities: enhancement of cultural infrastructure; urban revival; programmes: basic Infrastructure on environment and energy, transport
 Integrated Urban Areas Revival Plans: rehabilitation of public spaces; restoration of buildings; provision for social services; development of businesses

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

2008 Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP)- to strengthen the integration of policies for conservation and sustainable development of coastal resources

Sustainable consumption and production

ECOLABEL

Green Procurement Action Plan 2007-2009

EMAS- incentives for organizations to participate

Grant Scheme for protection of environment from industrial pollution 2004- 2009- investment aid for the installation of pollution control systems

Collective management system for packaging waste (paper/cardboard, plastic, glass and metals)

Collective management system for batteries and accumulators

Conservation and management of natural resources

National plans for forest fires

Management plans for the "Natura 2000" network

2008 National Action Plan for Combating Desertification- completed

National Waste Management Reform Programme

Hazardous Waste Management Plan

Strategic Plan for the Management of Solid Waste

Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste

Public health

Strategic Health Plan 2007 - 2013

General Health Plan

Public Health Programmes on: Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Suicide, Drug abuse, Alcoholism, Smoking, Obesity, Environment and Health, Food Quality and Safety

National Programme on drinking water quality
 2004 Law on Protection and Water Management
 2007 National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants
 2007 National Strategic Noise Mapping; 2008 action plans to alleviate noise problems-
 pending approval
 2008 National Action Plan for Air Quality Improvement

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

Strategy for social protection and social inclusion 2006-2008
 General Social Insurance System- pensions; allowances
 Integrated and cohesive demographic policy- in preparation
 National Reform Program- Integration of vulnerable groups
 Center of Professional Reinstitution of Disabled
 Wide range policies for gender equity, employment, perception and attitudes
 Prevention of social exclusion of children policies
 Youth: Community Initiative «EQUAL» (Network for the Promotion of Juvenile
 Employment)
 Plans for persons with disabilities/ handicaps (e.g. self-employment, professional
 training, employment, motivation)
 Programme against drug use

Global poverty alleviation

Cyprus Policy for Developmental Cooperation
 The quantitative objective for Official Developmental Assistance is 0.33% of G.D.P. by
 2015

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

Strategic Development Plan 2007-2013

Its objectives include strengthening social cohesion and promotion of sustainable
 development. It is structures around 7 basic development axes:

- enhancement of economic competitiveness
- strengthening social cohesion
- improvement and protection of the environment
- improvement of the quality of life
- improvement of access, expansion and improvement of the basic infrastructure
- continuous development of the human workforce
- balanced spatial and rural development

National Strategic Reference Framework (Cohesion Strategy)

It has the following 5 thematic priorities:

- enhancement of the production basis of the economy and support of businesses
- human resources, employment, social cohesion
- infrastructure for the environment, transport and energy

- establishment of viable communities
- building a knowledge based society and promotion of innovation

National Programme for the Adoption of the Environmental Acquis Communautaire of the EU (NEP, 2000)

One of the NEP's main objectives is to achieve sustainable development. It focuses on introducing the environmental dimension into the economic and social policies, raising the standard of living and streamlining environmental legislation and policy with those of the EU. NEP lists the following priority areas for action:

- strengthening of policy
- protection of nature, landscape and wildlife
- water and soil protection and management
- protection of the atmosphere and the climate
- control of noise
- protection against radioactivity
- management of waste and chemical substances

2. Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration, Coherence and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Environmental impact assessment is implemented since 1991. A new law was introduced in 2001, amended in 2005.

Strategic Environmental Assessments are carried out for plans and programmes, based on a 2005 law.

Integration is pursued through a multitude of ad-hoc or institutional committees with a wide-ranging participation, including NGO's and citizen groups.

Regulatory and economic instruments

Most measures derive directly from the environmental policy and legislation of the EU, as well as from the international obligations of Cyprus.

Fiscal tools, strategic impact assessment, ecolabels and environmental management audit systems are progressively introduced.

The screening and re-examination of approved subsidy schemes is planned.

Decentralisation and Local level initiatives

A study is currently being carried out aimed at the restructuring and strengthening of local administration.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Cyprus very closely follows progress at the EU level, particularly in the context of the 6th EAP, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Cardiff processes.

Cyprus is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and to all major global environmental Conventions. .

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

In January 2007, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of a Committee for the preparation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD). The Committee worked with the participation of related authorities, non-governmental organizations and citizen groups.

All appropriate stakeholders, particularly NGOs and local authorities, are fully represented in all formal decision- making or advisory committees established under environmental laws.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Law on Public Access to Environmental Information (No. 119(I)/2004).

Since 2005 public participation in decision-making is formally provided for in the laws for waste management, water and air pollution control, IPPC, EIA and SEA.

In 2005, Cyprus adopted the European Strategy on Education of Sustainable Development

1990s European Programme "Ecological Schools"
National Strategic Action Plan for Environmental Education 2007-2012 - educational material and teaching methods; research; new technologies and media
Environmental Awareness campaigns
Establishment of a network of Environmental Education Centers

Partnerships

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)- a non-profit organization supported by the government, with a mission to develop, implement and manage the national research programmes.

Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Innovation 2008 (DESMI 2008, 2009-2010- includes the submission of proposals in the field of environmental technologies. Programmes: "Technology"; "Sustainable Development"; "Eureka Cyprus"; "Innovation" and "program of bilateral cooperation")

Indicators for sustainable development

Currently work is being carried out for the introduction of Sustainable Development Indicators.

Monitoring, reporting, review and evaluation

3. Coordination and Management System

The Council of Ministers has the overall responsibility for the formulation of environmental and sustainable development policies, which are coordinated through the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. For town and country planning issues, responsibility lies with the Minister of Interior.

The Planning Bureau is in charge of the preparation of the Strategic Development Plans for the balanced development of Cyprus. The Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance is the competent authority for the enforcement and administration of legislation on air quality, chemicals, health and safety at work, etc. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and the Ministry of Health are also partly responsible for managing a range of environmental issues.

The Environment Service advises on policy issues and coordinates relevant plans and programmes. It enforces a wide range of environmental laws. It also encourages environmental education and the dissemination of environmental information. This Service is, also, the National Focal Point for intergovernmental Organizations and the bulk of the global environmental Conventions.

The Service has coordinated the process for the preparation of the NSSD and oversees the reporting process.

Better cooperation between agencies involved in the environment, social and economic domains (the environmental management system, the physical planning system and the national development planning and control system) is ensured through the participation of their representatives in all the bodies and inter-ministerial committees established.

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UNEP/MAP (2001), Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region

COUNTRY PROFILE: EGYPT

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

"The Framework of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Methodology for developing its indicators" (for the purposes of this document is called the Strategy) is the main strategic framework for Sustainable Development in Egypt. The NSSD preparation process has not yet been concluded.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The sustainable development Vision Statement is for the rate of economic growth and national wealth to accelerate while reducing their pressure on the environment and natural resources, and ensuring fair distribution of wealth within the society.

Objectives and targets

- establishing a market economy
- connecting agricultural development with energy inputs and natural resources
- increasing the agricultural outputs reducing the usage of the environmental resources
- the effective contribution of economic sectors whilst reducing their impacts
- reducing air and water pollutants
- protecting biodiversity
- depending on the renewable resources in generating energy
- managing the renewable resources, particularly water, in a sustainable way
- equal distribution of the increased wealth of human society
- working on reducing the unemployment and poverty rates
- providing education, health care, social and other services to each Egyptian citizen
- eliminating social and economic gender inequality
- achieving urban development
- providing the citizen's needs from housing, services, and public utilities
- establishing a powerful and effective managerial agency

Principles:

- strategic planning
- preparation of the strategy on the basis of good technical analysis
- setting flexible and realistic goals for the policy
- the interrelationship between the budget and strategic priorities
- integrated policy between the different sectors
- good governance
- decentralization of authority and delegation
- raise awareness
- equal distribution between different generations
- social justice

- conservation of natural resources
- fining the polluters
- the users pay
- joint responsibilities
- prevention
- planning, urban development, and land use

Priority areas/ sectors and Themes comprising action programmes

- economy
- agriculture
- climate change
- sustainable tourism
- water quality
- air quality
- biodiversity
- renewable resources
- gender equality
- urban development
- housing

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

National plan for the protection of water resources from pollution 2001-2012
 National master plan for water and wastewater- under preparation
 2008 rural sanitation strategy

Climate change and energy

New energy strategy until 2030- being prepared
 Energy efficiency master plan and biofuels strategy- being prepared
 2001 National Energy Efficiency Strategy
 2008 Regional Centre for RES and energy efficiency for Middle East and North Africa
 2009 study on the assessment of climate impacts and adaptation- being prepared
 New Renewable Energy Authority
 Energy Efficiency Council
 Promotion of shift to Natural Gas

Sustainable mobility

2008 Multimodal transport and logistics system of the Eastern Mediterranean region and master plan in the Arab Republic of Egypt, with a view to establishing a long term national strategy over the next 20-25 years
 2008 Traffic law
 2008 Rail Safety and Risk Management Department

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

National Strategy until 2017
National Strategy on rural development- being prepared

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

1994 National ICZM Committee
1998 ICZM Plan for the Egyptian Red Sea Coastal Zone
Coastal zone management strategy- under preparation

Natural Resources

National solid waste Strategy- under preparation
National Strategy on Fisheries and Aquaculture up to 2030

Public health

1992 School Health Insurance Programme
1997 Health Sector Reform Programme
Women's Health Project.
National Maternal Mortality Surveillance System
Central Safe Motherhood Committee
National Child Survival Program
Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
Healthy Mother - Healthy Child

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

“Geographic Targeting” and “Supporting most Vulnerable Families” Programmes.
Ministry of Social Solidarity
2004 Poverty Reduction Strategy
The ‘Girls’ Initiative’ - to increase girls’ enrolment in schools
2000 National Council for Women
2008 withdrawal of 1 reservation to the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
Ombudsman’s office to receive complaints from women
The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
2008 new Child Law
National Plan to combat the worst forms of child labour
2008 Youth Employment National Action Plan
1983 Law on Emigration and Sponsoring Egyptians

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP, 2002-2017)

Currently being updated, NEAP aims to create an enabling environment conducive to sustain the development of Egypt by introducing a gender anchored, holistic, participatory environmental planning process. The strategy is to:-

- mobilize public support and participation
- generate and disseminate information
- build the capacities of institutions
- develop policy interventions and make strategic choices

The NEAP encompasses 14 priority areas, focusing on water quality, air quality, management of land resources, desertification, protection of the marine environment, solid waste management, biodiversity and biological safety.

Development & Reconstruction Map of Egypt up to 2017

It was prepared by the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities (MHUUC) in consultation with various Governmental, NGOs & the private sector. Sustainable development principles are integrated in various urban and regional strategies and policies.

The EU-Egypt Association Agreement

The Agreement came into force on June 2004. The ENP Action Plan between the EU and Egypt was adopted in March 2007. The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) was drafted under the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) with a National Indicative Programme for 2007-2010. Three main priority objectives have been set:

- political reform and good governance
- competitiveness and productivity of the economy
- socio-economic sustainability of the development process

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration, Coherence and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The mandate, roles, and organizational set-up of the National Committee for Sustainable Development, with membership from line ministries, the private sector and civil society organizations ensures streamlining sustainable development concerns into sector policies, and policy coordination.

Environment Units have been established in sector ministries and at the local government level.

The policy framework of the NSSD is carefully analysed to identify sustainable development relevant strategies, plans and programmes and integrate such national frameworks as:

- National Agenda 21
- National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- National Development Plans
- National Environmental Strategies and Action Plans
- National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans
- National Conservation Strategies
- National Forest Programmes and Action Plans
- National Communications for Climate Change
- Poverty Reduction Strategies
- Structural Adjustment Programmes
- National Action Plans to combat desertification

Regulatory and economic instruments

1994 Environmental Protection Law - polluters pay principle, EIA and environmental standards.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

The NSSD is applicable to both national and decentralized levels
 Protocols between EEAA and Ministry of Local Development to build the Environmental Management governorates
 Process to accelerate decentralisation throughout all government functions
 Governorate Environmental Action Plans

Relation to regional and global initiatives

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development was one of the key references in developing the Framework of the NSSD.

SMAP III- integrated coast management and policy mainstreaming and integration.

Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean: Egypt co-chairs with France the presidency of this initiative, one of its aims being sustainable development.

Arab League's Council of Environmental Arab Ministers.

Egyptian –European Partnership Agreement: the part related to Environment mainly aims at environment mainstreaming and working towards sustainable development for Egypt.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD) developed the Framework of the NSSD in June 2007 which was adopted by the Prime Minister in January 2008.

The process of preparing the strategy was lodged based on the above Framework.

The process of preparing the NSSD includes a wide range of stakeholders and is characterized by transparency. Among others, the Technical Committee of the National Committee has monthly meetings to discuss new issues and to present the documents of NSSD like the Vision, SDIs, and Orientation.

The National Committee's for Sustainable Development members come from line ministries, the private sector and civil society organizations.

The National Committee on Human Settlements includes representatives from various ministries, NGO's, the private sector, and universities.

The 1994 Environment Protection Law requires representation of NGOs on the board of the EEAA and provides the possibility for NGOs to take legal action in order to enforce environmental requirements.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

National Strategic Plan for the Reform of Pre-University Education 2007–2012
Higher Education Enhancement Plan 2008-2012
National Plan for Adult Literacy

Partnerships

The Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs supports partnerships on sustainable development with key relevant national entities, through protocols. e.g. protocol with the Ministry of Local Development to ensure that the Environmental Management Units at the governorate level are technically affiliated to the EEAA .

EU Water Initiative: Water for Life

Earth Observation for integrated water resources management in Africa TIGER-SHIP

Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter

Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility (EuroMed WPF)

Hydrogeology of Mediterranean wetlands (HYDROHUMED)

Local Environmental Planning and Management (EPM)

Mediterranean Renewable Energy Program (MEDREP)

National Capacities for up scaling Local Agenda 21 Demonstrations

Nile Basin Initiative

Partnership for Water Education & Research (PoWER)

Promoting Capacity building for Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable Biotechnology and Agriculture in Africa

The H2O (Hilltops-2-Oceans) Partnership: Working Together to Protect Coastal and Marine Environments
The Intersect HIV/Violence Against Women & Children Project
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all Initiative

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Reform R&D Strategy 2007-2012
Higher Council for Science and Technology
New Fund for Science and Technological Development
National Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Indicators for sustainable development

The Egyptian Environmental Information System (EEIS) and the Environmental Information and Monitoring Programme (EIMP) are in place.

An Annual Guide for Environmental Data and Indicators was initiated with Italian cooperation in 2005.

A study for Environmental Indicators for Egypt was undertaken with the Blue Plan/RAC to use them as a basis for Sustainable Development Indicators

Monitoring and review

In accordance to the principles of the Framework of the NSSD, this process must assess the sustainability of development in Egypt, allow for the sustainability analysis of the situation of human and environmental aspects, and evaluate strategies, plans, and other national and local programs related to sustainable development.

3. Coordination and Management System

The Cabinet of Ministers is the highest coordinating body.

A ministerial decree of 2006 established High and National Committees from all concerned Ministries and institutions.

The Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (ESEA) is the responsible authority for co-ordination of activities with private & public sectors and civil society for fulfilling the goals of sustainable development.

The National Committee for Sustainable Development headed by the state minister for environmental affairs and with membership of 30 line ministries and relevant parties in Egypt, was established in 2006. This Committee is the coordinating body, and is headed by the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs.

The Technical Committee for Sustainable Development is based in the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs.

Between them the first on a policy level and the second on a more technical, the above 2 Committees are inter alia responsible for the preparation and approval of the following:

- guidance for integrating the environment in the development and services sectors
- national Strategy for Sustainable Development
- plans to provide support to stakeholders
- promote and support decentralization
- legislative reforms
- adoption of appropriate methodologies for consultation
- dissemination of reports on achievements on sustainable development

At each Governorate, the structure includes the High Environmental Committee chaired by the Governor and the Governorate Environmental Management Unit which coordinates inputs from the local level with those from line ministries into the Governorate's General Environmental Action Plan.

Local committees are responsible for Agenda 21 Plans.

4. Strengths and Weaknesses

Key strengths

Key strengths include the political will and support in mainstreaming sustainable development within the sectoral policies and strategies as a top priority; and the presence of an appropriate national organizational set up.

Problems solved/tackled; new problems encountered

The main problems tackled and solved were the following:

Establishing a national organizational set up for follow up and policy coordination of the national strategy for sustainable development.

Raising awareness on sustainable development and ways to mainstream sustainable development in other strategies and policies.

Promoting and strengthening the involvement of stakeholders based on an effective participatory approach.

New problems encountered:

- raising the capacity building of stakeholders
- methodology of preparing indicators
- establishing sustainable development units in other agencies; developing key working groups; interaction and communication concerning sustainable development aspects

5. Selective Sources

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UNEP MAP (2000). Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire)

PROFILE: THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. Strategic Framework

Sustainable development is enshrined in the European Treaties: “The Union shall set itself the following objectives: to promote economic and social progress and a high level of employment and to achieve balanced and sustainable development [...]”.

The European Union Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) embodies this goal. It exists since 2001 and has been renewed in 2006. The renewed EU SDS was adopted in 2006.

At national level, EU Member States have their own national strategies on sustainable development.

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to sustainable development

As a follow-up to the Rio+5 programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and to the Cardiff European Council in June 1998, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy was adopted in June 2001, at Göteborg.

Following its review, the European Council adopted in June 2006 a renewed Sustainable Development Strategy. This document sets out a single, coherent strategy on delivery to long-standing commitments, reaffirms the need for global solidarity and recognises the importance of working with partners outside the EU.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The Strategy is guided by four key objectives:

- environmental protection
- social equity and cohesion
- economic prosperity
- meeting our international responsibilities

The policy guiding principles are :

- promotion and protection of fundamental rights
- solidarity within and between generations
- open and democratic society
- involvement of citizens
- involvement of businesses and social partners
- policy coherence and governance
- policy integration
- use best available knowledge
- precautionary principle
- make polluters pay

Seven key challenges have been targeted:

- limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment
- ensure that the transport systems meet society's economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts on the economy, society and the environment
- promote sustainable consumption and production patterns
- improve management and avoid overexploitation of natural resources, recognising the value of ecosystem services.
- promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats.
- create a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations and to secure and increase the quality of life of citizens as a precondition for lasting individual well-being.
- actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments

Overview of some strategic/ policy initiatives*Integrated water resource management*

2000 Water Framework Directive
 2002 European Union Water Initiative (E.U.W.I.)
 2007 Water Information System for Europe (W.I.S.E.)
 2007 Community Policy on Water Scarcity and Droughts
 2008 Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Climate change and energy

2006 Energy Efficiency Action Plan
 2008 Climate and Energy Package- has set ambitious targets for the EU
 2008 Key energy efficiency legislation on buildings
 2008 Key efficient energy-using products legislation
 2008 Sustainable consumption and production/sustainable industrial production (SCP/SIP) Action Plan
 2008 Second Strategic Energy Review- proposed
 2008 Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF)
 2009 Communication on a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen
 2009 Communication on mobilising information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve energy efficiency
 2009 White Paper, Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action 2009-2012, 2012+. Related working papers.
 2009 Amendment to the Directive on the EU Emission Trading System (ETS)
 2009 Directive on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
 2009 Directive on Renewable Energy Sources

EU Member States (e.g. France, Spain) have already prepared their own National Adaptation Strategies. The others are in the process of preparing them.

<i>Sustainable mobility</i>

2007 Green Paper on Urban Mobility
 2007 Regulations (Euro 5 and 6) setting stricter standards for vehicles
 2007 Railway liberalisation package
 2007 Legal framework for public transport services
 2008 Green Transport Package
 2008 Communication on internalisation of external costs
 2008 Communication on abatement of noise from railways
 2008 Action Plan for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems
 2009 Maritime Safety Package and Maritime Transport Strategy until 2018
 2009 Renewable Energy Directive- included sustainability criteria for biofuels
 2009 Fuel Quality Directive- included sustainability criteria for biofuels
 2009 Regulation setting binding targets for CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars
 2009 Directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles
 2009 Communication on an integrated, technology-led and user friendly transport system

<i>Sustainable consumption and production</i>

1996 Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive- to be further strengthened with the proposal of a Directive on Industrial Emissions
 2004 EU Environmental Technologies Action Plan
 2005 Eco-design aspects of the Energy Using Products Directive
 2008 The Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy (SCP/SIP) Action Plan
 2008 Communication on public procurement for a better environment- proposes a voluntary 50% GPP target for Member States to be reached as from 2010
 2008 Revised Environmental State Aid Guidelines- provide a 10% bonus on maximum aid intensity on eco-innovation investments
 2008 New European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) begun operations
 2009 Directive on the Promotion of Clean and Energy Efficient Road Transport Vehicles - adopted by the Council

<i>Conservation and management of natural resources</i>

Ongoing implementation of the Birds (1979) and Habitats (1992) directives
 1998 Biodiversity Strategy and (2006) Action Plan
 2003 Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Initiative
 2006 New European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013
 2008 Regulation and Communication to protect global forests
 2009 Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
 2007 Integrated Maritime Policy- sectoral policy initiatives in the maritime sphere
 2008 Marine Strategy Framework Directive
 2005 Thematic Strategy on waste
 2008 Revised Waste Framework Directive
 2008 EU Raw Materials Initiative
 2008 EU Strategy for better ship dismantling – proposed

2008 Green Paper on the management of bio-waste

Public health

Policy initiatives on HIV/AIDS (2004), mental health (2006), alcohol (2006), obesity (2007), and tobacco (2007)
 2007 EU Health Strategy
 2008 Action Plan implementing the new Animal Health Strategy 2007-13
 2009 New legislative framework on the sustainable use of pesticides agreed
 2009 Youth Health Initiative

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

2006 New Council framework for social protection and social inclusion
 2006 New Roadmap 2006-10 for equality between women and men
 2006 Communication addressing the demographic future of Europe
 2008 Commission Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market
 2009 Commission's Ageing Report
 Action Plan on Ageing Well in the Information Society- Action Programme for Research in Ambient Assisted Living (AAL)
 2009 'EU Blue Card' for highly qualified migrants
 2009 "Return Directive" and a Directive providing for sanctions against employers of illegally-staying third-country nationals
 2008 Communication on a Common Immigration Policy for Europe
 2009 European Pact on Immigration and Asylum

Global poverty alleviation

The 2005 "European Consensus on Development" puts eradication of poverty at the centre of EU development policy. The EU is the largest donor in the world and its EU Africa Strategy gives priority to cooperation with Africa (Joint EU-Africa Strategy 2007). The EU is also very active in the Mediterranean through its neighbourhood policy.

