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Agenda item 3: UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021: Draft Strategic Framework

UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021: Draft Strategic Framework

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I. Background for the Preparation of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021

1. As detailed in the “Issues Paper” presented in Annex 1, the strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 is based on relevant global and regional processes and references, MAP and Barcelona Convention mandates, and existing MAP strategies and action plans. A review of conclusions and recommendations of the external evaluation of the current Six-Year Strategic Programme of Work 2010-2015 has also been undertaken.
2. The strategic framework has been prepared by the Coordinating Unit in full consultation and with the involvement of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), composed of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, MED POL management and the directors of the Regional Activity Centres. Managers and staff of the on-going projects (MedPartnership, ClimVar and ICZM, Shared Environmental Information System-SEIS, EcAp-MED and Switch-MED) also provided detailed inputs in its development.
3. The ECP at its 20th Meeting (Athens, Greece, October 2014) discussed and identified the initial lists of strategic axes, responses/actions/techniques/approaches, strategies/action plans/legal framework, means/tools and guiding principles to be considered in the development process of the Mid-Term Strategy.
4. At its 21st Meeting (Rome, Italy, December 2014), the ECP agreed on the guiding principles and the strategic themes that should be taken into consideration during the process to further develop the Mid-Term Strategy.
5. The ECP agreed that the Mid-Term Strategy would be:
 - Attentive to regional and national needs;
 - Result-based and resource-efficient;
 - Integrated and coherent across the system;
 - Consistent;
 - Inclusive;
 - Adaptive and flexible;
 - Collaborative, based on participation and partnerships;
 - Knowledge generating and sharing.
6. The ECP also identified the following issues that are “strategic themes” of UNEP/MAP to form the basis of the Mid-Term Strategy:
 - Land and Sea Based Pollution;
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Climate Change;
 - Natural Resources;
 - Governance;
 - Mediterranean Environment under Review.
7. The first draft of the issues paper, including the basic structure of the framework was submitted to and welcomed by the 79th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7). The draft document was also shared with a wide group of stakeholders, which included MAP Focal Points, RAC Focal Points, MCSD members, MAP Partners and experts on 5 March 2015.
8. The version which encompasses the feedback received from the respondents is given in Annex 1.
9. The strategic framework has been developed in a cohesive way avoiding silos that would derive from the specific substantive responsibilities of the Coordinating Unit and individual MAP Components. This has allowed integration and interlinkage of substantive issues, consistency and

coherence in an inter-related structure, particularly taking into account the transversal character of SCP and ICZM to all strategic themes of the Mid-Term Strategy.

10. The timing of the preparation of the strategic framework has presented opportunities and challenges. The processes of definition of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the upcoming UNFCCC COP 21 (Paris, France, 30 November - 11 December 2015) and the new climate agreement, the current review of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), the parallel MAP processes of development of other MAP strategic documents (i.e. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan, Offshore Protocol Action Plan, Marine Protected Areas 2020 Roadmap), the development of the follow-up of the activities implemented under the major projects coming to an end in 2015 (MedPartnership, ClimVar and ICZM, SEIS, EcAp-MED and Switch-MED) are all yet-to-be-completed. Therefore, they do not yet provide firm references for the development of the Mid-Term Strategy. However, this fact presents the unique opportunity of making the MAP-lead processes converge into one strategic package being developed at once.
11. The strategic documents and projects that are being developed, together with the existing MAP regional strategies and action plans will all contribute to the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy.

II. Description of the Strategic Framework

12. The strategic framework is structured around the strategic themes defined by the ECP. Each theme has one or more strategic objectives, a set of indicators, and strategic outcomes with their corresponding key outputs.
13. It is proposed that the final version of the Mid-Term Strategy will comprise also the means of implementation including partnerships, the relevant legislative authority, the responsibility for implementation in the MAP system, the major synergies with global and regional processes, policy frameworks and initiatives, and details of monitoring and evaluation.
14. For all strategic themes, the strategic outcomes generally follow a common logical format, i.e.: (i) facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans; (ii) strengthening the implementation setup at national levels; (iii) availability and use of reliable data, information and tools to secure effective monitoring and assessment for better informed decision-making; (iv) technical assistance and guidance; (v) enhancement of capacity, institutional and policy systems; and (vi) cooperation, increased awareness and stakeholder engagement.
15. In this version of the strategic framework, each strategic theme is preceded by an explanatory introduction, which will be further developed and refined in a common format in finalizing the Mid-Term Strategy.

III. Next steps in the process after MAP Focal Points Meeting

16. Following the guidance of MAP Focal Points the draft Mid-Term Strategy will be developed by the Coordinating Unit with the support of MAP Components and further guidance from the 80th Meeting of the Bureau (Athens, Greece, 14-15 July 2015).
17. The 2016-2017 Biennium Programme of Work will be guided by the Mid-Term Strategy. Its preparation will start immediately after endorsement by MAP Focal Points of the strategic

framework. Discussions on the structure and content have, however, already been initiated. The Coordinating Unit will lead the process with the inputs and support of MAP Components, and will be responsible for the timely compilation and consolidation of the feedback received from the thematic Focal Points. Based on the strategic themes, overall objectives, outcomes and outputs in the Mid-Term Strategy, the Biennial Programme of Work will develop results and indicators that allow to monitor progress in activities; links with the Convention, Protocols, adopted Strategies and decisions of the Contracting Parties; links to other actions; indication of resources; and assumptions and risks.

18. The draft Mid-Term Strategy and the Biennial Programme of Work will be submitted to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015 for their endorsement and then to COP 19 in February 2016 for adoption.

IV. Vision

19. The Mid-Term Strategy will work towards a vision of the Mediterranean based on the one approved by COP 16 in 2009, (Decision IG.17/6), which reads as follows:

“A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations”

and, will be inspired by the proposed vision of the revised MSSD:

“A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.”

V. Strategic Framework

1. LAND- AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION

20. The implementation of the 6-Year Strategic Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP 2010-2015 delivered several major outputs in the field of marine and coastal pollution control and prevention. In the course of the last biennium, MED POL and REMPEC undertook a number of assessments and evaluations, whose findings and recommendations point out that the Mediterranean region is yet facing important challenges to prevent and control marine and coastal pollution;
21. The strategic theme “Land- and Sea-Based Pollution” is designed in a manner that would provide effective support to the contracting parties to address the above challenges and enhance their capacities to effectively implement the five protocols related to pollution of the Barcelona Convention with a particular focus on legally binding commitments. In this respect, the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) has been incorporated in the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy and for the first time a comprehensive programme for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol is also presented in an integrated manner.
22. UNEP/MAP will be playing in the H2020 governance system an important co-chairing role with regards to two important sub groups on capacity building and monitoring and assessment respectively with UfM presidencies and the EEA. This would contribute to a better and more efficient use of resources in the implementation of