On the volume of aid, it is still possible to achieve the intermediate target of 0.56% in 2010 moving towards the MDG target of 0.7% of GNI by 2015. However, it is clear that significant further efforts are needed to achieve the goal.

Two more recent developments are,

2008 Strategic European Framework for International Science and Technology Cooperation
 2009 Communication on an EU strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries

1.3 Other SD-relevant Frameworks and Linkages

The **Lisbon Strategy** is a commitment to bring about economic, social and environmental renewal in the EU. In March 2000, the European Council in Lisbon set out this ten-year strategy to make the EU the world's most dynamic and competitive economy. Under the strategy, a stronger economy will drive job creation alongside social and environmental policies that ensure sustainable development and social inclusion.

The Lisbon Strategy was simplified and re-launched in 2005. It has now a streamlined and simplified process with only two headline targets: investment of 3% of Europe's GDP in research and development by 2010 and an employment rate of 70% by the same date. The Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon Strategy are mutually reinforcing. However, they focus on different actions and have different time frames.

The **6th Environment Action Programme** (EAP) supports the environmental pillar of the SDS. It sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period 2002-2012 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them. The 6th EAP identifies four priority areas: Climate change; Nature and biodiversity; Environment and health; Natural resources and waste. Under the EAP, seven thematic strategies on environmental problems requiring a broad approach were initiated and subsequently adopted, on soil protection, protection and conservation of the marine environment, air pollution, waste recycling, urban environment, sustainable use and management of resources and sustainable use of pesticides.

The **Environment Policy Review** conducted by the European Commission highlights the most important environmental policies on EU level and in the Member States.

For the Mediterranean region a major policy initiative was agreed by the November 2005 Summit of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The EU Member States and their 10 partner countries in the Mediterranean agreed on the Horizon 2020 initiative aimed at improving the environment of the Mediterranean by 2020.

Other related frameworks are also,

The EU Better Regulation Agenda- simplification of EU legislation; reduction of administrative burden; impact assessment of new legislation or policy proposals
 The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development for the period of 2007-2013 (FP7)
 2008 EU renewed Social Agenda- announced the development of well-being objectives "beyond GDP"
 2008 The EU Employment Guidelines- part of the European Employment Strategy
 2008 Green Transport Package
 2009 Maritime Safety Package and Maritime Transport Strategy until 2018
 2008 The Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy (SCP/SIP) Action Plan
 2007 Community Policy on Water Scarcity and Droughts
 2007 Integrated Maritime Policy- sectoral policy initiatives in the maritime sphere
 2009 Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy
 2009 Communication on an EU strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries
 2008 Strategic European Framework for International Science and Technology Cooperation
 2008 Updated Strategic Framework for European cooperation in education and training
 2009 Communication on GDP and Beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Environmental integration means making sure that environmental concerns are fully considered in the decisions and activities of other sectors. Since 1997, it is a requirement under the EC Treaty. Article 6 of the Treaty states that "environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies [...] in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development".

The importance of integration is reaffirmed in the Sixth Environment Action Programme which stipulates that "integration of environmental concerns into other policies must be deepened" in order to move towards sustainable development.

The EU Cohesion policy applies the sustainable development principles of both 'Involvement of citizens' and 'Policy coherence and governance', by including all stakeholders at all levels of government, as well as promoting coherent policy making across different sectors.

Regulatory and economic instruments

In relation to the implementation of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, the Commission has introduced a system of integrated impact assessment for all major policy proposals. This approach provides information on the tradeoffs between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to inform decisions. By allowing a full appraisal of the potential economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of all major Commission proposals and measures, it helps promote social and environmental integration. Impact assessments have been strengthened since 2006 by creation of an independent Impact Assessment Board, composed by 5 senior Commission officials, who scrutinise and issue opinions on the quality of Impact Assessment Reports.

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy promotes the use of economic instruments in the implementation of its policies, such as environmental taxes, tradable permit systems, targeted subsidies. They are a cost-effective way to protect and improve the environment. They provide incentives to firms and consumers to opt for greener production or products.

The Commission has been mainstreaming the progressive removal of environmentally harmful subsidies into its sectoral policies, e.g. through the reform of fisheries policy and as part of the CAP health check.

The Commission has also adopted new State aid guidelines on environmental protection, which will strike a balance between delivering larger environmental benefits and minimising distortion of competition, thus helping Member States to introduce the right policy instruments and finance eco-innovation.

The Commission submitted in 2007 the Green Paper on market-based instruments (MBI) which explores options for the more intensive use of MBI in various important

areas of environmental and energy policy at both Community and national levels. Subjects covered include: possible ways forward with the Energy Taxation Directive in view of its announced review; water pricing; sustainable waste management; Habitat banking to protect biodiversity; trading instruments to reduce local air pollution; instruments to reduce the environmental impact of transport; experiences with Environmental Tax Reforms in several Member States.

There are many instruments, both regulatory and economic, applied by the EU and Member States. Just one example is the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), the first international trading system for CO₂ emissions. e of the EU's strategy for fighting climate change.

2.2 Stakeholders involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The renewed EU SDS was prepared following a fully transparent and participatory review launched by the Commission and on the basis of contributions from the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and others.

Citizen input (including NGOs) represents a constructive and critical voice on delivery and implementation. Local Agenda 21 and the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign serve as examples.

European Corporate Leaders Group and the European Alliance for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Local and regional governments, NGOs, business, trade unions and the civil society have a major role in EU SDS implementation. The details of their involvement are described in para 26-32 of the EU SDS.

Indicators for sustainable development

A comprehensive set of sustainable development indicators was adopted by the Commission in 2005 and further reviewed in 2007 in order to adjust to the SDS. Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) are used to monitor the EU SDS in a report published by Eurostat every two years. The SDI framework is based on ten themes, reflecting the seven key challenges of the strategy, as well as the key objective of economic prosperity, and guiding principles related to good governance. The themes follow a general gradient from the economic, to the social, and then to the environmental and institutional dimensions. They are further divided into sub-themes to organise the set in a way that reflects the operational objectives and actions of the sustainable development strategy

Eurostat has in 2007 published its first monitoring report based on an extended set of EU Sustainable Development Indicators. This report was one of the inputs for the first progress report on the Sustainable Development Strategy. The new Eurostat indicator report is expected to be published in autumn 2009.

The headline SD Indicators are:

Economic development

Growth rate of GDP per capita

Investment; Competitiveness; Employment

Poverty and social exclusion

At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers

Monetary poverty; Access to labour markets; Other aspects of social exclusion

Ageing society

Current and projected old age dependency ratio

Pensions adequacy; Demographic changes; Public finance stability

Public health

Healthy life years at birth, by gender

Human health protection and lifestyles; Food safety and quality; Chemicals management; Health risks due to environmental conditions

Climate change and energy

Total greenhouse gas emissions; Gross inland energy consumption, by fuel

Climate Change; Energy

Production and consumption patterns

Domestic material consumption

Eco-efficiency; Consumption patterns; Agriculture; Corporate responsibility

Management of natural resources

Population trends of farmland birds; Fish catches outside safe biological limits

Biodiversity (under development); Marine ecosystems; Fresh water resources; Land use

Transport

Total energy consumption of transport

Transport growth; Transport prices (under development); Social and environmental impact of transport

Good governance

Level of citizens' confidence in EU institutions

Policy coherence; Policy participation

Global partnership

Official Development Assistance

Globalisation of trade; Financing for sustainable development; Resource management

Monitoring and review

Progress in the implementation of the EU SDS is assessed by the European Commission every two years. The first progress report was adopted in October 2007: According to the report, there have been significant policy developments in some of the seven key priorities identified in the revised SDS of 2006 - including climate and energy - but progress on policy has not yet translated into substantial concrete action. According to the second progress report (July 2009) despite considerable efforts to include action

for sustainable development in major EU policy areas, unsustainable trends persist and the EU still needs to intensify its efforts.

3. Selective Sources²

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The first progress report was adopted in October 2007:

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/com_2007_642_en.pdf. It is complemented by a detailed staff working paper:

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/sec_2007_1416_en.pdf.

The second progress report was made public in July 2009:

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/com_2009_400_en.pdf

Lisbon Strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/index_en.htm

The 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP):

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm>

The (annual) Environment Policy Reviews- latest for 2008:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policyreview.htm>

Detailed information about environmental integration are given at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/integration.htm>

At national level, EU Member States have their own national strategies on sustainable development. They can be found at: <http://www.esdn.eu/?k=country%20profiles>

Green Paper on market-based instruments:

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/whats_new/COM\(2007\)140_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/whats_new/COM(2007)140_en.pdf)

Updated Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) are available at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1998,66119021,1998_66292168&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

[Http://Www.Consilium.Europa.Eu/](http://Www.Consilium.Europa.Eu/)

[Http://Europa.Eu.Int/Comm/Sustainable/](http://Europa.Eu.Int/Comm/Sustainable/)

² More sources in Annex III.

COUNTRY PROFILE: FRANCE

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

The French NSSD for 2003-2008 was adopted in 2003 by the French Government and revised in 2006 ('La Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable 2003-2008 actualisée' (2006) which brought it in line with the EU SDS.

The NSSD established a framework for Government initiatives in the field of sustainable development and in all other policy fields. It constituted the action plan of the Environmental Charter (2004) included in France's Constitution.

A new NSSD is currently under preparation for the time-period 2009-2012. The February 2009 version of the draft new NSSD has as its objective to provide a framework for reference and guidance for all public and private actors, in line with the European and international commitments of France.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The NSSD 2003-2008

The Strategy is expressed along three lines: strategic objectives and instruments, action programmes and "flagship" sustainable development indicators. It lists seven **major challenges**:

- climate change and clean energy
- sustainable transport
- sustainable manufacturing and consumer activity
- natural resource preservation and management
- public health, prevention and risk management
- social inclusion, demographics and immigration
- poverty in the world and international challenges in the field of sustainable development

In addition, there are 2 cross-cutting challenges:

- education and training
- research and development

The 10 **action programmes** are as follows:

- the social and health dimensions of sustainable development
- the citizen as an actor of sustainable development
- devolved administrations
- economic activity, companies and consumers
- climate change and energy
- transport
- agriculture and fishing

- preventing risks, pollution and other threats to health and the environment
- working towards an exemplary state
- international action

The strategy addresses six **themes/objectives** in their relation to sustainable development:

- the Citizen's role (information, education awareness and participation)
- land management
- economic activities, enterprises and consumers
- sustained energy, transport and agriculture sectors
- prevention of risk and pollutions and other stresses on human health and environment
- public administration (sustainable State)
- international action

The (draft) National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSSD) 2009-2012

This is also organized into 9 key challenges, consistent with the architecture of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS):

- climate change and clean energy
- transport and sustainable mobility
- sustainable consumption and production
- conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources
- public health, prevention and risk management
- social inclusion, demography and migration
- challenges for sustainable development and poverty in the world
- knowledge society
 - education and training
 - Research and Development
- governance and territories

A simple and structured plan is proposed for each challenge, including 4 parts:

- the national and international context and challenges to long-term realization of key operational objectives
- a range of strategic choices
- a non-exhaustive list of the main levers of action
- milestones and consultation

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

Climate Plan 2004-2012

National Emissions allowance trading plan (PNAQ) 2005-2007/ 2008-2012

The "*Grenelle I*" bill- awaiting second reading approval by the National Assembly- institutionalizes commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2050,

compared to 1990 levels

2006 National Strategy on adaptation to the consequences of climate change- 43 recommendations in a wide range of horizontal (e.g. developing knowledge; observation; information) and vertical (e.g. water; health; biodiversity; the coast and seas) areas

2006 new "renewable heat" plan

2006 "flexfuel" vehicles charter

Fiscal measures to achieve the 2010 objectives on RE

Biofuels Plan 2003-2010 with fiscal and regulatory measures

Energy-saving schemes: tax credits; energy saving certificates; labelling; thermal regulations

Sustainable mobility

2007 Transport, Planning and Greenhouse gases Plan

Public funding of non-road infrastructures- emphasis on high speed rail and river transport

Sustainable Transport Policy

Fiscal and regulatory framework for promoting bio-fuels

Linking the costs of vehicle registration to CO2 emissions

Credits for purchase of clean vehicles

Public bicycle rental systems in several cities

Government procurement of vehicles with stringent speed control system

Sustainable consumption and production

Law on new economic regulations (NRE)- stock exchange-listed companies include social and environmental information in their annual reports

2004, 2006 public contracts code- green purchasing

2005 Law setting up a credible guarantee

Public Agencies eco-responsible approach in their activities

Promotion of eco-labelling

National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement 2007-2009

Conservation and management of natural resources

2004 National biodiversity strategy (FNB)

2004 Action Plan for the protection and sustainable management of tropical forests

French Natura 2000 sites network

2005 Law on rural area development- fiscal measures for Nature 2000

National action plan to protect coral reefs 2006-2010

2006 Sector/territory biodiversity action plans

2006 Ministerial forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sustainable development strategy and action plans

2009 Plan for Sustainable and Responsible Fishing- being developed

2004 Waste prevention plan

2006 National plan to support domestic composting

<i>Public health</i>

2003 National Noise pollution plan
 2005 Healthy workplace plan
 2005 National heat wave plan
 2005 National suicide prevention programme
 National health-environment plan (PNSE) 2004-2009
 2007 IPPC action plan to prevent pollution on industrial sites
 2007 CAP conditionality measures
 National health nutrition programme 2006-2010
 2009 National Health and Environment Action Plan for 2009-2013- to be adopted

<i>Social Inclusion, demography and migration</i>

2005 Social cohesion plan
 2005 Law on equal rights and opportunities
 Strategy for social protection and social inclusion 2006-2008
 National Agency for social cohesion and equal opportunities
 National Joint Action plan for seniors' employment 2006-2010
 2004 Higher Authority for the fight against discrimination and in favour of equal opportunities (HALDE)
 Integration policy for migrants and their families
 2005 National Agency for the welcome of foreigners and migrants (ANAEM)

<i>Global poverty alleviation</i>

France participates in the EU Initiatives "Water for life", "Energy for poverty eradication and sustainable development", and in a wide range of multilateral and bilateral initiatives/ activities, including for the MDGs.

0,47% ODA of GNI

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

2004 National Biodiversity Strategy
 2004 National Plan Health and Environment
 National Plan for the Climate -under preparation

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Since March 2005, SD is included in the French Constitution with the adoption of the Environmental Charter. This guarantees stronger efforts of including SD in the work of all public institutions.

Each Minister nominated one or more senior civil servants who are responsible for sustainable development issues.

Establishment in 2007 of the new Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (MEEDDAT) with the highest rank inside the Government hierarchy.

The coherence of actions of all ministries, as outlined in the NSSD for 2003-08, is monitored by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development (ICSD).

The NSSD attempts to establish a linkage to the planning and/or budgeting system and integrate institutional law to the finance laws in a system described as *la loi organique sur les lois de finances* (LOLF).

The updated NSSD covers: experimentation by 2 Ministries (Interior and Spatial Planning; Agriculture and Fisheries) of the preparation of ministerial strategies coherent with the NSSD; feeding down objectives into devolved sustainable development strategies developed by regional Prefects; the regional implementation of a mechanism for recognising "Agenda 21" type devolved projects; etc.

Regulatory and economic instruments

The Constitutional law on the Environmental Charter adopted in 2005 introduced explicit reference to sustainable development. Article 6 in particular specifies that "public policies must promote sustainable development. To this end, they reconcile protection and enhancement of the environment, economic development and social progress".

Ecological taxation has been developed since 2002. Many taxes, levies and credits cover such issues as car registration; energy saving; CO2 trading; company vehicles; renewable energies; income tax, noisy planes; buildings; undeveloped land; waste collection; the amortisation of environmentally favourable investments, etc.

New instruments will be created:

- for compensation banks to improve mechanisms for biodiversity damage
- encouraging economic players to reduce damage to the environment
- a "domestic projects" procedure to publicize environmentally friendly national products

Guidelines to include the key challenges of sustainable development in company management and strategy (documentary booklet AFNOR SD 21000).

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

A new national approach to "Shared Governance" («gouvernance partagée») has been adopted.

A "National Agenda 21 Network" was established. Local Agendas 21 are encouraged, based on a "framework of reference for territorial sustainable development projects". There are 14 regional Agenda 21 initiatives, appr. 500 Local Agendas 21 and the goal is for 800 Local agendas 21 by 2012.

Contracts between the State and the Regions or other local authorities (contrats pays) for the integration of sustainable development concerns.

State strategic action plans with SD objectives were prepared for each of the 26 regions.

'State-territory intervention programme' (CPER)- contracts between the national level and the local authorities.

An important work currently in progress will provide evaluation guidelines (methodology and indicators) suitable for every local or regional SD strategy.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

The Strategies are directly related to regional (Mediterranean, European) and global (UNCSD) initiatives and processes.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

A full participatory process had been used in the preparation of the NSSD 2003-2008. France included the regional authorities and civil society in the development of the NSSD.

The "*Grenelle*" stakeholder consultation process was launched in the summer of 2007 and brought together over 300 participants from local authorities, non-governmental organisations, businesses, trade-unions and central government. The process was translated into a ministerial and administrative structural reform, and triggered the beginning of the systematic integration of environmental issues into policy-making.

The "*Grenelle I*" bill- awaiting second reading approval by the National Assembly- institutionalises the stakeholder consultation process as a permanent tool for monitoring implementation of the commitments made and providing input for future policy developments.

In terms of *ad hoc* stakeholder involvement, all ministries have been asked to identify, organise and prioritise lines of action, and in doing so, have been encouraged to use open dialogue and to work together with all stakeholders in civil society.

The Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development coordinates the new NSSD preparation process. A country-wide stakeholder consultation process called 'grenelle environnement' was organised. More than 800 stakeholder representatives, including representatives from the sub-national levels, participated regularly in 33 working groups. The results of the working groups (268 commitments) were used in the revision process, expected to be completed during 2009.

The representatives from the sub-national levels were also involved in the follow-up committee "comité de suivi du Grenelle de l'environnement".

The process is also supported by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSDD, 90 politically elected representatives, NGO's, employers associations, enterprises, labour unions, the media and scientists. The Council issued recommendations for the future development of the NSSD, including the desire to highlight a stronger strategic direction.

The involvement of State, public institutions, local authorities, the public, businesses, associations and employees, in consultation, development and evaluation of sustainable development projects is facilitated.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

The right to information on the environment is a new Constitutional right (Article 7 of the Environmental Charter).

Major media campaigns are supported through a tax credit in favour of energy-saving and renewable energies and through an increase in the subsidy paid on clean cars.

Regulations for public television and radio have, since 2006, required them to take the environment and sustainable development into account in their programming.

"Heading for Success" networks

"Info-energy points" at local authorities and associations

Local authority training plans (PAF) for teachers

2007 "Common foundation of knowledge and skills" Programme

2007 3-year plan for education in sustainable development (EDD)

Partnerships

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

National Research Agency

2005 Industrial Innovation Agency (AII)

Research Council on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Federal Institute for Environmental Research and Monitoring

Indicators for sustainable development

In the revised French NSSD from 2006, a set of twelve headline indicators ('Douze indicateurs "phares" de développement durable') was introduced. Likewise to the priorities outlined in the NSSD, also the indicators are closely linked to those on the EU. Additional indicators are specified in the 2nd part of the Strategy, 'Programmes d'actions' (programmes of action).

Monitoring and review

France was the first EU Member State that organized in 2005 a peer review process to evaluate the implementation of the NSSD with the inclusion of four peer countries (Belgium, Ghana, Mauritius and the UK).

Every year, a report on progress in the implementation of the NSSD is addressed to the Parliament. The report is based on the set of SD indicators and reports drawn up by each Ministry, under the coordination of the Inter- Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development.

The latest report was issued in 2008, including a review how SD issues were included in each national ministry.

According to the draft new NSSD, the production of annual reports on implementation communicated to Parliament and to the National Sustainable Development Council will continue. A report will also be sent every 2 years to the services of the European Commission.

The French Institute of the Environment (IFEN, 1991) coordinates the collection, processing and dissemination of environmental data and information.

3. Coordination and Management System

The government's policy on sustainable development is based on the work of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development (ICS) chaired by the Prime Minister. The ICS is responsible for the definition, coordination and follow-up of the Government's sustainable development policy. It adopted the NSSD and is responsible for its implementation and regular update.

The ICS is supported by the Permanent Committee on Sustainable Development involving Senior Civil Servants designated in each Ministry to make proposals (e.g. on how to integrate sustainable development concerns into sector policies); give impulse and coordinate the preparation of action plans in each Ministry; and monitor the implementation of the Strategy in the Directorates and at a decentralized level.

In 2004, the post of Inter- Ministerial Delegate was created in order to lead and coordinate the actions of the administration on behalf of the Prime Minister in promoting sustainable development.

At the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the High Civil Servant in charge of Sustainable Development is the Deputy Ambassador to the Environment. He/ she is responsible for coordinating all monitoring and updating activities in connection with the Strategy, particularly the action to counter poverty and inequalities and address international challenges in the field of sustainable development.

The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCS) was established in 2003. It is the governmental interface for the integration of civil society and local authority proposals.

The Council is an independent consultative body under the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. The Council is comprised of 90 members divided into 4 colleges. It involves personalities from partner organisations (representatives from politically elected representatives, NGO's, employers associations, enterprises, labour unions, the media and scientists). The NCS provides advice and submits proposals to

the Government for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the sustainable development policy. The NCS is placed under the authority of the Prime Minister.

A new Council is expected to succeed the current one in 2009 as a follow up to the 'grenelle de l'environnement' process.

Since 2003, the regional Prefects have been responsible for the implementation of the NSSD at regional and county level in cooperation with local authorities.

4. Strengths and weaknesses of the latest version of the NSSD

Strengths

- inclusion of sustainable development and its driving principles in the constitution
- sustainable development is taken into consideration in every dimension of government policy
- an appropriate administrative organisation
- contribution to international governance and strong involvement at european level
- reinforcement of education on sustainable development and raising awareness amongst the public

Weaknesses

- preparation carried out too quickly on certain issues to achieve sufficient consultation
- lack of debate at Parliamentary endorsement
- coordination with state reform, taxation and public spending, needs improvement
- strategy limited to the state without explicit reference to undertakings made by local authorities and economic and social actors
- on the basis of state indicators tangible results are still insufficient
- difficulties in accompanying the globalisation of the economy
- The NSSD's continuity is not legally guaranteed, making it vulnerable to changes in government

5. Selective Sources

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[Http://Www.Ecologie.Gouv.Fr/](http://www.Ecologie.Gouv.Fr/)

[Http://Www1.Environment.Gouv.Fr/](http://www1.Environment.Gouv.Fr/)

COUNTRY PROFILE: GREECE

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

The National Strategy towards Sustainable Development 2003-2010 (NSSD) was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2002.

The Strategy is implemented through an overall Operational Programme for sustainable development that is made of Sector (environment, competitiveness, transport, agriculture and rural development, education and labour) and Regional Operational Programmes.

Currently, the "Revised National Strategy towards Sustainable Development- Greece" is under adoption. The revision encompasses the priorities of the 2006 Renewed EU SDS, plus four additional chapters on matters of national priority: culture, tourism, agriculture and physical planning.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The NSSD covers all three dimensions of SD. Its directions for the future **focus** on:

- support to entrepreneurship and competitiveness and the rational use of natural and man made resources
- poverty alleviation and support to social cohesion and solidarity
- protection and management of natural resources and addressing pressures from human activities

The Strategy is founded on general principles (Precautionary, Polluter pays, Equity and Shared Responsibility) and specific principles (Decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation; Sector integration; Emphasis on prevention and management rather than remediation and investment; Identification and management of carrying capacity as a basis for policies.)

The main changes brought in by the renewed NSSD are:

- the inclusion of a stronger social chapter, including migration
- additional chapters on global poverty and global challenges
- additional chapters on other national challenges (culture; strengthened chapter on spatial policies- sub-chapter on urban environment)

The following 'priority issues' were classified as top-level goals:

- reduction of environmental pressures
- promotion of social solidarity policies
- integration of the environmental dimension in sectoral policies
- horizontal actions
- international actions

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

2003 Law on the Protection and the sustainable management of the water resources- National Water Council; Central Water Agency; 13 Regional Water Directorates
Water resources management plans for 14 Water Regions
2008 National Programme for the Management and Protection of Water Resources- pending approval

Climate change and energy

1995 National Strategy and Programme for Climate Change- recently revised
National Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Programme 2000-2010
National Allocation Plans for Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowances 2005- 2007/ 2008-2012
Bureau for GHG Emissions Trading
Registry of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and Savings
2008 Special Framework Plan for Renewable Energy Sources
Special Framework for the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development for the Renewable Energy Sources
2006 Energy Law- economic incentives, simplified permitting system for cogeneration, RES and energy savings
Annual Biofuel Allocation Programmes
Gas distribution infrastructure

Sustainable mobility

Strategy and Action Plan for Road Safety (2006- 2010)
Strategic Action Plan for rail (Structural Funds)

Sustainable agricultural and rural development

2001, 2004 Code of Good Agricultural Practices
National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
2009 Spatial Plan for Mountainous areas- in public consultation

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

1999 Law on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development
2002 Special Framework of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development for the Coastal Areas and Action Plan
2009 Spatial Plan for coastal areas and the islands - in public consultation

Sustainable consumption and production

Environmental Management Systems - EMAS/ ISO 14001

European EcoLabel Award
 National Action Plan on Green Public Procurement – being drawn up
 Strategic Plan for the Development of Research, Technology and Innovation

Conservation and management of natural resources

Operational Programme for the Environment 2007-2013
 Thematic Strategy for Forests and Mountainous Ecosystems- scheduled.
 National System for the Management of Protected Areas
 2008 Assessment of the conservation status of habitat types and species of Community Interest
 2009 Draft National Biodiversity Strategy- in public consultation
 Decree regarding labelling of GMOs; ban of GMOs intended for human use
 2001 Collective Alternative Management of Waste Scheme- recycling packaging waste
 2003 National Plan for the Management of Non-Hazardous Waste
 2007 National plan for the management of hazardous waste
 National Solid Waste Management Plan

Public health

Urban Health Centres
 Ombudsman for Health and Social Solidarity
 Improvement of mental health system - studied
 Social Cooperatives to reemploy and reintegrate mentally ill persons
 Noise Pollution Action Plans – at municipalities

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

Manual on Greece's approach to poverty reduction, gender equality and the environment
 Institute for Social Protection and Solidarity
 2004 Ombudsman for Health and Social Solidarity
 National Strategy on Social Protection and Inclusion 2006-2008
 2007 Immigration law

Global poverty alleviation

Lead Country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)
 0.16% ODA of GNI

1.3 Other SD-relevant Frameworks and Linkages

National Reform Programme 2005-2008 on the EU Lisbon Strategy- main purpose to enhance employment, growth and social cohesion
 2008 General Framework for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development
 2008 Special Framework Plan for Renewable Energy Sources
 2009 Special Framework Plan for Industry
 2009 Special Framework Plan for Tourism
 National Strategy for Biodiversity
 Operational Program for the Environment

National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
 National Action Programme for GGE Reduction and Climate Change Abatement Strategy
 National Strategy for Water Resources Protection and Management
 National and Regional Planning for solid waste management

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Integration of sustainable development concern into sector policies is pursued through national integrated policies for regional development; strategic physical planning; urban development; land policy; etc, which provide guidelines for integration and coordination.

SD concerns are also addressed in Management Plans for the protection of National Parks, wetlands, Marine Parks, coasts and monuments of nature, and sensitive areas.

Environmental concerns have been integrated into the Operational Programmes on Transport, Energy and Industry.

Regulatory and economic instruments

The Council of State (High Court) has played a positive role in defining the content of framework environmental legislation and providing a practical interpretation of the term sustainable development in case law. The legal base of the Operational Environmental Program of Greece is the Law for the Protection of the Environment, the EC environmental regulations and directives, and obligations with respect to international environmental agreements and conventions.

Other significant laws are: Law on Spatial Planning and sustainable development (1999); Law on Economic Development Incentives (1998); Law on Sustainable development of towns and settlements (1997).

The strengthening of the National Environmental Inspectorate and the completion of Greece's National Cadastre are seen as important to enforce environmental legislation.

EIA and SIA are applied and are recognized as integration tools.

NSSD recognizes the importance of economic instruments (particularly incentives and emissions trading). The utilization of economic instruments in specific sectors (water, waste management, air quality, natural resources management) is encouraged. Costs internalisation and pricing, and incentives emission trading in the context of Kyoto implementation are considered as important tools. Concerning the private sector, the development of eco labelling scheme, EMAS, ISO 14001, cleaner production and green plans are encouraged.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

In a context of administrative devolution and decentralisation, the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works has supported projects for the implementation of local Agendas 21 in several municipalities.

The reporting cycle of the revised NSSD will include provisions for sub-national levels to report on their implementation efforts. Through this, a stronger link between national objectives and sub-national activities should be established.

Relation to with regional and global initiatives

Networking and interregional cooperation based on complementarity are considered important, particularly linkages within the European, Balkan and Mediterranean space. Greece is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols.

Greece is a member of the European Union
OECD - DAC, joined by Greece in 1999
The Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA)
Adriatic Ionian Initiative (All)
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The 2002 NSSD was prepared under the leadership of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (MEPPPW), assisted by the Hellenic National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

The Centre drew up the Strategy in collaboration with the Coordination Committee of the Government Policy in Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, which includes representatives from competent Ministries. Local Authorities, employer and trade unions, research institutes and NGOs also participated in the preparation procedure, directly through thematic working groups or through participation in wider workshops.

The revision of the NSSD also lies within the overall responsibility of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

Prior to the preparation of the Revised Strategy's first draft, an open invitation was uploaded on the MEPPPW website to all groups and entities to be involved in a dialogue process, in the context of a public consultation. Representatives of local authorities participated in general or thematic workshops. Sub-national levels were invited to submit ideas for the new NSSD.

The first draft of the Revised Strategy has taken into account the proposals submitted by Ministries and the results of the consultation procedure, the general Government planning as well as the sectoral priorities and strategies.

The second round of the public consultation followed and the new version of the text takes into account views and comments expressed.

Greece ratified the Aarhus Convention in 2005 and transposed the related EU directives into national legislation,

Public participation is required by the approving procedures of spatial and urban plans.

Through associations and corporations, major groups are represented in the Council of Agricultural Policy and the Organisation of Local Authorities. Environmental NGOs and the private sector are also represented.

NGOs are involved in the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Program on the Environment.

A National Advisory Committee on NGOs was set up, to formulate and recommend policies related to the development NGOs.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Key objectives set out in the NSSD include the promotion of transparent and participatory processes involving all stakeholders and the implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention, ratified in 2005.

The EU Directive concerning public access to environmental information was incorporated into Greek Law in 2006.

The National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development was created in 2000 to, inter alia, disseminate environmental information and raise environmental awareness

The Greek Network of Ecological Organizations is very active in education and public awareness matters.

Partnerships

Hellenic Centre for Business (ELKE)- pilot project for the development of tourism infrastructures according to sustainable development principles.

Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (Aap2020)

The DestiNet

EU Water Initiative: Water for Life

Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility (EuroMed WPF)

Hydrogeology of Mediterranean wetlands (HYDROHUMED)

Integrated framework of tools for sustainable development in small islands (SUSTIS)

MeditAIRaneo

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for SD

Network of regional governments for sustainable development

Sustainable water management in the Balkan and Southeast Mediterranean area

World Institute for Sustainable Humanity (AWISH)

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

National Environmental Informatics Network
National Centre for Sustainable Development – to improve reporting and planning
National Research Programme 2005-2007
National Research and Technology Council, Intergovernmental Committee, and National RTD Management Organisation
Law on the Development of Scientific and Technological Research - pending completion

Indicators for sustainable development

In 2003, a preliminary set of 70 SD indicators (mostly environment- oriented) was presented in the report 'Environmental signals'. However, they were not used nor expanded to cover all the Strategy's objectives.

A new set of indicators is to be elaborated (under the responsibility of the National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development, in close co-operation with the National Statistics Service) which will take into account the SD indicators set by Eurostat and the needs of reporting for the renewed NSSD.

Greece has been collaborating with the Universities of Athens and the Aegean on the development of indicators in the framework of a UNEP/MAP initiative on "Indicators for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean".

Monitoring and review

Information on the state of the environment is provided in reports to International Organizations (such as the biannual reports to the UN-CSD)

No reporting was foreseen in the 2002 NSSD and no reporting was undertaken. In the renewed Strategy (under adoption) a reporting is foreseen every 2 years. It will also include reports on implementation efforts on the sub-national levels, along with contributions to Greece's reports to the EU Commission on implementation progress.

This reporting is to be done by the National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development under the supervision of the National Council for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development.

Monitoring and performance evaluation of the NSSD is to be supported by the updated list of sustainable development indicators, currently under development.

3. Coordination and Management System

The Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works is in charge of the coordination of the NSSD.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development, established in 2002, includes all Secretary-Generals of competent Ministries. The Committee provides guidance and oversees the NSSD implementation.

The National Council for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development constitutes a social interlocution and consultation instrument that formulates opinions to the Minister for Environment, Public Works and Physical Planning, for issues concerning spatial planning, the environment and sustainable development. This Council was inactive for a long period but it was fully revitalised in recent years for the coordination and the better implementation of the Strategy. The Council includes representatives from MEPPPW, Local Authorities, employer and trade unions, research institutes and NGOs participated.

The Council is supported by the National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD), established in 2000. The Center is the strategic adviser of the Government on environment and sustainable development issues; is mandated to collect, analyze and disseminate information, act as a think tank and formulate proposals; etc.

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COUNTRY PROFILE: ISRAEL

1. Strategic Frameworks

Within Israel, two major studies set the scene for anticipating future developments in sustainable development:

The Master Plan for the 21st century – Israel 2020: This document was published and disseminated in 1996 as a first step toward introducing the concept of sustainable development into government discussions.

Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP): Its primary objective was to propose a sustainable development strategy for Israel. The program identified three goals: Intergenerational equity; Intragenerational equity; and Economic growth. Furthermore, it saw the preparation of sustainable development documents on industry, energy, tourism, transportation, agriculture, urban sector and biodiversity, which were prepared through a consensus-building process. The documents were published (in Hebrew) in 2002.

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

Ministries Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development

In 2003, a Government Decision on Sustainable Development was made determining that the policy of the Government of Israel would be based on the principles of sustainable development and will follow the Plan of Implementation adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit.

Each government Ministry was called upon to draft a strategic plan for sustainable development relating to the period up to 2020, to be constantly updated.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Objectives of Sustainable Development in Israel

- secure maximal freedom and opportunity for future generations to determine their environment and style of life
- encourage developments which internalize environmental impacts. Development should increase the stock of resources
- maintain minimal standards for the prevention of irreversible and expensive damage to vital or rare natural resources
- assure a reasonable quality of life and the environment to the entire population, including weak segments and minorities
- expand environmental awareness

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

New Water Authority- all water management issues under one roof
 Increased water conservation and water use efficiency programmes
 Restructuring of water rates
 Seawater desalination programme
 Strategic Planning – Restructuring the Water Sector

Climate change and energy

National Plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions- being formulated.
 Report on the anticipated impacts of climate change
 Appropriate pricing for sustainable energy sources- to be considered
 Fuel master plan
 Options for opening the gas market- being assessed
 Solar-thermal plant in the Negev desert
 2007 Joint Israeli-Palestinian “Solar for Peace” initiative
 2007 (?) Israeli Energy Master Plan

Sustainable mobility

Transport policy of sustainable sector development- emphasis on integrated transport systems
 Economic measures such as congestion taxes and pollution fees- to be instituted
 Policies for curbing private car use – to be implemented
 Parking restrictions and pricing mechanisms (fines, taxes) for inner city areas
 Development of clean, non-polluting buses

Sustainable tourism

Regulating the nature and capacity of Rural Tourism
 “Tourism villages” or “tourism complexes” - supported by subsidies and grants

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

Programmes for:

- increased productivity with less water
- Integrated Pest Management
- organic agricultural waste
- utilizing treated wastewater

Strategic Plan and comprehensive framework for agricultural and rural sustainable development- being developed
 Maintaining the character of the rural settlement and its legacy
 Preservation of open spaces, agrarian culture and landscape values
 Preservation of the nature- agriculture relationship
 Strategic Planning and policies to combat desertification

National Afforestation Master Plan

Sustainable urban development

Integration of environmental considerations in planning briefs
 Integration of environmental considerations in the planning guidelines
 Incentives - positive and/or negative (subsidies, building right benefits, taxation and fines) to promote the introduction of sustainable urban development

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

National Contingency Plan for preparedness and response to marine oil pollution
 National Plan to reduce pollution to the marine environment from land-based sources

Sustainable consumption and production

National Action Plan on sustainable consumption- being prepared

Public health

"EpiSouth" network for EU, Mediterranean and Balkan countries on communicable diseases

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

2007 Anti- poverty Plan - labour productivity; better integration; obligatory pension.
 2007 Gender Law - examine the effects of any bill on gender equality
 2007 National Plan to combat trafficking in human beings
 Comprehensive Migration Policy- children of migrant workers; illegal migrants; refugees and asylum seekers

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

The EU-Israel Association Agreement which entered into force in 2000 and the 2005 EU-Israel Action Plan
 The Barcelona Process and the Mediterranean Action Plan

2. Processes and Mechanisms**2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence****Sector and institutional integration**

One of the 4 principles delineating the formal and informal process taken towards promoting Sustainable Development goals by the various Ministries has been the adoption of Sixteen principles to serve as a national common basis for sustainable development.

Some of the most significant governmental ministries are actively engaged in realizing their strategy for sustainable development for example, the Israeli Land Administration, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Trade Industry and Labor. .

Environmental aspects are integrated into all relevant Master Plans and, in some cases, they are the dominant considerations, in particular, the Integrated National Master Plan on Planning, Building and Conservation.

The Ministry of Environment established a professional unit to, inter alia, identify common/ problematic inter-ministerial or inter-sectoral issues in Strategic Plans and propose ways to deal with them.

The environmental impact assessment system has recently been revised to incorporate sustainable development concepts into examining the impact of specific plans and proposals.

Regulatory and economic instruments

Israel's environmental legislation covers the entire expanse of environmental issues, uses all forms of legislative instruments (laws, regulations, administrative orders and bylaws) and is linked to international environmental law.

2004 Law for the Protection of the Coastal Environment
2006 "Green Building" standard

Economic tools

In 1998, a Government decision was taken to formulate an environmental "fiscal policy." Since then economic tools such as fines, fees, taxes and subsidies have been used.

Voluntary measures employed are: conflict resolution, environmental covenants, voluntary enforcement procedures – such as ISO 14000 accreditation – and negotiated rulemaking.

1998 Covenant between the Ministry of the Environment and the Manufacturers Association of Israel on Implementing Standards on Pollutant Emissions into the Air.

Company environmental information disclosure regulation- implementation guidelines being drafted.

"Green Label" products scheme.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

Since 2002, the Local Agenda 21 process was initiated in 30 local authorities.

The 2003 Ten Principles for a Sustainable Local Authority
The Sustainable Jerusalem Charter
Israel's Healthy Cities Network
Local Sustainability Center - to promote sustainability programs
Incorporation of environmental quality and sustainable development in the Master Plans

for half of the 54 rural councils in Israel
Master Plans for Local Sustainable Development

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Israel has participated in negotiations leading to numerous international and regional environmental agreements. The country has signed and/or ratified nearly all of the major environmental conventions, and it ensures that its national legislation conforms to international obligations.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The Director General of the Ministry of the Environment formed a task force (inter-ministerial committee) that includes representatives of all Ministries, the business community, environmental and social non-governmental organizations, local government and academia, to oversee the drafting of the Ministries Strategic Plans and to propose principles and ways of consolidating a joint strategy.

The Ministry of Environment also established a professional unit to assist in the drafting of the Strategic Plans.

Reviewing public committees – Since 1998, such committees are established to review aspects of formulating environmental standards and regulations. It is a procedure of negotiated rulemaking, based on a consensus-building approach (with representatives of the environment sector, government ministries, and relevant bodies likely to be affected by the proposed regulation).

The Israeli Coalition of Social and Environmental Non-governmental Organizations participates regularly in the meetings of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development.

The Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development holds debates, lectures and consultations that seek ways to promote sustainable development and consults its members on the process of the preparation of a ministerial sustainable development strategy and its implementation.

The Local Agenda 21 process is based on community involvement, stakeholder participation and consensus building.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

A forum of Coastal Organizations, which includes some 25 NGOs dealing with the marine and coastal environments, was established in 2000, in cooperation with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

The Ministry of the Environment implements the Freedom of Information Law, and works to promote environmental awareness, education and participation in all segments of the population.

Directive of the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, on implementation of education for sustainable development in the educational system.

Partnerships

Global Mapping

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative: People Shaping their Sustainable Futures

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Agreement with the EU on the association of Israel with the FP7 2007-2013

Israel Science Foundation

2001 Cleaner Production Center by the Ministry of the Environment and the Manufacturers Association of Israel - awareness; disseminating information promoting research and development on clean production processes, products and services

Indicators for sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Indicators in Israel project aimed at the assessment of the applicability of the system proposed by the Mediterranean Action Plan, and identification of the indicators appropriate to Israel. The identified indicators were classified into six groups (sustainable economic growth; social and environmental equity in the present generation; ability to cope with environmental issues; protection of the interests of future generations; efficient utilization of resources; quality of life of the present generation). Several indicators were proposed for each of the above fields, a total of over 50 indicators in all.

Monitoring and review

In 2004, the first report on the implementation of the 2003 Government Decision on the preparation of Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development was presented. In this report Ministries identified which of their activities promotes sustainable development in order to reinforce these activities and grant them priority in resource allocation. In addition, barriers to promoting sustainable development were identified, so that appropriate steps could be taken to remove them. Finally, each Ministry identified those areas that had been neglected previously and require further action.

A second report was presented in 2005.

3. Coordination and Management System

The Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development was appointed to see the implementation of the strategies for sustainable development. This Committee also serves as a meeting point for governmental and non governmental agencies, holding debates, lectures and consultations that seek ways to promote sustainable development. Moreover, the Committee consults its members on the process of the preparation of a ministerial sustainable development strategy and its implementation.

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COUNTRY PROFILE: ITALY

1. Strategic Frameworks

The plans and programmes relating to the implementation of the European cohesion policies found in the *Community Support Framework 2000-06* and in the *National Strategic Framework 2007-13* contribute to defining sustainability in Italy, that is no longer on the fringe of development. It provides, now, a fundamental framework of reference within which social, economic and environmental issues equally find their proper application.

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

Italy has developed its NSSD in 2002, following the cross-cutting structure proposed by the 6th EU Environmental Action Plan, and in accordance with the European Councils in Lisbon (2000), Göteborg (2001) and Barcelona (2002).

The *Strategia d'azione ambientale per lo sviluppo sostenibile in Italia* ('Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development in Italy', NSSD) was officially adopted in 2002 by CIPE (Inter – Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning).

The Italian government's priority is the reviewing and updating of the 2002 Strategy, not only to revise aspects and topics concerning the national level but also to bring it in line with the EU SD priorities and to create a better link between NSSD and the National Reform Programme (NRP) which is the Lisbon Strategy equivalent at the Member State level.

The process of reviewing and updating the 2002 Strategy started in the fall of 2007.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The NSSD focuses on the integration of environmental issues into other sector policies and on decoupling between economic growth and pressure on the use of natural resources.

The main **principles** underlined in the NSSD are:

- integration of environmental issues into other policy making processes
- global efficiency of resources use
- promotion of prevention policies
- development of local markets and local productions
- promotion of local products and traditional cultures
- public participation in decision making and sharing of responsibility

Priority areas/ sectors

The Italian NSSD includes a comprehensive set of 142 priorities and key issues. The four broad thematic priorities are based on the 6th EU Environmental Action Plan:

Climate Change and stratospheric ozone

Protection and sustainable valorisation of Nature and Biodiversity

- living natural resources - biotechnologies
- soil, subsoil and desertification
- marine and coastal habitats

Quality of the environment and quality of life in urban areas.

- urban environment
- air quality
- indoor air quality and radon
- noise
- electromagnetic pollution
- genetically modified organisms
- food security
- reclamation of contaminated sites
- environmental crime

Exploitation of resources and waste generation

- use of natural resources
- water resources
- production and consumption cycles
- waste

For a number of these issues, the Strategy foresees either quantified or qualified objectives and measures.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

National Programme for projects in the water sector, as provided by Law 350/2003
 Framework Directive on Water (2000/60/EC): adoption of Protection and Management Plans

2004 project for promoting the management and rebuilding of wetlands

2006 Environmental Consolidated Act – incl. principles of waste legislation

Community Support Framework (CSF) focused on water improvement

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

Inter-ministerial Committee (GHG Emissions Technical Committee – CTE)

Renewable energy/ energy efficiency promotion- i.e. white certificate system, green certificates; funds for sustainable mobility and renewal of auto fleet

National tenders: “The Sun at School”, “The Sun into Public Buildings”, “The Photovoltaic in Architecture”, “Research and Development for Renewable Energy Sources in National Protected Areas and Small Islands”

National Strategic Framework 2007- 2013- resources for RES and energy savings to the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces

2002 National Plan for Reduction of Emissions - being revised

Agreement with agricultural associations and land owners on cultivated land for oil seeds
2008 National Allocation Plan for greenhouse gas emissions, 2008-2012

Sustainable mobility

National policy on sustainable mobility
2007 Fund for Sustainable Mobility - improvement of underground railways, trams, trains, promotion of inter-modality, incentives for urban mobility
General Mobility Plan (GMP). - modal transfer towards the maritime modalities
Urban Traffic Plans/ Urban Mobility Plans for municipalities with more than 30,000 residents
Regional/Provincial Transportation Plans for sustainable mobility
Finances by national and regional resources; the 2007-13 Single Cohesion Policy (European Regional Development Fund ERDF), Fund for Underutilised Areas (FAS) and Programmes for Territorial Cooperation
Incentives for renewing old cars; concessions for trucks and cars running on LPG, methane-powered cars or electric cars

Sustainable tourism

2007 National Fund for Environmental Friendly Tourism
National Strategic Framework 2007-13- attractiveness of resort areas.
2008 Rimini Charter for Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

1999 Action Plan (IAP) to combat drought and desertification
National Irrigation Plan
PDO (Protected Designations of Origin) and PGI (Protected Geographical Indication)
National Committee for Food Safety
2005 National Action Plan for organic farming and organic products
National Action Plan for pesticides- to be adopted
National Strategy Plan for Rural Development
National Register of agro-forestry carbon reserves – to be established

Sustainable urban development

Urban and Landscape Plans
Agreements with municipalities and industry to promote use of methane in urban areas
2004 Decree to promote actions to prevent and to reduce acoustic pollution from vehicles
2005 “Low Impact Fuels” and “Car Sharing” funding initiatives

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

2006 Law for the ecological protection zones in the Mediterranean Sea
2008 MoU launching “CAMP Italy” in the framework of the ICZM Protocol

Sustainable consumption and production

2001 EMAS Regulation and Financial support to SMEs
 2005 Environmental Business Award
 2005 National Roadmap for implementing the Environmental Technology Action Plan
 2006 Italian international task force on sustainable consumption education
 2006 Decree for environmental and social criteria in public procurement
 2008 National Action Plan for GPP
 2008 National Plan for the Environmental Sustainability of the Consumption of the Public Administration
 Eco labelling - new criteria system developed
 National Sustainable Production and Consumption Plan – being prepared

Conservation and management of natural resources

National Bio-Diversity Strategy- to be finalised by the end of 2010
 Fourth National Report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)- being drafted
 2007 National Plan on Agricultural Biodiversity
 2008 National Inventory of Forests and Forest Reservoirs of Carbon

Public health

Pan-European Environment and Health process
 Task Force for the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE)
 2004 Law on labelling of agro-food products
 National Plan for the Preparation for and Response to an Influenza Pandemic
 2007 Health Regulations
 National Prevention Plan 2005-2007
 Action Strategy for the Prevention of Obesity
 National Alcohol and Health Plan 2007-2009
 Chemical Industry Observatory
 Government Programme on protection of animals 2006-2011

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

Strategy for social protection and social inclusion 2006-2008
 National Report on Social Inclusion- being drafted
 System of integrated social/healthcare services for people with disabilities
 National Fund: tax deductions for companies employing disabled
 Increased use of tax incentives for meeting social policy aims
 2006 Special measures on equal tax system, child poverty and housing
 Reform of immigration policy, focusing on entry, citizenship and social integration

Global poverty alleviation

Focus on Sub-Saharan Africa
 0.20% ODA of GNI – below target
 2003 aid harmonisation and effectiveness process.

<i>Managing disasters</i>

1989, 1998 Laws for the protection of the territory; Basin Plans; Hydro-geological Plans of areas of landslide and flood risk
National Cartographic Portal

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

1999 National Plan to Combat Drought and Desertification
2002 National Plan for the reduction of GHG emissions
National Reform Programme (Lisbon Strategy)

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration, Coherence and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Several integration measures are included in the NSSD chapters:

- the integration of the environmental factor within sectoral policies
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Plans and Programmes
- integration of environmental factors into the services and product market
- ecological taxation reform
- subsidies and environmental externalities
- quality and environmental certification
- Local Agenda 21 processes
- Framework Act on Environmental Accounting- drafted
- sustainable developing financing
- technology and scientific research

The integration of different political levels is ensured by,

- the “State-Regions Permanent Conference”, established in 1983, receiving increasing importance after the implementation of devolution and the reform of the Constitution
- the Technical Board of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning’s (CIPE) Commission on SD, formed by representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Regions and other Ministry representatives with competencies for SD policies and other national bodies providing information
- the Community Support Framework 2000-06 and the National Strategic Framework 2007-13 and the 2007 Finance Act (established the Sustainable Development Fund) which contribute to defining sustainability as a fundamental framework of reference

Regulatory and economic instruments

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Plans and Programmes

Quality and environmental certification- e.g. EMAS, eco auditing, eco labelling, voluntary agreements

2006, 2008 Environmental Code

2007 Action Plan for the Simplification and Quality of Regulations

Ecological taxes and subsidies reform- e.g. carbon taxes, tax on pesticides, water and waste charges

Green certificates "feed-in tariff"- encouragement of RES

"White Certificates (WC)" – energy efficiency promotion tool

Fiscal benefits (tax deduction) to the building sector for energy efficiency measures

"Net metering" system for grid-connected high-efficiency cogeneration

Fund for sustainable mobility

In 2008, the "ECOPASS" was introduced in Milan, in the form of a tax for private cars entering the city centre, similar to the London congestion charge.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

Following the reform of the Italian Constitution in 2005, most competences in the field of environment and sustainable development have been transferred to regional and local levels.

2000, 2002 Notices "for co-financing sustainable development programmes and for implementing Local Agendas 21 and Regional Sustainable Development strategies.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Co-ordination of the World Bank and the GEF project for the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem".

Environmental bilateral cooperation programme with many Mediterranean countries – integrated management of coastal zones; combating desertification; expansion of the use of renewable sources of energy; awareness on strengthening technological innovation and international environmental cooperation.

Within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Action Plan of Johannesburg Italy has promoted joint programmes in areas such as efficient use of energy and water supplies; promotion of renewable sources; promotion of environmentally friendly technologies; fight against desertification.

Italy signed an agreement with the Secretariat of the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which also provides to co-finance pilot projects in five African Countries.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

In 2007, within the process of elaboration of the first National Report to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, a strong co-ordination mechanism among central Administrations and Regions was set up, chaired by the Prime Minister's Office –

Department for the Co-ordination of Community Policies in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.

In drafting the revised NSSD, central and regional administrations, local authorities, non-governmental environmental and consumers associations, industry and business organizations and trade unions representatives reviewed the draft document. The consultation round was carried out during 14 meetings, involving more than 140 authorities and organizations. The consultations round contributed to elaborate a shared document, with a high implementation potential.

The Local Agenda 21 processes have started up many activities at local level, stimulated the experimentation of new forms of environmental policy oriented towards sustainability and ensured consistent contribution of local planning to higher level sustainability strategies.

Since 2002, Italy initiated some "territorial *EMAS*" processes.

Some Regions have adopted Regional Strategies coherent with the European and national level.

The involvement of stakeholders in the decision making processes has offered the opportunity to develop new methodologies and integrated approaches to issues, finding appropriate and shared solutions in the transition to sustainability.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

The process of reform of the Public Administration attributes a central role to transparency.

Law No. 61/94, setting up Environmental Protection Agency System at national and local level have enabled Italy to develop a systematisation and management process for environmental information. The Environmental Agencies system gathers, processes and disseminates scientific and technical data.

Within the framework of the Aarhus Convention, Decree 195/2005 (also implementing the EU Directive 2003/4/EC) can be regarded as the most specific instrument to provide the right to access environmental information.

National Programme on Environmental Education, Information and Training (IN.F.E.A.) (2002- 2005- 2007- 2009) - education projects, training programs, environmental communication and information campaigns.

Conference State-Regions: activities focusing on environmental education (2000) and sustainable development (2002).

UNESCO Decade for the education to sustainable development- National Plan of Implementation - being drafted.

National Report on the State of the Environment 2006.

Partnerships

ADRICOSM - Adriatic sea integrated coastal areas and river basin management system pilot project

AAP2020 - Adriatic Action Plan 2020

The Cleaner fuels and vehicles partnership

Earth observation for integrated water resources management in Africa - TIGER-SHIP

Energy for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

EU Water Initiative

MEDIES – Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability

MeditAIRaneo

MEDREP – Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme

Mountain Partnership - International Partnership for Sustainable Development in

Mountain Regions Network for Therapeutic Solidarity in Hospitals (ESTHER - Ensemble pour une Solidarité Thérapeutique Hospitalière en Réseau)

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD)

Quality schools: school network on sustainable development systems

SUSTIS - Integrated Framework of Tools for Implementing Sustainable Development in Small Islands

WPA (Water Program for Africa and Arid and Water Scarce Zones)

Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

2.3 Knowledge management

Comprehensive tools

Consistent with the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, the National Research Programme (drafted every three years) supports actions for environment and sustainability.

“Industria 2015” - launched a new strategy for industrial policy.

Industrial Innovation Projects (IIP) - projects in: energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, new technologies for Made-in-Italy products, new technologies for cultural and tourism properties and activities and new life technologies.

Indicators for sustainable development

The Italian National Statistic Institute (ISTAT) and the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research ISPRA are preparing a data base of indicators in historic series.

The NSSD provides a set of 150 indicators directly linked to the priorities and key issues outlined in the Strategy. The key environmental indicators set by Barcelona's European Council in 2002 are also included. Overall, 190 indicators were classified. All indicators are quantitative, and for 42 (about 22 %) a quantified target value is specified.

Monitoring and review

The Resolution for the approval of the Strategy defined the institutional system responsible for its monitoring.

The Technical Board of CIPE is responsible for the monitoring progress. The Board in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, prepares annual assessment reports on the implementation of the NSSD, based on the 10 priority indicators. The reports are published in April of each year.

Italy has published its first national report on implementing the EU SDS in June 2007.

3. Coordination and Management System

The National Focal Point for the implementation of the EU SDS has been appointed within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Interministerial Committee for Community Affairs (CIACE), that has also the mandate of coordination of the reporting for the Lisbon Strategy.

The CIACE is a sort of Cabinet of European Affairs. Regions, Autonomous Provinces and local Authorities can take part in CIACE activities. A permanent technical committee linked to the Department together with the Secretariat, supports the CIACE for meetings' preparation.

In 2008, the government restructured the Ministry of the Environment and the Italian Environment Agency. This process created several new agencies as well as a new division of responsibilities. The Agency for Environment Protection and Technical Services (APAT) was converted into the Institute for Environment Protection and Research (ISPRA), taking over some responsibilities from other institutions.

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Department for Environmental Research and Development) is responsible for the promotion and coordination of programs and projects for sustainable development, and for the update and management of the NSSD.

Other Ministries, Environmental NGOs, Trade Unions, Enterprises, local authorities (regions) are also involved in the implementation of the Strategy.

The Commission on Sustainable Development of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE), composed by national and regional representatives, is responsible for monitoring the results achieved from the NSSD implementation. CIPE is organised into six Commissions, one of which is devoted to Sustainable Development.

The Technical Board of CIPE is formed by representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Regions and other Ministry representatives as well as representatives of main bodies responsible for providing information (i.e. APAT - now ISPRA, and ENEA- National Institute for Energy, Environment and New Technologies).

The implementation of both the NSSD and the EU SDS and their related activities also involve the collaboration of CNEL (National Council for Economy and Labour), a consultative body of the two Chambers, whose main competences are related to the economic planning and the welfare activities. CNEL has secured the participation of Social Parties and the involvement of competent Central Administrations, Local Authorities, Business Sector, and Civil Society.

The instruments envisaged to implement the Strategy have been partially financed by National budget law 388/2000 under the specific “Fund for the promotion of sustainable development” aiming at promoting local Agendas 21 and environmental management systems within local institutions; encouraging SMEs at achieving the environmental certification; financing the outline and implementation of sustainability Plans at local level; promoting of agreements with Universities and research bodies to support applied basic research; and promoting technological innovations aimed at reducing pollution and consumption of water resources.

4. Strengths and Weaknesses

In the past years, a lack of effective co-ordination between sectors and across the various levels of the Government has been identified. The role of administrations, local governments and main stakeholders needs to be enhanced and promoted. National authorities should also empower Regions and local authorities to play a more effective role in local sustainable development and provide support for programs and partnerships to deliver more effective sustainable development outcomes.

The NSSD implementation has suffered with some difficulties, due to the weakness of the political framework and the information systems. In this regard, the political framework should definitively balance the pillars of development and elaborate processes to ensure their effective integration. Consultation and co-ordination should be improved, so as to become a mechanism deeply rooted into decision making-processes.

The effort for the future is to ensure the integration of the environmental requirements in the economic development process, within an informational system that must be coherent at all levels (local, national, international). Increasing decentralisation of power is a feature of Italy and a commitment of the next coming years: it will be important to maintain the right balance between local autonomy and central steering capacities for managing across levels of government. To support sustainable development, specific attention should be paid to translating international, national and sub-national strategic policy directions into measures that can be implemented at lower levels. This requires paying attention to the risk of fragmentation and overlap of responsibilities.

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<http://www.minambiente.it>

COUNTRY PROFILE: LEBANON

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

Lebanon is currently in the process of formulating an NSSD, with UNEP/MAP and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECI) support, in accordance with a relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The “*Schéma Directeur d’Aménagement du Territoire Libanais (SDATL)*”, completed in 2004, is a comprehensive document on which a strategy of sustainable development could be based.

The State of Environment Report (SOER 2001) has identified a large number of linkages between population and economic activities on one hand and various environmental media on the other hand and has highlighted several significant opportunities to promote environmentally sustainable development of Lebanon.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The focus of the SOER is essentially environmental. Priority areas include:

- promoting sound agricultural practices including organic farming
- classifying and locating industrial facilities
- implementing the new industrial emission standards
- rethinking road projects and safeguarding highways
- implementing the Law to Reduce Air Pollution by the Transport Sector
- fostering environmentally-friendly construction practices
- preserving or restoring public access to the beach
- introducing sound water conservation measures
- shaping the National Land Use Master Plan
- protecting “protected sites“
- leveraging resources for reforestation
- shaping future policies/approaches to Municipal Solid Waste Management
- encouraging sound management of special wastes
- promoting small-scale wastewater treatment and reuse in rural, semi-arid regions

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

10 Year Strategic Plan for the Water Sector - being updated
 Integrated water sector strategy and national water master plan- under preparation

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

‘The role of natural gas in Electricité de Liban (EdL) Power Plants’ sets out the strategic objectives to this effect

2007 National Centre for Energy Efficiency
 Long- term energy strategy – being put in place
 Action Plan including a financial plan for improving energy efficiency and enhancing the use of renewable energy- being developed
 National Electricity Regulatory Authority- being set up

Sustainable mobility

2007 Plans to reform public transport services - urban and intercity
 National Transport Policy

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

Draft law on Organic products

Sustainable urban development

2009 *Schéma directeur d'Aménagement du territoire Libanais*

Conservation and management of natural resources

1998 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
 1997 Emergency Plan for Waste Management

Public health

Social Action Plan "Towards strengthening social safety nets and access to basic social services"
 National medical insurance programme
 Primary Health Care Programmes
 1997 Non-Communicable Diseases Programme
 National AIDS Program (NAP)
 National Tuberculosis Program (NTP)
 Joint Initiative on the Response to HIV/AIDS

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

National Poverty Reduction Plan
 2007 Comparative Mapping of living conditions
 Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction
 Enhancing National Capacity for Human Development (NHDR)
 2007 Social Action Plan
 Restoration of Livelihoods and Social Assistance in Lebanon
 2001 Law providing equal pay for equal work for men and women
 2004 legislation giving women serving in government the same rights as men in terms of medical coverage and hospitalisation
 National Commission aimed at increasing women participation in the economy
 2001 Law concerning the protection of juveniles exposed to danger

2002 ILO Convention No. 138, concerning the minimum age for employment
 2009 Degree regulating the employment agencies that bring migrants
 Unified Contract for Migrant Domestic Workers

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

National Poverty Reduction Programme.

2006 Association Agreement of Lebanon with the EU and the EU-Lebanon Action Plan adopted in January 2007, for a period of five years.

Environment Strategy: Based on the principles of balanced regional development, prevention of pollution, polluter pays and integration of environment considerations into other sectors. A draft of National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was prepared in 2005 on the basis of the environment strategy but has yet to be approved.

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Certain sector specific master plans have been prepared, e.g. for the management of solid waste, waste water and quarries. Different ministries together with the Council for Development and Reconstruction have taken actions to implement projects covering priorities as identified in these master plans.

Regulatory and economic instruments

1988 Environment Protection Law
 2002 National Code of the Environment

The State of Environment Report envisages different regulatory and economic instruments for most of the priority areas: certification and labeling in the agricultural sector; development of legislation for managing industrial and hazardous wastes; enforcement of national industrial emission standards for environmental quality; extend the EIA process to the entire road sector; enforcement of minimum quality standards for combustibles and exhaust fumes; enforcement of the Law on the reduction of air pollution by transport sector; the Law on environmentally friendly construction practices; etc.

Decentralisation and Local level initiatives

Local Agendas 21
 Capacity 21 Programme

Relation to regional and global initiatives

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The SoER was prepared by a team of consultants. The team held a number of meetings with key MoE employees in various departments, as well as project staff hosted by MoE, in order to better understand ongoing programs, projects and achievements. These meetings helped identify key policies and actions pertinent to major environmental issues. In parallel, and outside MoE, the consultant team contacted and met with a number of key individuals and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Vocational Education Training development plan - under preparation.
Euro-Med Youth Programme.
Environmental education and awareness plan.
National Strategy for Education- to be adopted mid 2009.

Partnerships

Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development, Phase II
Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, Phase I
Greywater use for urban agriculture in the Middle East - North Africa
International Network for Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management (Cap-Net)
My Community, Our Earth- Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development.

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS).

Indicators for sustainable development

2001 State of the Environment Report.

Monitoring and review

3. Coordination and Management System

The Ministry of Environment, established in a993, is the main body for environment protection and policy. Law 690/2005 allows for the organizational restructuring of the Ministry, which is however still on-going. According to the Law, the Ministry's role is to set general policies, projects and plans on issues related to environmental safety and sustainability of natural resources. Furthermore, the Ministry can also suggest actions for implementation and monitoring.

A number of other Ministries and organisations are also involved in environment matters, such as the Ministries of Public Health, Energy and Water, Public Works and Transport,

Agriculture, the Higher Council for Urban Planning and the National Council for Scientific Research.

A National Council for quarries was created in 2002.

A Higher Council of the Environment is also mentioned.

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COUNTRY PROFILE: LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

<i>Conservation and management of natural resources</i>

National Biodiversity Strategy
2005 National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification

<i>Public health</i>

Strategies for HIV/AIDS and TB

<i>Social Inclusion, demography and migration</i>

Laws ensuring compatibility and consistency of Libyan legislative acts with those of the provisions of internationally recognized conventions on gender issues

1.2 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

National Programme for Environmental Action- partial

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy integration and convergence

Sector and institutional integration Regulatory and economic instruments

Adoption of the Environment Protection Law

Decentralisation and Local level initiatives Relation to regional and global initiatives

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation Communication, awareness-raising and education

Partnerships

African Union Initiative on Promotion and Development of Agenda 21 in Africa

Through CENSAD (The Community of Sahel-Saharan States) and continued support to the African Union, Libya has made significant contribution towards partnership for development in Africa

2.3 Knowledge management

Comprehensive tools

Indicators for sustainable development

Monitoring and review

3 Coordination and Management System

The Environment Authority (EGA) has several departments within the central office and its regional branches:

- Administration and Finance Department
- Research and Studies Department
- Planning and Information Department
- Emergency and Planning Department
- Environmental Protection Department
- Inspection and Control Department
- Nature and Natural Resources Conservation Department
- Computer and Automation Department

Presently a project is carried out (?) with the objective to enhance the EGA capacity in monitoring and managing local environment, and also in developing and utilizing environmental information for informed decision-making in the framework of sustainable development in Libya. Additionally, the project will train EGA staff to design advocacy programmes and carry out awareness campaigns.

4 Selective Sources

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COUNTRY PROFILE: MALTA

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

The Maltese NSSD, '**A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2007-2016**', was prepared by the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD) in November 2006. The Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in 2007. An implementation plan was also presented to Cabinet along with the NSSD.

The Strategy provides the major strategic framework for sustainable development.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Objectives and targets

The NSSD covers economic, environmental, social and implementation aspects. The Strategy contains 20 overall priorities, as well as key strategic directions and actions for various thematic areas within the four aspects mentioned above.

The 4 **top-level goals** are as follows:

- managing the environment and resources
- promoting sustainable economic development
- fostering sustainable communities
- cross-cutting strategic issues

Priority areas/ sectors and Themes comprising action programmes

The NSSD contains a set of 20 priorities:

The Environment

- climate change
- air quality
- nature and biodiversity
- groundwater
- seawater
- wastes
- land use
- transport

The Economy

- economic growth
- employment
- labour productivity

Society

- poverty reduction
- labour force participation of women
- health
- education

Cross Cutting Issues

- spatial development plan
- economic instruments
- enforcement

Implementation

- institutional setup
- sustainability indicators

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives*Climate change and energy*

National Allocation Plan 2008-12
 Grants for purchase of energy efficient household appliances; electric vehicles
 Green leaders appointed in all Government ministries
 Strategic Plan and 2007-2013 Programme
 2004 Renewable Energy Sources Regulations
 2004 Bio fuels for Transport Regulations
 2006 Draft Renewable Energy Policy for Malta
 2006 A proposal for an energy policy for Malta

Sustainable mobility

Encouraging park-and-ride systems
 Transport Topic Paper in connection with the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands
 Malta Transport Strategy
 Motorways of the Sea relevant Master Plan

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

National Rural Development Strategy for the Programming Period 2007-2013
 2004 Organic Farming Regulations
 Advisory Board on Organic Farming

Sustainable urban development

1990 Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands - currently being reviewed.

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

2002 Coastal Strategy Topic Paper

Sustainable consumption and production

Tourism Eco-certification Scheme
 Eco-label scheme
 Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
 National Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) -draft
 Innovation Relay Centre (IRC)
 Regional Innovation Strategy
 Environment Award for Industry
 Cleaner Technology Centre
 Action Plan for Green Public Procurement 2007-2009
 2007 Energy Efficient Appliances Rebate- to encourage the purchase of more energy-efficient domestic appliances

Conservation and management of natural resources

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Maltese Islands – being developed
 2003 Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations
 Minerals Plan
 2001 Solid Waste Management Strategy for the Maltese Islands - currently updated

Public health

Universal access, fairness and solidarity to Health Care
 National Environmental Health Action Plan 2006-2010
 National Non-Communicable Disease Strategy and cancer strategy – being developed
 Food Safety Commission
 Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point approach to prevent food-borne illness
 Animal Health and Welfare Inspectorate
 2004 National Interim Strategy for the implementation of REACH
 Pesticides Control Board
 Radiation Protection Board
 Mental Health Act

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

National Action Plan on Poverty and Social Inclusion 2004-2006
 Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2006-2008
 National Commission for the Promotion of Equality for Men and Women
 National Commission for Persons with Disability

Global poverty alleviation

Malta Development Policy- under preparation

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

The National Reform Programme and the Convergence Programme 2004-2006 and the National Strategic Reference Framework for the years 2007 -2013 are linked to the objective of sustainable development. The principle of sustainable development is considered in these processes.

Sectoral policies, such as the national tourism policy, take the NSSD into account and are formulated within its framework.

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration, Coherence and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

EIA and SEA procedures are in place in accordance with EU and national legislation.

Malta's national land-use planning system takes environmental concerns into account, such that it attempts to internalise social and environmental costs through mitigation of impact and planning agreements.

The merger between the Environment Protection Department and the Planning Authority in 2002 ensured a closer coordination between spatial and environmental planning.

Through its composition, the NCSD has links to the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development, and the Malta Environmental and Planning Authority (MEPA), which prepares national spatial and environmental plans. Linkages between the National Action Plans for Employment and Social Inclusion are being established.

Regulatory and economic instruments

For a wide range of environmentally sensitive activities, MEPA is in the process of setting up a comprehensive environmental permitting system.

A number of fiscal incentives were drawn up in order to instigate positive environmental and sustainable actions as well as to penalize those which have a negative effect on the environment. Malta currently uses taxes, fees, subsidies, performance bonds, grants, and a form of tradable permits.

These include, but are not limited to:

- eco-contribution on products
- 'eco-wardens' (aka environment field inspectors)
- water and electricity rates
- grants on renewable energy and energy efficient devices
- landfill fee for c&d waste
- "marketable permits" with regards to air and land pollution

In 2006 the Malta Environment and Planning Authority embarked on a project entitled 'Building capacity to introduce the polluter pays principle through economic instruments to implement the EU Environmental Acquis.' One of the deliverables of the project included a current state assessment of existing environmental economic instruments in Malta. This document identified approximately 54 instruments with some environment-related input. Another four instruments have been introduced since 2006. These include the Controlled Vehicular Access system in Valletta; the refund on energy-efficient white goods; the emission trading scheme at an EU level; and eco-contribution on a range of environmentally sensitive products.

International voluntary environmental schemes also exist and include the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) 14000 and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

The Malta Tourism Authority operates a tourism eco-certification scheme, which was introduced in 2002.

In 2006 Government launched the Green Office Label, a certification scheme for government ministries, departments and agencies.

In public procurement contracts, the contractor will be bound to set up an Environment Accident Prevention Policy.

The European Blue Flag Programme.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

Relation to regional and global initiatives

The NSSD takes into account the obligations of Malta at Mediterranean, EU and UN level.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The body responsible for preparing the NSSD is the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD). During the preparation of the NSSD, four draft versions were developed.

A first draft of the Strategy was launched in 2004, and an extensive public consultation followed, launched by means of a national conference, involving different societal stakeholder groups, including eight consultation sessions with various stakeholders, including local authorities. The aim of the consultation meetings was to gather comments on the draft NSSD and to discuss specific concerns relevant to the strategic direction and objectives of the draft NSSD.

Major groups included women, farmers, youths science and technology, NGO`s, workers and their unions, national authorities, senior citizens, construction, industry, tourism, energy and transport. In addition, focus groups were held with members of the public

from different backgrounds, including village band club members, young mothers, law students and agriculture school students.

Consultation was carried out with Government and Public Sector corporations/ authorities. A consultation meeting was also held for the Cabinet Committee for the Environment, the Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and the media.

For large developments, public involvement in EIA processes is provided for. Now that the SEA Directive has come into force plans and programmes will also be subject to extensive public consultation.

The Aarhus Convention and related EU Directive also provide for public involvement in decision-making.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

A NCSD website was developed to support the NSSD consultation process. The other formal communication tools have been the national conference, radio programmes and consultation meetings with major groups described above.

Communications tools such as the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA) and MEPA and on- going media awareness campaigns such as the MRRA *Xummiemu* campaign reach a wide audience and raise awareness.

Initiative Ecoskola (Eco-Schools): In the 2007/2008 school year there were a total of 7621 schools that were members of an Eco-Schools project that aims to empower school children to participate, act and be responsible for their school's environment in line with Local Agenda 21 principles.

Other initiatives:

2005 State of the Environment Report. The 2008 SoE Report will be published in 2009
Inclusive Education and the Individual Education Plan 2007-2013
Centre for Environmental Education and Research (CEER)

Partnerships

Conference on Green Jobs Creation in cooperation with the Employment Training Corporation and Malta Enterprise.

Malta has launched an international partnership called SUSTIS with a view to carrying out research on tools for implementing sustainable development in small islands.

During the consultation process on the NSSD various ad-hoc partnerships were convened that served to raise awareness and gain acceptance for the Strategy.

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

From the start of 2008, under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration for the period 2007-13, a number of bodies in Malta are setting aside 0.25% of their budgets for research and innovation. These bodies include waste and utilities companies, the Department for Health and the Malta Transport Authority.

National Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation: 2007-2010
Building and Sustaining the R&I Enabling Framework
Council for Science and Technology

Indicators for sustainable development

The Maltese NSSD includes a set of 24 indicators which are referred to as 'Headline indicators'. The indicators are grouped according to the top-level goals outlined in the Strategy (these are the three pillars of SD plus 'Cross-cutting Strategic issues'). Additionally, 2 of the indicators are associated with the implementation of the Strategy.

An earlier project to compile sustainability indicators is the indicators set prepared by Sustainability Indicators – Malta Observatory (SI-MO), established in November 2000 to meet the requirements of the MED-ERMIS (Malta) project (130 indicators).

Monitoring and review

The NSSD sets out a number of recommendations for its implementation and monitoring:

- put in place a permanent structure, appropriately staffed and funded
- the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainable Development should undertake the task of monitoring and reporting progress on sustainability indicators and targets
- the attainment of appropriate sustainable development targets should feature in the development of future funding mechanisms at the local and regional level
- MEPA should develop capacity and structures for the preparation of an Integrated Spatial Development Plan (ISDP)
- the Commissioner for Sustainable Development should draw up a communications strategy
- additional funding should be allocated for the NCSD to support the work of the advisory committees, and to encourage good practice

3. Coordination and Management System

The lead Ministry responsible for the coordination of the NSSD is the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment. Other Ministries are involved depending on the particular initiatives.

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority is the competent authority for environmental protection under the 2001 Environment Protection Act (Cap. 435), and for land-use planning under the 1992 Development Planning Act (Cap. 356).

The Malta Resources Authority is responsible for the policy areas of water, energy and mineral resources.

The National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD)

The legal framework for this body is provided in the Environment Protection Act of 2001. The Commission is chaired by the Prime Minister and is composed of all ministers, representatives of Parliament, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development, other public entities, local authorities as well as representatives of the business sector, industry, the media, academia and NGOs.

The NCSD is supported by a Secretary and administrative assistant within the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Commission has the following main functions:

- to advocate sustainable development, review progress and build consensus
- to identify bottlenecks and propose alternatives
- to identify negative trends and recommend action to reverse such trends
- to increase awareness on sustainable development
- to encourage and stimulate good practices
- to prepare a National Strategy for Sustainable Development

4. Strengths and Weaknesses

Problems solved/tackled; new problems encountered

Although the concept of sustainable development has become more widely appreciated, striking the right balance between the economic, social and environmental considerations is however complicated mainly due to the size of Malta and its limited resources, especially land.

Given that sustainable development is multi-sectoral and multi-layered, coherence across these sectors and layers is not always easy.

The institutional arrangement needs further strengthening. Currently discussions are being held to consider the various possible options and choose that which is considered to be more effective.

Resources are always limited, placing constraints on the implementation of the sustainable development strategy.

Key strengths/constraints

The Strategy includes an innovative section on implementation. Another strength is the comprehensive consultation process involved in developing it.

A weakness is that the administrative framework necessary to take forward key recommendations, such as the compilation of sustainability indicators, is not yet in place.

Upcoming national policy initiatives

The policy initiatives include the waste strategy for Malta, the climate change report, the review of assessing tourism development applications, the EU co-financed scheme for sustainable tourism projects, the energy scheme, the enterprise schemes.

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COUNTRY PROFILE: MONACO

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Broad Environmental Issues

Monaco, as a signatory in 2006 to the Kyoto Protocol, continues its longstanding, nationwide commitment to environmental protection: public elevators help minimize traffic; electric vehicle recharging stations are free and open to the public; most local Government transportation is electric-powered; waste water is treated and recycled; and garbage is converted into energy-producing fuel for municipal needs. Hotels have implemented eco-friendly goals and the Grimaldi Forum, Monaco's cultural and convention center is fuelled by hydropower.

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Regulatory and economic instruments

Decentralisation and Local level initiatives

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Monaco fully participates in and supports MAP activities.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Partnerships

Application of Nuclear and non Nuclear Techniques for the Monitoring and Management of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Benguela Coastal Region

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Indicators for sustainable development

Monitoring and review

3 Coordination and Management System

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

Established in Monaco, in 2006, the Foundation has proceeded to open chapters in Geneva, London, Paris and New York – with plans to open offices in Canada, Singapore and Germany.

The Foundation promotes the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources. It encourages the implementation of innovative and ethical solutions.

The Foundation supports the initiatives of public and private organisations and companies in the fields of research and studies, technological innovation and socially-aware practices. It is committed to raising the awareness of the population and States, by implementing communication action plans capable of generating the maximum mobilisation.

In order to stimulate and develop innovation, the Foundation supports scientific and technical monitoring at an international level.

The Foundation's focus is on climate change and developing renewable energies; the loss of biodiversity; improving universal access to clean water; and fighting desertification.

To date 67 projects have been selected as recipients of grants. Some of these projects include supporting local communities in their efforts to combat deforestation and loss of biodiversity in Brazil, the Congo and Siberut, Indonesia; the One Billion Trees Campaign co-sponsored with 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Green Belt Movement founder, Prof. Wangari Maathai; developing renewable energies & biofuels like *Jatropha Curcas* for local energy use in Kenya and Mali; and, with its particular focus on the Arctic, the Foundation supports, for example, the works of the ASPEN Institute (the ASPEN Commission on Arctic), UNESCO's Arctic World Heritage Symposium and Monaco's Oceanographic Museum's Polar Exhibition.

4 Sources

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www.PA2F.com and blog at: www.fpa2.mc/en/organisation.asp

COUNTRY PROFILE: MONTENEGRO

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

The drafting and developing of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) of Montenegro was formally initiated at the end of 2005 under UNEP/MAP with the support of the UNDP program in Montenegro and the Ministry of Environment and Territory of the Republic of Italy.

The Government of Montenegro adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in April 2007, together with the Action Plan (AP) for the period 2007-2012.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Objectives and targets

The NSSD rests upon the economic development, social, environmental, ethical and cultural visions for sustainable development of Montenegro.

The Strategy and the Action Plan cover three pillars of sustainable development, the economic, social and environmental, categorizing the concrete measures that need to be implemented by explicit aims and general goals for each of the pillars. The Strategy has a national character, but the Action Plan contains measures that address some of the local sustainable development issues. For these measures, the AP lists local governments as primary bearers.

The Strategy also relies on the Declaration on Ecological State and the 1992 and 2007 Constitution to incorporate elements of modern strategic planning and to establish a stronger connection with the international processes; on the Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy; and on the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the UNCSD recommendations.

The following general **goals** of NSSD Montenegro have been defined:

- accelerate economic growth and development, and reduce regional development disparities
- reduce poverty and ensure equitable access to services and resources
- ensure efficient pollution control and reduction, and sustainable management of natural resources
- improve governance system and public participation, mobilise all stakeholders and build capacities at all levels
- preserve cultural diversity and identities

Principles of sustainable development characterizing the NSSD:

- Integration of environmental concerns into development policies

- internalisation of environmental costs
- participation of all stakeholders
- access to information and justice
- equity among generations and equity within the same generation
- the precautionary principle
- the principle of subsidiarity and interdependency
- access to services and financial resources necessary to meet the basic needs

Priority areas/ sectors and Themes comprising action programmes

The NSSD identifies problems and challenges, priority objectives and measures for each of the following areas under the three pillars:

Economic development: Macro-economic developments; Regional development and employment; Transport; Tourism; Agriculture and rural development; Energy; Industry; New technologies.

Environment and natural resources: Protection of biodiversity and conservation of natural values; Water; Air; Soil; Forests; Environmental management system; Spatial planning; The sea and the coastal zone; Climate change and protection of the ozone layer; Waste.

Social Development: Governance and public participation in decision-making; Education; Health care system; Equity and social protection; Culture and media; Urban development.

The Action Plan for the NSSD also envisages the timeframes and agencies responsible for implementing the given measures, and indicators to monitor the level of implementation.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

Law on the sea
Law on water

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

Energy Development Strategy
Energy Efficiency Strategy- Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2008-2012
Action Plan on Renewable Energy Sources (RES)
2007 Action plan for Promotion of Biofuels
Climate Change Strategy
2009 study on climate change impacts and adaptation- being carried out

<i>Sustainable tourism</i>

Master Plan for Tourism Development- currently being reviewed

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

Draft law on agriculture and rural development
 National programme for food production and rural development 2009-2013
 Programme and action plan for the preservation and sustainable use of genetic resources

Sustainable urban development

2005 Law on Planning and Spatial Development
 2007(?) Spatial Plan of the Republic

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

National Strategy for Coastal Zone Management
 CAMP Montenegro
 National Plan for Emergency Response in Case of Accidental Pollution from Ships
 National Action Plan for Reducing Land Based Pollution

Conservation and management of natural resources

2008 Law on nature protection
 National policy for forest and forest land management
 National strategic plan for the fisheries sector
 Solid Waste Management Master Plan
 National Waste Management plan 2008-2010
 2008 Law on Waste Management

Public health

Law on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC)
 Laws on chemicals and on GMOs
 National Biosafety Council

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

Strategy for reduction of poverty and social exclusion 2007-2011 (health, education, social protection and employment)
 Strategy for the integration of persons with disabilities 2008-2012
 Strategy for the development of social protection for the elderly 2008-2012
 2008 Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of disabled people
 Strategy on minority policy
 Gender Equality Law
 National action plan for gender equality 2008-2012
 Strategy for the Development of Social and Child Protection 2008- 2012
 2008 Migration management strategy
 2008 Law on employment and work of foreigners

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

1991 Declaration on Montenegro as an Ecological State: future development of Montenegro would be in accordance with the principles and requirements of sustainability.

1992 Constitution: Montenegro is a “democratic, social and ecological state”.

2000 Directions for the Development of Montenegro as an Ecological State.

Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy.

EU Association and Stabilization Agreement.

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy integration, coherence and convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), being a cross-sectoral advisory body on the issues of sustainable development, allows for broad interaction, coordination and consultation.

Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments are carried out for programmes, plans and projects. The SEA studies are the subject of consideration of the Working Groups under the NCSD.

Regulatory and economic instruments

Decentralisation and Local level initiatives

The NSSD Action Plan (AP) contains measures that address some of the local sustainable development issues. For these measures, the AP lists local governments as primary bearers.

Several municipalities have started preparing documents with the visions for their future sustainable development. However, no municipality has yet prepared a comprehensive local sustainable development strategy.

The Government Decision on the Establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development of 2008, envisages direct relationship between the NCSD and the municipalities in the future process of forming local councils for sustainable development. The Office for Sustainable Development will act as the coordinator in this process.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

The National Sustainable Development Policy is particularly linked to the activities of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

Being in the process of integration in the EU, particular attention is also attached to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and related policy measures.

Also, there is a strong link with the environmental protection and sustainable development measures under the umbrella of the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

2.2 Stakeholders involvement in decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, Actors, Participation and Consultation

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning (MEPPP) was the coordinator of the NSSD drafting process. The process lasted one year and was set up in such a way as to enable interaction and exchange of information between different components and stakeholders in the process.

The Steering Committee established for the needs of drafting the NSSD consisted of representatives of a range of stakeholders, including relevant Ministries and Government institutions, University and expert institutions, business associations, the Trade Union and NGO sector) and the National Council for Sustainable Development. The Committee was in charge of preparing the draft Strategy and other relevant working materials, for the incorporation of the recommendations from the participatory process, for the evaluation of consistency of NSSD goals (among various sectors, as well as in relation to other documents) and similar.

Expert working groups (for economic development, environment and social development) held 4 rounds of meetings, aimed to agree on the work methodology and to define the results and the outputs.

In the beginning of the process, the basic documents were prepared – Visions and Framework Orientations for Sustainable Development of Montenegro - with the aim to set the grounds for the Strategy preparation at both the conceptual and practical levels.

Public participation and consultations with stakeholders were mainly exercised through three national workshops and two rounds of wide participatory meetings at the local/regional level. Participatory meetings were coordinated by the non-governmental sector. Representation of the stakeholders was also ensured at the round tables, when NSSD priority goals were determined for various areas.

Before its adoption by the Government in April 2007, the Strategy was also deliberated at the National Council for Sustainable Development,

Communication, Awareness-raising and Education

A Communication Strategy is to be developed, in order to raise awareness on SD policy, measures and on practical tools for enforcement of their implementation.

Amendments to the Law on general education and upbringing

Strategy for inclusive education 2008-2016

Strategy for civic education in primary and secondary schools 2007-2010

Strategic Plan for Education Reform 2006 – 2010

Strategy of Education for Sustainable Development 2005 - 2014

National Action Plan for Children

Partnerships

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Strategy for scientific and research activities in Montenegro 2008-2010.

Indicators for sustainable development

When determining the NSSD indicators, MSSD indicators, EU sustainability indicators and MDG indicators were taken as a starting point.

The NSSD Action Plan contains a large number of process indicators attached to certain NSSD measures and/or objectives. Some of the indicators are more qualitative than quantitative by their nature.

There are 13 indicators related to the economic growth goals; 6 on poverty and equity; 8 on pollution and resources and 1 on cross- sectoral issues.

Monitoring and review

The basic cycle for the monitoring of implementation is one-year period. A mid-term report with proposals for changes will be prepared in 2010. Detailed evaluation and review of the document is planned at the end of the first implementation period, at the end of 2012.

As the Strategy prescribes, the two main institutions dealing with the monitoring of the NSSD implementation will be the Office for Sustainable Development (OSD) and, through its reports, the National Council for Sustainable Development. The Ministry for Tourism and Environment is working closely with the OSD in this process, while other Ministries are involved through the preparation of inputs for the annual reports on NSSD implementation.

The first Annual Report was prepared and adopted in 2008. The Report was mandated by the Office for Sustainable Development, which also coordinated the process of data collection from the relevant Ministries and line institutions. The content of the Report was prepared by an independent consultant. The Report contains an overview of progress achieved in the first year after the NSSD adoption, and a list of recommendations on the ways the monitoring and implementation of the Strategy need and should be improved.

3. Coordination and Management System

Overall co-ordination of implementation efforts is the task of the Office for Sustainable Development (in co-operation with MEPPP and other relevant ministries and institutions), which is well positioned in the organisational structure of the Government. The three main roles of the OSD are:

- secretariat to the NCSD
- coordination of the actors working in the areas of sustainable development
- international cooperation and fostering bilateral relations

National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)

This Council was established in 2002 as a cross-sectoral advisory body on the issues of sustainable development.

Since its establishment, the NCSD was chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of representatives of different societal stakeholders, actors and interest groups. Between 2006 – 2008, reviews on the role, results and procedures of the NCSD were carried out. As a result, the number of NCSD members was reduced from 45 to 23; independent personalities/experts and working groups were introduced; and the creation of local councils for sustainable development in the near future was envisaged.

The reformed NCSD is now chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economy. Its members are:

- government ministries
- head of the office for sustainable development
- local government
- academia
- business sector
- civil sector
- independent persons/experts

The Council is expected to play an important role in supervising NSSD implementation and in providing the political support to the process.

Environmental Protection Agency: The EPA will be established through an amendment of the Law on the Environment. The EPA will be the key executive agency in the field of implementing legislation and policies for all environmental media.

4. Strengths and Weaknesses

The First Progress Report on the Implementation of the NSSD included conclusions and recommendations.

From the positive aspects, the following are highlighted:

- the sustainable development concept has been widely accepted, although not always integrated in a consistent manner
- when it comes to the development of infrastructure, a significant progress has been made in the preparation of project documentation and provision of funds
- some progress has been made in waste management
- with regard to natural resource management, modest progress has been made (e.g. draft Strategy of ICZM; planning forest management)
- the education reform is in a developed stage and is successfully implemented
- there has been an increase, although only a slight one, in spending for R&D
- significant progress has been made in the development of the strategic framework for improvement of the system of social protection in the

implementation of the principle of equality in access to services and resources; implementation remains a big challenge

Among the issues for concern, the following are mentioned:

- there are no clear indicators of whether the achieved economic growth is sustainable and to what extent; there are no clear indicators of whether the growth is socially sustainable
- with regard to regional development, there are no clear indicators that special efforts are made to develop the Northern region
- slow progress or no progress at all in the areas such as biodiversity and culture
- there are no significant improvements in the use of mechanisms and principles of sustainable development (such as SEA, EIA, integrated management, principle of cautiousness in decision-making, evaluation of resources, etc). This can be especially important having in mind that the strategic documents that will significantly influence the use of the most important natural resources of Montenegro (space/land, water, forests, sea and coastal zone) have been adopted or are about to be adopted
- there is no information showing that the budget supports more significantly the NSSD implementation
- there were no particular efforts made to ensure additional international development assistance for the implementation of the sustainability programs

What causes special concerns was the lack of significant progress in the development of capacities of the institutions. The Environmental Agency and Fund have not been established. The lack of progress in governance and participation are also causing concerns.

On the basis of the previous deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

- define more precisely the key implementation problems, in order to take action to overcome them
- decide on possible amendments to the Action Plan
- establish a continuous system for monitoring and assessment of implementation
- define a number of indicators of sustainability in the key sectors and to increase the efforts to monitor them in a systematic manner
- increase the efforts in the areas recognized as the ones where small progress has been made
- reorganize the Sustainable Development Council and secure necessary resources for the work of the Office for Sustainable Development; it is necessary to develop further the mechanisms for coordination and integration of sustainability principles into sector policies
- NSSD communication activities should be intensified in the upcoming period

The challenge is how to foster NSSD implementation in a manner to have this document widely recognized as the umbrella strategic document to which all strategic documents have to be linked and created.

Another major challenge is the reform of the process of monitoring and evaluation of implementation so as to ensure independent assessments that are based on the measurable list of the quantitative indicators.

5. Selective Sources

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European Council Decision 2007/49/EC on the Principles, Priorities and Conditions Contained in the European Partnership with Montenegro

European Sustainable Development Network Country Profiles:

[http://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country profiles](http://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country%20profiles)

Montenegro Development Report 2008

National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the State of Montenegro, 2007-2012

NSSD 2009 Review Annotated Country Report

Progress Report in the Implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Montenegro, 2008

COUNTRY PROFILE: MOROCCO

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

The National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (SsNEDD, 1995), served as a basis for the National Action Plan for the Environment (PANE).

The intention of Morocco to review its Strategy and prepare a new one was presented at the National Council for the Environment in April 2007. No developments have since been recorded.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

National Environmental Action Plan (PANE)

The main goal of PANE, “the expansion of development options and the extension of options to the future generation” clearly relates to sustainable development although the strategic vision focuses on environmental issues.

PANE principles emphasise preventive (rather than end-of-pipe), participatory, and ecosystem approaches.

Actions are mainly articulated around environmental **objectives**:

- protection and sustainable management of water, soil and other natural resources
- air protection
- promotion of renewable energies
- prevention of natural disasters and technological risk
- environmental management of urban areas
- and environmental communication

The action **priorities** are:

- strengthening the legislation, enforcement and control
- increased coordination of environmental actions
- fostering solid, liquid and gas waste management
- strengthening economic instruments and finance
- support integrated projects for natural resource protection
- environmental awareness campaigns
- support to private sector for cleaner production

Morocco has launched several programs and initiatives for the environmental improvement of the country at a regional and local level.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

National Strategy for Water Management and Water Plan– being prepared
 National Sewerage Programme
 Programme of Integrated Management of Water Basin SoussMassa
 National Clean Beaches Programme
 1995 Water Code

Climate change and energy

National Strategy for the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 Gas development plan
 Specialist body to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy
 Energy Strategy 2020-2030 and National Plan of priority actions 2008-2012 - priority to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
 Studies of adaptation to climate change in agriculture and transport - launched

Sustainable mobility

National Sustainable Transport Strategy 2008-2012 - development of all modes of transport
 2008 restructuring of the Ministry of Equipment and Transport
 Road Safety Strategy 2008-2010
 2009 draft Highway Code

Sustainable agricultural and rural development)

2008 Green Morocco Plan- integrated programme to upgrade the agricultural sector
 2008 Agency for Agricultural Development

Sustainable urban development

National Programme "Cities without Slums"
 National Programme "Clean City"

Conservation and management of natural resources

National Strategy and Action Plan on preserving biological diversity
 National Action Plan for tackling desertification
 2003 Nature conservation act
 National Environmental fund
 National Strategy for solid waste management and Action Plan 2008-2012
 Waste-processing Strategy - being prepared

<i>Public health</i>

Epidemiological surveillance and monitoring
 National Programme to fight against air pollution
 Industrial Pollution Control Fund (FODEP)
 2003 Atmospheric pollution control law
 2008 "Vision 2020 Health"
 2008 Health Strategy and Action Plan 2008-2012

<i>Social Inclusion, demography and migration</i>

National Human Development Initiative (NHDI) 2005- reduce poverty, insecurity and social exclusion; promote human development; recognise human dignity; strengthen social cohesion.
 2008 6th Campaign against violence against women
 National Observatory of Human Development- to be created
 2008 National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC)
 2008 Pilot health insurance scheme for the most disadvantaged (RAMED)
 Reforms of the Family Code
 National Strategy for Equity and Gender Equality
 2004 Labour Code
 National Plan for Children 2006-2015
 Project for the management of border controls
 Migration Strategy
 Migration and Border Surveillance Directorate

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

2004 National Chart for Land Management and Sustainable Development (CNATDD)
 The EU-Morocco Association Agreement (2000) and Neighbourhood Action Plan
 2007 Declaration of the Government (Prime Minister's Speech) for the Action of Morocco in the field of Environment

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The Departments of Energy, Water and Environment were brought together under the same Ministry, reflecting the Government's desire to integrate environmental issues in sectors vital to the country's development.

All Ministries have established environmental structures for pursuing the further integration of the environment in the various sectoral policies (Agriculture, Energy, Interior, Industry)

PANE aimed not to duplicate what objectives and contents already exist in other sector strategies and cross-sector planning frameworks or national initiatives in the context of international commitments.

Harmonization of actions is the result of consultation with all concerned stakeholders through thematic workshops.

Several stakeholders have launched initiatives to integrate the actions of the **PANE** in their strategies and programmes, including:

- Programme of Ecologically Sustainable Industrial Development (Ministry of Industry)
- Green Morocco Plan (Ministry of Agriculture)
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (Department of Energy)
- National Strategy for Ecotourism (Ministry of Tourism)

Regulatory and economic instruments

Laws were adopted on water; the protection and improvement of the environment; environmental impact assessment; fight against air pollution; waste management and disposal.

Other laws are being adopted including the law on protected areas and the Coastal Act.

Fund of Industrial Pollution Control – grants to companies for pollution control investments.

National Fund for the Environment – funding the remediation actions taken by local authorities.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

Local Agendas 21- a number have been prepared

Agreements between the Department of Environment and the 16 Regions to promote sustainable development at regional level

Regional Observatories of the Environment

The Department of Environment financially supports NGOs to carry out local initiatives for sustainable development

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Morocco is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Morocco participates actively in the Horizon 2020 Initiative

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development was initiated in 1995 by the Department of Environment and adopted by the National Council of Environment.

All actions of the strategies and programmes are approved by inter-ministerial committees.

National Council for water and climate- forum of all stakeholders to provide orientations for water and climate policies.

The national procedure of environmental impact studies provides an opportunity for the involvement of all the actors and the population in decision-making.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Foundation 'Mohammed VI' for the protection of the environment
 Strategic Framework for Development of the Education System
 Teaching reform 2000-2010 (Bologna Process)
 Medium-term literacy and non-formal education Strategy
 National Charter for Education and Training 2000-2009
 Strategic Action Plan for gender equality in education 2009-2012
 2008 Vocational Training Urgency plan

Partnerships

The Department of Environment has signed partnership agreements with several sectors, including the Association of Professional Cement makers, the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises, the Phosphates manufacturers, the Moroccan Centre for Cleaner Production and other.

African Union Initiative on Promotion and Development of Agenda 21 in Africa
 "BE THE CHANGE!" - youth-led action for sustainable development
 Capacity Building on the applications of ICT for the establishment of Environmental Information Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa – SISEI
 EVE-olution Foundation
 Earth Observation for integrated water resources management in Africa TIGER-SHIP
 Energy for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development
 Establishment of an African Regional Centre for Infectious Diseases
 Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility (EuroMed WPF)
 International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership).
 Local Environmental Planning and Management (EPM)
 Mechanism for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries
 Mediaterrre - Global information system on sustainable development
 Mediterranean Renewable Energy Program (MEDREP)
 My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development
 National Capacities for up- scaling Local Agenda 21 Demonstrations
 Network for Therapeutic Solidarity in Hospitals (ESTHER - Ensemble pour une Solidarité Thérapeutique Hospitalière en Réseau)
 Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD)
 SIRMA: Water economy in Irrigated Systems in North Africa
 Sustainable Biotechnology and Agriculture in Africa
 Université Internationale du développement Durable (UMDD)

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all Initiative

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Strategic Vision for research for 2025- implemented under a national action plan.

Indicators for sustainable development

A list of indicators for sustainable development has been prepared. 1998 Environmental Data and Information System.

The National Observatory of the Environment (ONEM) maintains an information and data system on the environment (SIDE) including national and regional GIS (SIGER) information and sustainable development indicators.

The National Center for Land Management and Sustainable Development (CNATDD) and Regional Observatories for Land Management and Sustainable Development collect and analyze data, assess EIA studies, and support local authorities in developing their sector or development plans.

The National Observatory of Migration maintains a data base on migration.

3. Coordination and Management System

The Ministry of Land Management, Water and the Environment was created in 1995. The Ministry of Health is responsible for water quality and providing information to the relevant authorities and the general public. The National Drinking Water Office (ONEP) is responsible for drinking-water quality.

There are 16 Regional Inspectorates under the aegis of the Ministry of Land Management, Water and the Environment as well as Watershed agencies.

Environmental Units were set up in a number of ministries involved in environmental issues.

The National Council for the Environment (CNE, established in 1980, restructured in 1995) is a forum of consultation and coordination between the different stakeholders. It promotes information exchange and contributes to the formulation of the government's environmental policy.

CNE is chaired by the Minister of Environment and is composed of representatives from all involved public agencies, the NGOs and the private sector.

CNE operates through technical commissions (human settlements, legislation and international affairs, pollution control, information, communication, education).

Regional Councils for the Environment have also been established.

The Budget of the Department of the Environment has increased substantially over the last few years to support the environmental upgrading in Morocco.

4. Selective Sources

- European Commission (2002), Morocco: Country Strategy Paper 2002-2006
- European Commission (2005), Euro-Med Partnership: Morocco - National Indicative Programme 2005-2006
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- UNDP (Millennium Development Goals): http://www.undp.org/mdg/tracking_countryreports2.shtml
- UNEP MAP (2000), Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire) <http://www.matee.gov.ma/DAT/chart.htm>
- <http://www.minenv.gov.ma/>

COUNTRY PROFILE: SLOVENIA

1. Strategic Frameworks

In 2005, '**Slovenia's Development Strategy**' (SDS) was published, replacing the preceding 'Strategy for the Economic Development of Slovenia' (SEDS), which had been issued in 1995 and updated in 2001. The SDS also represents Slovenia's strategy for sustainable development, as it covers all three dimensions of sustainable development.

A new Strategy for the Development of Slovenia is being prepared.

1.1 Major Strategic Framework relating to Sustainable Development

Slovenia's Development Strategy

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The SDS lays down four strategic objectives:

- economic development objective: exceed the average level of the EU's economic development and increase employment in line with the Lisbon Strategy goals
- social development objective: improve the quality of living and the welfare of all individuals, measured by the indicators of human development, social risks and social cohesion
- cross-generational and sustainable development objective: enforce the sustainability principle as the fundamental quality measure in all areas of development, including the objective of a sustained increase in the population
- development objective: employ Slovenia's distinct development pattern, cultural identity and active engagement in the international community to become a recognisable and distinguished country around the world

The SDS outlines 5 'key development priorities' which were classified as top-level goals. They are supported by 19 high-level priorities and 145 key issues.

The 5 key development **priorities** are the following:

- a competitive economy and faster economic growth
- effective generation, two-way flow and application of the knowledge needed for economic development and quality jobs
- an efficient and less costly state
- a modern social state and higher employment
- Integration of measures to achieve sustainable development

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

2004 Operational Programme for discharging and cleaning municipal waste water

2006 Operational Programme for drinking water supply

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

2003/2006 Operational Programme for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2012
 2006 National Plan of distributing emission coupons in the period 2008-2012
 2004 Resolution on the National Energy Programme (ReNEP)
 Sustainable Energy Consumption Programme (TTE)
 2004 Operational Programme for discharging and cleaning municipal waste water
 Project "Removal of obstacles for increased utilisation of biomass as an energy source"
 2002 - 2007
 2006 Decree on the Promotion of Use of Biofuels
 2008 New support schemes for RE power- focus on biomass
 Cohesion Fund: Operational Programme 2007-13- energy efficiency in all sectors
 2008 Strategy on the adaptation of Slovenian agriculture and forestry to climate change
 2008 National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2008–2016
 2008 Operational Programme to use woody biomass for energy purposes

<i>Sustainable mobility</i>

Operational Programme of Environmental and Transport Infrastructure Development
 (OP ETID) 2007-2013
 2006 Resolution on Transport Policy- reduction of transport greenhouse gas emissions
 National Programme for Road Transport Safety 2007-2013

<i>Sustainable agricultural and rural development)</i>
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Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

<i>Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones</i>
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Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP). The projects/ activities included:

- management of protected areas
- regional strategy of sustainable tourism development
- regional programme of environmental and water resources protection
- programme of public participation, training and promotion
- regional spatial information system
- sustainable mobility in the region
- environmental protection and maritime activities

September 2009

- system of integrated waste management in the region
- protection against natural and other disasters, including the climate change
- management of cultural heritage, valuable natural features and biodiversity
- improved quality of life
- spatial planning for sustainable coastal area development

Sustainable consumption and production

ISO 14001

Eco-labelling and EMAS

Operational Programme for the promotion of GPP- being prepared

Guidelines on environmental technologies

Environmental Technologies Excellence Centre

Conservation and management of natural resources

2004 Environment Protection Act

Nature Conservation Act

2005 National Programme for Nature Protection

Strategy for preserving biodiversity in Slovenia 2002-2012

Forest Development Programme of Slovenia

National Environment Protection Programme 2005-2012

2008 Operational Programme for the Natura 2000 site management

National Programme for mineral resources management- being prepared

2008 Operational Programme on waste elimination

Public health

National Programme for Nutritional Policy

Pandemic preparedness plan

2006 Animal Feed Veterinary Compliance Criteria Act

2008 Action Plan to implement the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

1999, 2007 Animal Protection Act

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

2003 Inclusion Memorandum

2004 National Action Plan of Social Inclusion

Human Resources Operational Plan

Human Resources Development Operational Programme 2007-2013

Fund for Human Resources Development and Scholarships

Action Programme for Disabled Persons 2007-2013

Programme of active employment policy measures 2007-2008

2006 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act

Strategy for social protection and social inclusion 2006-2008

<i>Global poverty alleviation</i>

2006 International Development Cooperation Act
 Expert Council for International Development Cooperation
 Strategy and Resolution for International Development Cooperation
 0.11% ODA of GNI (2005)

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

1999 National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP). It is the most important strategic document in the field of environmental protection in Slovenia.
 Strategy for the Economic Development of Slovenia 2001-2006. It aimed at achieving a balanced combination of economic, social and environmental aspects.
 2007 Development Report.
 2008 Implementation Report on the Reform Programme for Achieving the Lisbon Strategy Goals in Slovenia

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

In the context of the Structural Funds/Cohesion Funds, sustainable development is addressed in regional development programmes, with the involvement of regional bodies.

The Expert Committee for Sustainable Development with representatives from practically all Slovenian Ministries, aims to secure coherence between policies.

The National Council for SD (NCSD) fosters cross-sectoral and stakeholder coordination.

Links between national objectives and regional programmes are secured by the Office for Regional Development that coordinates multi-level governance issues with the NCSD and the Regional Development Councils and a Decree making it mandatory for all political levels to take into account sustainable development principles in development policy.

Every plan, programme, spatial planning document, other documents and amendments thereof that may affect environment need to undergo an impact assessment.

Regulatory and economic instruments

Environmental Protection Act (1993)- sustainable development principles.
 Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Impact Assessment.

Economic instruments include: direct aid or loans with a subsidised interest rate for environmental investments; favourable prices for electricity from RES or by cogeneration; conditional exemption from CO2 tax; exemption from excise duties for biofuels; reliefs for investments in R&D.

Several new environmental charges were introduced in the last years for: waste disposal; end-of-life motor vehicles; waste packaging; waste electric and electronic equipment; lubricating oils and liquids; waste tyres.

The proposed amendment to the Motor Vehicles Tax Act will make the tax burden applicable to motor vehicles dependent on the CO₂ emissions.

Slovenia is currently preparing an environmental reform of its public finances, which also includes an integrated and balanced system of gradual reduction of fiscal burdens or charges on labour and capital transactions and a parallel increase of fiscal burdens (taxes, fees, excise duties) as regards the use of environmental goods (soil, water, air, energy, raw materials, etc.) or impairment of the environment.

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

The 2004 Environmental Protection Act stipulates that municipalities need to prepare local programmes for environmental protection.

Regional Environmental Action Programmes and municipal environmental protection programmes have been prepared, supported by the Ministry of Environment.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Slovenia is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. It has ratified MARPOL and all its annexes,

The renewed EU Strategy for Sustainable Development (EU SDS): It foresees that Member States bi-annually report about how they address the priorities of the EU SDS. Slovenia has published its first national report on implementing the EU SDS in the summer of 2007.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

For the preparation of the Slovenia's Development Strategy (SDS), a group of experts first submitted an outline of the document. Workshops in broader circle of experts and representatives of Ministries resulted in the Draft Strategy.

A public debate then started with a consultation meeting held by the Prime Minister. The participants were representatives of business, science, culture and other social stakeholders. The public debate was organized by the Secretariat of the Sustainable Development Council. Five topic-specific discussions were organised with individual groups of social stakeholders (employers, employees, non-governmental organisations, social activities, regional and local interests). Alongside these activities, a number of other debates on the development of Slovenia took place. Particularly notable were the Roundtable Discussions on the Future organised by the President of the Republic.

All documents were published on a website. In addition, an independent evaluation of the preparation process of the draft SDS and an analysis of the public debate were

carried out.

A revision of the Strategy is being carried out under the umbrella of the NCSD. A steering committee guides the process and also includes representatives of the sub-national levels.

The revision started in 2008 with a 'scenario-building exercise', involving 30 participants. The participatory process was moderated by an external international consultancy. Participants formulated three distinct scenarios for the future development of Slovenia with special focus on the impacts of climate change.

Key stakeholder (representatives of science, universities, business and NGO's) participate in the Strategy review process as a full members of the special expert group working within the National Council of Sustainable Development.

Regional Development Councils are composed by two fifths from municipal representatives, two fifths from the economic sectors and one fifth from non-governmental regional organisations.

The participation of the public in the field of the environmental protection is enhanced, in accordance with the Aarhus Convention, by publishing draft documents on the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning website and organising a broad public debate.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

School curricula are currently revised to include aspects of SD
 Life- Long Learning Strategy
 2004 Environment Protection Act
 Resolution on the Environment Protection National Programme 2005-2012
 Operational Programme of the European Social Fund 2007-2013

Partnerships

Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (Aap2020)
 GEF Strategic Partnership on the Black Sea and Danube Basin
 International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)
 MEDIES: Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment & Sustainability - emphasis on water and waste
 My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development
 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative: People Shaping their Sustainable Futures

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Environmental Technologies Excellence Centre
 Slovenian Environmental Cluster
 Technological Platform for Waters

National Research and Development Programme 2006–2010
Slovenian Research Agency

Indicators for sustainable development

Statistical Office and EUROSTAT's 2-year project at compiling and promoting sustainable development indicators.

Slovenia has developed a set of SDS indicators. All indicators are linked to the top-level goals and high-level priorities outlined in the SDS. Vice versa, virtually all priorities are covered by indicators.

The findings in the Development Reports are mainly based on the results obtained through the set of indicators that was designed to monitor development. The 2006 and 2007 Reports were based on a set of 71 indicators. In 2008, the model was improved by including significantly more indicators and extending the analysed time period.

Monitoring and review

Slovenia's Development Strategy emphasizes the need for monitoring and continual upgrading.

The SDS implementation is monitored by the Slovene Development Report, a document that is annually prepared by the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development.

The 2008 Development Report contains findings regarding the implementation of strategic guidelines of the initial NSSD period. The report is divided into two parts: Part I presents an overview of the NSSD implementation for the five main objectives; part II documents the progress in detail by means of indicators of Slovenia's development.

3. Coordination and Management System

The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy (MESPE) coordinates the work on sustainable development.

The Government Office for Growth is the focal point for monitoring the Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

National Council for Sustainable Development

Initially established in 1997, the NCS is chaired by the Minister for Growth and co-chaired by the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning and by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Policy. It is composed of 34 members, comprising 9 representatives of Government offices and 25 representatives of civil society (economy, trade unions, municipalities, regional development agencies, the Roma community, Italian and Hungarian ethnic minorities, Slovene economic associations in Austria and Italy, and non-governmental organisations). The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy acts as the secretariat.

The Council is the major institutional body for fostering cross-sectoral integration throughout the implementation of the NCS. The Council meets 5-6 times a year and

mainly discusses strategic policy issues in the context of the NSSD as well as legislation and strategic documents with regard to NSSD objectives. Moreover, the National Council has several working groups on different topics (e.g. sustainable transport).

4. Main Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Strategy

Strengths

- it is the basic reference for ensuring the integration of sustainability in development policies and programmes
- it promotes active cooperation and mutual support between stakeholders
- the system of indicators offers a solid base for monitoring and enables wide discussions on the realisation of goals and the necessary changes

Weaknesses

Weak linking,

- of the competitiveness factors that build on knowledge and innovation
- of the measures to reduce the pressures on the environment
- of the measures to better the social situation

5. Good Practices

- Organic farming can be highlighted as a good agricultural practice that has gained a special reputation in Slovenia. It is promoted in line with the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Farming in Slovenia by 2015. The first organic farms in Slovenia appeared in 1998. The share of agricultural holdings engaged in organic production has grown from 1.5% to 2.4% in the past few years. A well organised 'eco markets' system has been organised.
- The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning has set up a project of cooperation with urban municipalities or local communities within the framework of the Strategy on the Urban Environment. The result of a year-long cooperation was the publication of the Minister's Recommendations for the preparation of municipal environmental protection programmes.

The "Slovenia reduces CO2" initiative is carried out in association with the British Embassy and the British Council in Slovenia since March 2006. The campaign first and foremost strives to raise awareness of the policy-makers. The initiative involved more than 10 events and a website was created (www.slovenija-co2.si) and is constantly updated.

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COUNTRY PROFILE: SPAIN

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

A draft of a Spanish National Sustainable Development Strategy was developed in 2001 but was never approved by the Government.

In the framework of the renewed EU SDS, the **Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy** was adopted by the Council of Ministers in November 2007.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The Strategy covers all three dimensions of SD. Due to the country's characteristics the approach emphasizes regional, territorial and rational land use. The document offers a general/global vision of sustainable development.

Principles:

- social cohesion and social development: demographic dynamics and social well being
- balanced economic growth with sustainable production and consumption patterns
- conservation of natural and human patrimony
- balanced regional land dynamics and sustainable urban development
- contribution to global development

The document identifies inter sector and sector **priority areas** and specifies different **objectives**:

Environmental sustainability

Production and consumption

- resource use efficiency
- responsible production and consumption
- sustainable mobility
- sustainable tourism

Climate change

- clean energy
- sectors concerned with energy intensive diffuse pollution
- sectors concerned with non- energy diffuse pollution and sinks
- market instruments
- adaptation

Conservation and management of natural resources and land occupation

- water resources
- biodiversity
- land use and occupation

Social sustainability

- employment, social cohesion and poverty
- public health and dependence

Global sustainability

- international cooperation for sustainable development

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

Integrated water resource management

2006 Action Plan for the Modernisation of Irrigation
 Technical Construction Code- meters, devices
 National Water Quality Plan
 Water Treatment and Purification Plan 1995-2005/ 2007-2015
 Plan of Zero Tolerance to Spills
 National Plan of Rivers Restoration
 Conservation and Improvement Plan of Hydraulic Public Domain
 Regulation for Hydrological Planning
 Action Plan for Underground Waters
 2007 Special Alert and Action Plans- drought
 National Irrigation Plan

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

ECCE (Effects of Climate Change in Spain) project 2003-2004
 2007 Spanish Climate Change and Clean Energy Strategy (EECCCEL) 2007-2012-2020
 and the Urgent Measures Plan
 2008 Phase II National Emissions Reduction Plan
 2009 National Allocation Plan 2008-2012- being finalised
 RENADE (National Registry for Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowances)
 R&D projects on agro-forestry carbon sinks
 2006 National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNAAC) - focus on cross-cutting
 studies on scenarios; water resources; biodiversity; coastal zones
 National Appointed Authority (NAA) - approval of CDM/ JI projects
 Planning for the electricity and gas sectors 2007-2016
 Expansion of the basic natural gas network
 Action Plan 2005-2007/ 2008-2012 under the Energy Saving and Efficiency Strategy
 2004-2012
 2007 Energy Saving and Efficiency Plan in public buildings
 2007 Decree on the Promotion of Cogeneration
 Energy Perspective Study 2030
 Renewable Energy Plan 2005-2010- focus on wind energy and biomass
 2007 System of guarantees of origin/green certificates
 Excise duty exemptions for bioethanol and biodiesel
 2008 Energy Efficiency and Saving Plan 2008-2011
 2008 New Financial Aid Programme for strategic investment in energy efficiency and
 energy savings projects

Sustainable mobility

Strategic Infrastructure and Transport Plan (PEIT) 2005-2020- support for rail transport
 Sustainable Mobility Plans in the urban and metropolitan areas
 2004 Metropolitan Mobility Observatory
 State Vehicle Fleet (PME) Action Programme 2007-2012
 The "Sea Highways" programme
 National End-of-Life Vehicles Plan 2001-2006
 2007 Act for annual targets for biofuels and other renewable fuels

Sustainable tourism

Spanish Tourism Plan Horizon 2020
 Reconversion and Integral Requalification Action Plans
 Tourist Infrastructure Modernization Fund (FOMIT)
 Spanish integral tourism quality plan (PICTE) 2000- 2006
 Nature tourism promotion plan

Sustainable agricultural and rural development

2007 Law on the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas
 Law for the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas
 National Strategic Plan for Rural Development 2007-2013
 Integrated Action Plan for Ecological Agriculture 2007-2013
 National Strategy of Conservation and Restoration of Cattle Routes and the Landscape Agreement

Sustainable urban development

Spanish Urban and Local Sustainability Strategy (EESUL)
 Network of Networks' Urban Environment Plan
 Green Paper on the Urban Environment (LVMAU)
 2007 Land Law
 2009 Urban Environment Strategy- planned for adoption

Sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones

Strategic Plan of Integrated Management of the Coastal Zone- being developed
 Coast Sustainability Strategy (ESC)
 Coastal Land Acquisition Programme
 MaritimeTerrestrial Public Domain Boundaries Delimitation (DPMT)
 Special Marine Environment Plan

Conservation and management of natural resources

2007 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Act and Strategic Plan - the latter being prepared
 National Biodiversity Strategic Plan
 Species National Conservation Strategies
 Strategic Plan for the conservation and rational use of wetlands

Law on Sustainable Rural Development in National Parks and municipalities of the 2006
 Natura 2000 National Site List
 Forestry Strategy and Forestry Plan
 Plan for the Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries
 2008 Programme of National Action to Fight against Desertification
 National Plan for Decontamination and Elimination of Polychlorobiphenyls (PCB)
 2008 National Waste Plan 2008-2015- draft, includes a Strategy on the Reduction of
 Biodegradable Waste Spills

Public health

National Health System Quality Plan
 System for the Autonomy and Care to Dependent People (SAAD) 2007- 2015
 Strategy for Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Obesity (NAOS)
 Health and Safety at Work Strategy 2007-2012
 National Institute of Safety, Hygiene and Health at Work (INSHT)
 New HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan
 National Centre for Sanitary Control
 National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
 2007 Air Quality Strategy
 2007 New Law on Air Quality and Protection of the Atmosphere
 Law of Noise
 National Observatory for Climate Change and Health- to be created

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

4th National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006-2008
 Integrated Employment Centres for persons at risk of exclusion
 2006 Act on the Promotion of Personal Independence and the Care of People in a
 Situation of Dependency
 2006 Agreement for the Improvement of Growth and Employment
 2007 Decree regulating vocational training
 Foundation for the Prevention of Labour Risks
 2007 Statutory law for the Effective Equality of Women and Men
 Women's Participation Council
 Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration 2007-2010

Global poverty alleviation

Strategy of the Spanish Cooperation Agency to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB -
 especially in Africa and Latin America
 0.32% ODA of GNI
 1998 International Development Cooperation Act (IDCA)
 Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2005-2008
 Annual international cooperation plans (PACIs)

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

National Energy Plan
 National Plan for Sustainable Tourism
 National Strategy for Forests and Forest Plan

White Book of Water
 National Programme to Combat Desertification
 National Strategy for Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
 Policy of Protected Marines Areas
 National Strategy on Climate Change
 National Hydraulic Plan
 Purification and Drainage National Plan
 Waste Management Plan
 National Reform Programme (NRP)

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The consultation document stipulates the need to look for sector and horizontal policies at all levels.

Regulatory and economic instruments

The Laws of Cooperation, Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessment are integral parts of major programmes and projects.

Spain applies the Polluters pays and User pays principles
 Voluntary agreements, Eco labelling and environmental taxes are developed at the provincial level
 Special rates of tax for biofuels
 Bonuses on taxes managed by local bodies (i.e. tax on economic activities (IAE); tax on property (IBI)
 2008 Green Public Procurement Plan

In January 2008, the taxation of purchased vehicles was restructured around environmental criteria and included in the Spanish Law on Air Quality and Atmospheric Protection, which stipulates four tax rates based on carbon dioxide emissions.

The Local Estates Act adopted in March 2008 establishes a discretionary subsidy of up to 50% of the corporate income tax reimbursable, as long as municipal dues are paid and the energy produced or consumed is sourced from renewable energy or cogeneration systems.

Local level initiatives

Every sectoral policy is coordinated by the national government. There is also coordination between the national and regional level – agreements are signed in those areas for which the regions have implementation responsibilities. The main concern here is to include environmental issues in sectoral policies.

According to the devolution of environmental decision making, autonomous regions and municipalities have the responsibility to implement environmental policies. Regional

authorities also have a key role in the development of their programmes and initiatives for sustainability.

Several regions have developed their own regional SD strategies, some well before the NSSD was approved. Generally, regions draw up their SD strategies independently but now they need to take into account the NSSD as well as the EU SDS objectives. There are several Local Agendas 21 and a many sustainable development initiatives take place at this level.

The first draft of the NSSD was distributed to the regional authorities for comments and feedback. Moreover, the NSSD was discussed with regional representatives in the so-called 'sectorial conferences'. Regional representatives were also invited and participated in the 'Conference on Sustainable Development' held in July 2007.

Relation with regional and global initiatives

Spain is Party to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. It has ratified MARPOL and all its annexes.

The EU linkages are numerous. Most prominent are the EU Lisbon Strategy and the renewed EU Strategy. Spain published its first national report on implementing the EU SDS in July 2007.

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The Central Government supports consultative procedures that include representatives of industry, employers, labor groups and NGOs.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Environmental information is provided at the central and some regional levels. Local and regional Energy Agencies are developing a set of important initiatives aimed at informing the public and raising awareness.

Non-governmental organisations and trade unions are becoming increasingly active in the field of raising awareness on climate change.

The Spanish Network of Pro-Climate Cities
New statutory law of Education

Partnerships

Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (Aap2020)

Hydrogeology of Mediterranean Wetlands (HYDROHUMED)

Integrated Framework of Tools for Implementing Sustainable Development in Small Islands (SUSTIS)

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)

MEDIES: Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment & Sustainability

MeditAIRaneo

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD)

World Institute for Sustainable Humanity (AWISH) - Hellas -Mesogeiou

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

National R+D+I Plan 2004-2007

Indicators for sustainable development

The NSSD includes a set of 74 indicators for its monitoring.

Monitoring and review

The NSSD implementation will be continuously reviewed with follow up mechanisms.

The Inter-ministerial Group that has prepared the Strategy will be in charge of preparing the corresponding follow-up reports that will be publicised, and for the holding of the Sustainable Development Conference, in line with the functions of the Advisory Council on the Environment.

In addition, the Representative Commission for Economic Matters will order the State Agency of Evaluation of Public Policies and Service Quality and the Observatory of Sustainability to assess the degree of application and success of some concrete policies contained in the Strategy.

3. Management System

The Spanish NSSD was developed by the Inter-ministerial Group for the Spanish NSSD under the coordination of the Economic Department of the Prime Minister's Office with the participation of other ministries. The draft document was written on the basis of contributions from various ministerial departments., working in an ad-hoc working group.

The NSSD preparatory process included several national-level events with the aim to involve different stakeholders, including a 3 day stakeholder 'Conference on the Sustainable Development Strategy' held in 2007. The Conference was convened within

the CAMA (Environmental Advisory Council), which is made up of 18 organisations representing civil society. Autonomous regions also participated. Provincial and local authorities were represented by the Spanish Confederation of Municipalities and Provinces. The conference consisted of 7 workshops and a concluding plenary session. In each workshop, one thematic area of the draft NSSD document was discussed.

An extended period of public comment was also utilized.

The Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy was subsequently adopted by the Government.

In April 2008, the Ministry of Environment was merged with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, creating the new Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Environment. The new Ministry has to propose and implement policies related to climate change, protection of natural heritage, biodiversity, sea, water, rural development, and agriculture.

Sustainable development concerns are also addressed through the Environmental Sector Conference, the National Council for Climate and the Council for Environmental Assessment.

The successful implementation of the Spanish NSSD will depend on the degree of cooperation between different public administration institutions. Extensive institutional support is shown by the Ministries, Autonomous Communities, the Environmental Authorities Network, and various follow-up committees in the context of EU Program.

A potential coordination instrument could be the Network of Environmental Authorities established in 1997 to take environment into account in the planning, monitoring and implementing the activities supported by the European Structural Fund.

It was proposed that after the approval and initiation of the implementation of the NSSD a specific Forum for Sustainable Development be established.

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COUNTRY PROFILE: SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

Syrian National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 2001)

The overall goal of NEAP is to contribute to health protection of the Syrian population, to manage scarce material and cultural resources in a rational and cost-effective manner and to allow continuing economic growth without environmental degradation.

Objectives

Prevent misuse of land and water resources (formulate policies; combat desertification; stop agricultural land conversion; prevent over-exploitation of water resources; maintain sustainable use levels; accredit modern sustainable irrigation systems; integrated water resources management).

Improve living quality in urban areas (control illegal settlements; maintain vital urban core in conservation areas; develop a sustainable transportation system; improve reliability of potable water supply and wastewater collection and treatment systems; promote suitable housing security; encourage investments by governmental and non-governmental parties to create new job opportunities and unemployment control strategies).

NSSD Syria

The process to prepare the NSSD Syria commenced in May 2005, following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and the Syrian Government. The project was officially launched in a national workshop held in 2005. The goal was for the final NSSD to be presented to a decision-makers meeting end of July 2006.

The NSSD Vision is to promote Syria as a country in which its citizens share a good standard of living as a result of economic prosperity based on the sustainable use of natural resources, and equity in distribution of capital.

The Framework Orientation Report approved at a broadly attended workshop, suggested eight priority areas of work that shall be included within the strategy documents. These include: poverty and unemployment, education, good governance, private sector, water management, agriculture and rural development, sustainable tourism and sustainable land use.

Based on the work so far, the NSSD structure is expected to include the following:

Macro-economic aspects

- trade
- agriculture and Irrigation
- manufacturing
- tourism
- transport
- energy generation
- construction

Social Aspects

- urban development
- poverty and income distribution
- employment
- private sector
- public health
- public education
- gender equality
- local administration, civil society, and public participation

Environmental Aspects

- water resources
- marine and coastal zone
- land
- forests and biodiversity
- air quality
- mineral resources

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives***Climate change and energy***

MEdENEC project- promoting energy efficiency in the building sector
2009 study on climate change impacts and adaptation measures- being prepared

Sustainable mobility

Railway Master Plan for the rail network

Conservation and management of natural resources

2002 Strategy and National Action Plan for Biodiversity

<i>Public health</i>

Programmes on-

Health Sector Modernisation- developing a strategy for the health sector
 Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
 Women's and adolescent health
 Reproductive health
 National Delivery Strategy- reducing the mortality rate of mothers and children- being finalized
 Combating IDS
 Reducing effects of pollution on human health
 Reducing contamination from sewage of water resources
 Improving air quality
 Improving occupational health conditions

<i>Social Inclusion, demography and migration</i>

th
 10 Five-Year Plan 2006-2010- blueprint for comprehensive economic and social reform
 CSP 2007-2013- priority areas for action include support for social reform
 Promotion of social safety nets, including insurance systems, pension schemes
 Social Welfare Fund
 1996 National Strategy for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration for women
 "Mawared" non-governmental organization to encourage women to start-up small investment projects
 Poverty Alleviation and Women Empowerment Programme- being established
 Syrian Committee of Family Affairs
 2001 "Fund for the Integrated Rural Development of Syria" (FIRDOS)

1.3 Other relevant Frameworks and Linkages

Tenth Five Year Plan 2006-2010- deemed to promote sustainable development in Syria, including a national vision for Syria up to 2020.

The Association Agreement with the EU was signed in October 2004. The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) drafted under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) sets out a strategic framework for European Union (EU) co-operation with Syria over the period 2007-2013. The National Indicative Programme (NIP) presents the framework of co-operation between the European Commission and the Syrian government for the period 2007-2010.

Poverty in Syria 1996-2004; Diagnosis and Pro-Poor Policy Considerations
 2003 National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan
 2005 National Report for Human Development for Syria: "Education and human development"
 National Strategy for Desertification
 National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2002-2010
 National Biodiversity Strategy
 Integrated water resources management plan in Syria
 Plan of Integrated Management of Syrian Coastal Region (MAP/UNEP)
 National Poverty Alleviation Strategy

Millennium Development Goals 2006-2010

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy integration and convergence

Sector and institutional integration

Regulatory and economic instruments

National standards for air pollution, potable water, wastewater and discharged industrial wastewater

EIA regulations for different new and existing industrial activities

2002 Environmental Protection Law

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

The NSSD contains the national, local, regional, and international dimensions

General Environment Directorates (GEDs) established in water basins

Local Environment Committees (LECs) in each governorate

1972 Law of Local Administration

MEDA-funded Municipal Administration Modernisation (MAM) Programme- laying down the basis for the next phase of Syria's decentralisation process

Relation to regional and global initiatives

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

For the NSSD preparation process, a special unit was set up at the Ministry of Local Authorities and Environment for the implementation of the project action plan through continuous and thorough consultations and meeting with the Environment Minister, participation of public and private sectors, relevant ministries, NGOs and research centers.

An expert working team was established, primarily responsible for the preparation of successive inputs for the Strategy through expert working groups. A Steering Committee for Sustainable Development was also set up under the MOLA&E comprising representatives of several Ministries and Government agencies, academics and NGO representatives.

A series of round tables and workshops fed in to the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development which discussed the various documents.

A report that introduces a national vision for sustainable development in Syria was prepared. A national survey was conducted in order to broaden the public consultation for the preparation of the NSSD orientations. The survey covered 14 Governorates and all sectors including public sector, private sectors, NGOs, unions, academic sector and the Parliament.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

Upgrading the Higher Education Sector project- in preparation
 Modernisation of Vocational Education and Training Project- in preparation
 2002 Law for Basic Education
 Law of Private Education
 Five-Year Plan 2006-2010- priority to develop and expand general, vocational and technical public education

Partnerships

2.3 Knowledge management

Comprehensive tools

Scientific Environmental Research Center (SERC).

Indicators for sustainable development Monitoring and review

3. Coordination and Management System

Syria established the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs in 1991. The Ministry was merged in 2003 with the Ministry of Local Administration, becoming the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment. It ensures co-ordination between the national authorities and the regional and international organizations. The Ministry is also responsible for identifying current problems, setting national policies and quality standards, and providing necessary legislative and institutional support.

The Higher Council for Environmental Safety (HCES) was established in 1991 with responsibility for setting national policy and the co-ordination of environmental management activities

General Commission for Environmental Affairs (GCEA).
 General Environment Directorates (GEDs) at the local level.

4. Problems

NSSD Syria has reportedly encountered the following problems:

- delay between MOU signing and start of activities
- delay in the finalization of the 10th Five Year Investment Plan which was linked with the stocktaking analysis for the NSSD
- difficulties in funds mobilisation
- the concept of sustainable development is still considered as a philosophy that cannot serve as a strategic planning framework
- the performance of experts was not always at the expected level

5. Selective Sources

European Commission (2002), Euro-Med Partnership, Syrian Arab Republic Strategy Paper 2002 – 2006 & National Indicative Programme 2005-2006

European Commission, Syrian Arab Republic Strategy Paper 2007 – 2013 & National Indicative Programme 2007 – 2010

NSSD Syria 2009 (various documents)

UNDP (Millennium Development Goals):

http://www.undp.org/mdg/tracking_countryreports2.shtml

UNDESA (2002), Country Profiles: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo>. and

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COUNTRY PROFILE: TUNISIA

1. Strategic Frameworks

Tunisia is in the process of preparing a National Strategy for Sustainable Development with UNEP/MAP and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECI) support.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding the process would update the country's Agenda 21 into a NSSD, in the light of the XIth Five Year Plan (2007-2011) and the current status of sustainable development process including its linkages with other national processes and mechanisms.

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

National Agenda 21

The Tunisian National Agenda 21 was adopted in 1995 by the National Commission of Sustainable Development and by the Government.

1.2. Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The Agenda's major goal and principle is sustained economic growth that allows for social promotion of the people and equity across regions and generations, while maintaining environmental resources and protecting the environment.

The **focus** is on:

- conservation of natural resources and their quality
- improvement of living conditions
- harmonious economic development between different sectors and regions.

Priority areas

Cross- sectoral issues:

equity and poverty alleviation; change in consumption and production patterns; promotion of health; land use planning.

Specific sectors:

- agricultural and rural development
- tourism
- industrial development
- urbanization and management of human settlements
- energy and pollution control
- management of water, land, and biodiversity
- management of seas and marine biological resources
- management of islands and coastal zones

For the above, the Agenda specifies the approaches, means and relevant tools as well as domains of interventions.

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives*Integrated water resource management*

Water resources strategy
National water resources plan
National plan for water and soil conservation
Programmes of urban and rural sanitation
Wastewater management programme- in preparation

Climate change and energy

Inventory of emissions of greenhouse gases
Adaptation strategy of the Tunisian coastline facing rising sea levels
Adaptation strategy for public health and tourism- prepared
2008 Energy efficiency law
Energy Efficiency Agency
2008 Law for concessions to encourage investments in major energy projects
Cooperation under the Euro Mediterranean Energy, including its projects
Programme of energy control 2008-2011- reduce energy consumption, increase share of renewables

Sustainable mobility

Development of a rail rapid urban public transport
Action plan for intelligent transport system
National Transport Strategy - multimodal management of transport

Sustainable agricultural and rural development

National Action Plan to fight desertification and soil erosion

Conservation and management of natural resources

National biodiversity and bio-safety Programme
National Programme for the Management of Solid Wastes "PRONAGDES"
National waste management plan

Public health

New health policy - being developed
National programme to prevent emerging diseases
2008 second stage of reform of health insurance
National Health Insurance Fund
Programme for the Monitoring of Air Quality
Action plan for prevention and fight against air pollution

Social Inclusion, demography and migration

Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi et le Travail Indépendant (ANETI)
 2008 approval of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol
 2008 draft law amending the Code of Personal Status- mother's rights
 2008 ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDEF)
 National plan on violence against women - being developed
 2008 lifting of reservations attached to the law ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 "Migration and Asylum" Project

1.3. Other Relevant Frameworks and Linkages

XIth Development Plan 2007- 2011 - provisions for an institutional framework and a national agenda for sustainable development.

EU - Tunisia Association Agreement. Country Strategy Paper (CSP), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) 2007-2013, national indicative programme (NIP) 2007-2010.

2. Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The Agenda 21 guides the preparation of the Five-Year economic and social development plans. Its priorities have been integrated in the Ninth (1997-2001), Xth (2002-2006) and XIth (2007-2011) Plans. These Plans adopted a long time perspective.

The NSSD to be prepared will constitute a framework that fosters the integration of sustainable development considerations in the concerned sector strategies, plans, programmes and projects.

Regulatory and economic instruments

Obligation to study the impacts of projects on the environment.
 Introduction of a control system by carrying out planned and unplanned inspections.
 Establishing criminal, civil and administrative penalties for offences against the environment.

Economic instruments:

Code of Incentives for Investments (CII)
 Fund for Pollution Abatement (FODEP)
 Tax for the costs of control and monitoring
 Tax on older vehicles (more than 10 years of age)
 Pricing of water and electricity

Charges for urban sewerage (households and industry)
Charges to the ecological system "ECO-LEF"

Decentralisation and local level initiatives

In the context of decentralization, local public collectives are increasingly involved.

Regional Environmental Programme (PRE), launched in 2003: Aims to improve the consideration of environmental aspects at the level of the Governorates with a view to their integration into the Regional Development Plans. Environmental Strategies were developed for the 24 Governorates of Tunisia, supported by the Regional Development Councils. Next, 24 Regional Action Plans for implementation of these strategies have been identified.

Local Agenda 21 Project- to develop Local Agendas 21 and secure the foundations for sustainable development at the local level. Training sessions and workshops were organized for the preparation of Local Agendas 21 that now exist in 50 cities.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

Regional and International Conventions ratified by Tunisia
Agenda MED 21 (1994)
Water 2000
EU Neighborhood Policy

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

The National Agenda 21 was developed by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with UNDP. The Ministry was assisted by the National Commission for Sustainable Development, supported by a Technical Committee and various sector committees.

The preparation and updating of the National Agenda 21 were largely based on wide-ranging consultations at the national and local levels with different stakeholders.

The NSSD to be prepared will constitute a framework that fosters stakeholders' involvement.

Nearly 200 associations are operating in the field of environment and sustainable development. Their activities and areas of intervention have become more diverse nationally and internationally. They are represented in several national bodies such as the National Commission of Sustainable Development and the National Coordinating Body for the fight against desertification.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

The National Agency for the Protection of the Environnement (OTED) collects, produces, disseminates and analyses SD information.

Programme for Environmental Education, Information and Awareness –raising

Strategy and action plan on environmental communication
 Education strategy on environment and sustainable development - being finalized
 "Space LEBIB" and environment animation events in kindergartens
 Network of Sustainable Schools

Partnerships

African Union Initiative on Promotion and Development of Agenda 21 in Africa
 Capacity Building on the applications of ICT for the establishment of Environmental Information Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa – SISEI
 Children's Environmental Health Indicators
 Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)
 Earth Observation for integrated water resources management in Africa TIGER-SHIP
 Energy for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development
 Establishment of and African Regional Centre for Infectious Diseases
 Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility (EuroMed WPF)
 Expanded OUZIT Project - Okavango Upper Zambezi International Tourism Spatial Development Initiative
 International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)
 MEDIES: Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment & Sustainability - emphasis on water and waste
 Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP)
 My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for SD
 SIRMA: Water economy in Irrigated Systems in North Africa
 Sustainable Biotechnology and Agriculture in Africa

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Tunisia is active in regional networks and partnership aiming at increasing knowledge and scientific bases: LIFE, CIHEAM, MEDURBS, MEDCAMPUS, MEDSPA, and METAP

National Report on the State of the Environment- published since 1993
 Geographic information system (GEONAT)
 International Center for Environmental Technology of Tunis (CITET)
 National system of scientific research and technology
 1996 Framework law regarding scientific research and technological development

Indicators for sustainable development

Tunisia has conducted testing of indicators of Sustainable Development in 1998 and those of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999.

2004 Sustainable development indicators in Tunisia
 2005 Regional indicators of improvement in living conditions (IRACOV)

Monitoring and review

The NSSD will be a tool to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the achievements of the XIth Five Year Plan in terms of sustainable development.

3. Coordination and Management System

A Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) was set up in the course of the last government reshuffle. MEDD is the lead institution in charge of coordination of the implementation of Agenda 21. It is supported by specialized public agencies such as the National Environment Protection Agency (ANPE) and the Tunisian Observatory for Environment and Sustainable development (OTED).

National Commission for Sustainable Development (CNDD).

Chaired by the Prime Minister, the CNDD was created in 1993 to conceive and ensure the systematic integration of sustainable development concerns in sector policies and programmes. It brings together all parties, governmental and non-governmental organizations, involved in the implementation of sustainable development. OTED acts as a permanent secretariat to the Commission. The Commission is assisted by a technical committee, various sector committees and national committees under different international Conventions.

Inter alia, CNDD had developed the following:

- Agenda 21 and Priority Program for Sustainable Development in the 10th Plan
- Environment and sustainable development indicators
- National Action Program to Combat Desertification
- National Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Management of Biological Diversity
- Local Agendas 21 and the Sustainable Cities Network
- Regional Environment Programmes
- Guidelines on sustainable development for several sectors: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry
- Strategic Studies: i.e. evaluation of the cost of environmental degradation; employment and trade and green environment

4. Selective Sources

Blue Plan (2000), Mediterranean Country Profiles: Tunisia. Environment and Sustainable Development Issues and Policies

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Commission des Communautés Europeennes (2009), Communication de la Commission Mise en Œuvre de la Politique Européenne de Voisinage en 2008 Rapport De Suivi Tunisie

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Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (1995), National Agenda 21

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Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (2001), National Assessment Report on Achievements for Sustainable Development and implementation of Agenda 21

Partnership for SD- CSD Database

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/search/simpleSearch.do;jsessionid=6D29302FBA0D9554C7032C797F81A709>

<http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/tunisia/index.htm>

Report to CSD for the Assessment Report on NSSD: The Global Picture 2003

Tunisie (2004), Rapport National Sur Les Objectifs du Millénaire pour Le Developement, Nations Unies

UNDESA (2002) Country Profiles: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>. and

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/natlinfo.htm>

UNEP MAP (2000), Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire)

<http://www.environnement.nat.tn/commission.htm>

<http://www.environnement.nat.tn/observatoire.htm>

COUNTRY PROFILE: TURKEY

1. Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Major Strategic Framework Relating to Sustainable Development

When the project named “Integration of Sustainable Development Into Sector Policies” is completed, with the preparation of a National Sustainable Development Strategy as an output of the project, Turkey expects to have a total, coherent and unified strategy.

A National Agenda 21 was finalized on December 1999.

1.2 Focus, Principles and Priority Areas

The 1998 National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) is the leading example of national environmental planning, setting of orientations and objectives, and action-oriented proposals to:

- encourage the sustainable use of natural resources and minimize environmental risks
- ensure cooperation and coordination
- emphasize public consensus and participation
- revise and update the NEAP and to develop sustainable development indicators to monitor its implementation
- improve the capacity of environmental management
- integrate environmental policies with economic and social policies
- align policies and strategies with the EU norms and international standards
- develop environmental monitoring and measurement infrastructure
- to increase environmental sensitivity
- promote the use of environment friendly technologies in industry
- make arrangements for the EIA process to become more efficient
- take measures to increase energy efficiency and conservation

Overview of main strategic/ policy initiatives

<i>Integrated water resource management</i>

EU's Water Framework Directive- partially transposed
Master Plans for 25 river basins

<i>Climate change and energy</i>

2007 Energy Efficiency Framework Law- additional incentives
Energy Market Regulatory Authority
Framework Law on geothermal energy

<i>Sustainable mobility</i>

Implementing regulation covering the transport sector
2008 Action plan on “energy efficiency movement”

<i>Sustainable agricultural and rural development</i>

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance Rural Development Component Agency (IPARD)
National Farmer Registration System – being developed
Rural development programme 2007-2013

<i>Public health</i>

Strategic Plan for the completion of the alignment/enforcement regarding communicable diseases 2008-2012
Seveso II Directive
Noise law

<i>Social Inclusion, demography and migration</i>

2008 Social Insurance and General Health Insurance Law
Prime Ministerial circular on combating honour killings and violence against women
Gender sensitivity training programmes
Prime Ministry General Directorate of Women's Status and Problems
2003 "Come on Girls, to School" (Haydi Kizlar Okula) campaign
2008 Children catch-up education programme
Social Services and Child Protection Agency (SHCEK)
Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
Law on Child Protection

<i>Global poverty alleviation</i>

Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA)

1.3 Other Relevant Frameworks

2008 Accession Partnership of EU with Turkey
2003 National Programme for the Adoption of the EU Acquis Communautaire
Five-Year Development Plans
UNDP supported National Programme on Environment and Development
National Agenda 21

2 Processes and Mechanisms

2.1 Policy Integration and Convergence

Sector and institutional integration

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry coordinates activities with other relevant ministries and institutions in Turkey, in order to ensure that environmental policies are more effectively integrated with other policies.

Programming of public investment by the State Planning Office in direct relation to the FYP and the use of EIA for projects, are major tools serving institutional integration. All investments plans should include principles of the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan. In addition, all investment projects that are to be financed by public funds should have a positive EIA report.

A new regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has recently been adopted.

A UNDP- managed EU- financed Project was launched for the Integration of Sustainable Development into Sectoral Policies. Its timeline was March 2006-November 2007. The project has three components: Capacity Building for sustainable development; Grants programme for demonstration projects; and Advocacy and capacity building for awareness-raising.

Regulatory and economic instruments

Following a detailed analysis of Turkish environmental legislation to identify potential gaps with respect to the EU legislation, work is under way for closing these gaps.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) directive has been transposed to a large degree.

The Law on the Environment was amended in 2006.

Local level initiatives

Municipalities are responsible to promote and implement sustainable development principles at community level.

In cooperation with the UNDP and with participation of local authorities, the NGOs and the local people, the organizational structures for the Local Agenda 21 process have been completed. Activities started in 47 regionally representative municipalities.

Relation to regional and global initiatives

The European Council at its December 1999 Meeting in Helsinki confirmed that Turkey was a candidate country destined to join the EU on the basis of the same criteria applied to other candidate states. A precondition of membership is that candidate countries must align their national laws, rules and procedures, including those relevant to the environmental sector, with those of the EU, in order to put into effect the entire body of the EU law contained in the *acquis communautaire*.

A key feature of the pre-accession strategy is the Accession Partnership which sets out the principles, priorities, immediate objectives and conditions.

The National Programme for the Adoption of the EU *acquis* was prepared in 2001 and subsequently approved and finalized. A number of its 29 chapters refers to the environment and other sustainable development economic and social issues.

EU harmonization is very important, given the direct linkage between EU membership and the sustainable development strategy.

For EU accession, Turkey has closely followed the developments in the sustainable development policies of the EU.

The EU supports a set of programs in the environment and planning sectors. Most relevant among them is the project entitled "Capacity Building in the Field Of Environment for Turkey."

2.2 Stakeholders Involvement in Decision-making, Consultation and Partnership

Mechanisms, actors, participation and consultation

A National Committee involving representatives from all relevant government agencies, NGOs, local authorities, academic institutions, private sector and the media, was set up to draft the NEPA. Regional workshops were organised to review drafts.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry coordinated the national process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The National Coordination Group for the World Summit on Sustainable Development was composed of representatives from various Ministries and of UNDP. A number of organizations were selected to assist in the preparation of the Report to the global summit on sustainable development. The draft reports prepared for each theme were extensively discussed at workshops and made available on the Internet for reviews and proposals.

The National Agenda 21 was prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment. Throughout the whole preparatory process, a broad participation of different social groups, as well as cooperation and collaboration between the central government, local authorities and the NGOs, was achieved. The National Agenda 21 Report was finalized, following the Assessment Meeting held on December 1999, where representatives from different sections of the society expressed their views and comments on the draft. A total of 166 public and private, governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, including universities and international organizations were invited to the meeting.

The work on the Local Agenda 21 started concurrently with and run parallel to the preparation of the National Agenda 21. The Local Agenda 21 activities were organized under the coordination of the IULA-EMME, in cooperation with the Governor's Offices and municipalities, and with participation of local people and the NGOs. Within the framework of the Local Agenda 21, participation in the decision-making process of the municipalities is achieved through the establishment of "City Assemblies", with people also taking part in their implementation.

The National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan describe the strategic actions and relevant stakeholders for environmental management.

Communication, awareness-raising and education

National database on environmental information - being established
Turkish Environment and Development Observatory
Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action programmes

Education and Training 2010 Work Programme

Partnerships

After the preparation of National Report on Sustainable Development for the Johannesburg Summit, the network of the working groups formed was maintained. This network also will facilitate the preparation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

GEF Strategic Partnership on the Black Sea and Danube Basin
International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)

MEDIES: Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment & Sustainability -With an emphasis on water and waste

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative

Youth dialogue on consumption, lifestyles and sustainability

2.3 Knowledge Management

Comprehensive tools

Turkish Institute of Scientific and Technical Research (TUBITAK)

'Vision 2023"- being developed

2008 Law to encourage research and technological development

Association with the 7th Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7)

Indicators for sustainable development

The 1999 report on 'National and International Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators' aimed to establish ultimately a 'National Environment and Development Observatory' in Turkey.

National indicators are being developed by the Ministry of Environment, the State Planning Organisation and the State Institute of Statistics.

The State Institute of Statistics (SIS) develops and publishes Main Economic and Social Indicators.

Monitoring and review

3. Coordination and Management System

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) was established in 2003 by merging the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forestry. The Ministry is the main actor for the coordination of implementation of sustainable development.

The Higher Council for the Environment is chaired by the Prime Minister. Its members are a number of Ministers responsible for various sectors such as the environment,

settlements, health, agriculture, energy, etc. The Council also has observers from various Commerce and Industry Chambers, the Chambers of Architects and Engineers, workers etc.

The Council's mandate is to determine the aims and principles of sustainable development policy in Turkey; adopt policies and priorities; approve legal, administrative, and economic measures for integration; etc.

The National Commission for Sustainable Development was established in 2004. The State Planning Organization (SPO) is the lead actor and functions as the Secretariat of the Commission. The core Commission is comprised of the SPO, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Environment and Forestry, and will include members from other sectoral ministries, private sector, academia, and other major stakeholder groups, such as NGOs as the need may be.

The Commission is the main body for strategy setting and advice on sustainable development, including the preparation of a National Sustainable Development Strategy.

A new department for implementation of the environment programmes under IPA has been established in the Ministry.

4. Selective Sources

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UNEP MAP (2000), Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (Main Report and Country questionnaire)

ANNEX V. A MODEL OF A POTENTIALLY BROADLY RELEVANT STRUCTURE OF A NSSD

1. STRATEGIC CONCEPTS

- Approach to sustainable development
- National political commitment
- Regional and international context, processes, initiatives and related commitments
- Legal status of the NSSD
- Long-term vision and time perspective
- Major environmental, economic, social, cultural and global challenges
- Goals for the three pillars of sustainable development
- Core strategic objectives (quantified and time-bound when feasible)
- Policy guiding principles

2. KEY PRIORITY THEMES AND SECTORS

- For each one-
 - operational objectives
 - quantified targets and timetables
 - strategic choices
 - major programmes at national, sub-national, local levels
 - action plans to be prepared (when, who, time frames, indicators)
 - actors
 - main levers of action

3. PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS (CROSS CUTTING ISSUES)

- Other policies, strategies, programmes, action plans and initiatives that are obligated to follow the NSSD goals and objectives and be adapted and brought in line with them
- Linkages to national economic decision-making, budgeting and physical planning
- Arrangements and processes for sector and policy coherence and convergence
- Integration, implementation and coordination tools and instruments
 - regulatory instruments (better regulation; legal instruments; simplifications/ improvements of working methods)
 - economic instruments (national environmental accounting; satellite accounts; market-based instruments, e.g. polluter pays, user pays, environmental taxes, fiscal incentives, taxation reform, pricing and taxation, elimination of negative subsidies)
 - other tools (green public procurement; voluntary agreements; business initiatives; EMAS; Ecolabel)
 - Impact assessment for significant policy proposals; Strategic Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes; Environmental Impact Assessment of projects
- Scientific Research & Technology development
- Financing (resources allocated in terms of time, staff and money; sources of finance)

- Decentralisation and Local level initiatives (roles; empowerment; resources; complementarity with national priorities; sub-national strategies; Local Agendas 21)
- Communication and awareness-raising (education and training; communication and information systems)/

4. STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING AND PARTNERSHIP

- Key stakeholder groups and involvement (groups; mechanisms; processes; tools) /
- Stakeholders roles, commitments and actions
- Partnerships and networks between public, private sector and civil society
- Measures to build up the knowledge and participation capacity of stakeholders

5. COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Governance structures, mechanisms and procedures (inter-departmental involvement; institutional structures and mechanisms; mandates, roles and responsibilities)
- Role of other branches of the State (Parliament; Ombudsman; Courts)
- Conflict resolution and risk management
- Development of critical capacities at all levels, of institutions and people

6. MONITORING, REPORTING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

- Indicators for monitoring NSSD implementation and progress
- Definition of the monitoring and review processes (identification of responsible actors; types – independent, community-based, peer reviews; frequency and cycles; focus)
- Reporting and dissemination (by whom, how, to whom, frequency)
- Evaluating effectiveness
- Revision and adaptation

7. SOURCES

8. ANNEXES

- Process for the NSSD preparation (steps; structures; participation; analysis)
- Elements of action plans to be prepared (issues; actions; actors; timetables; yardsticks)
- Sustainable development indicators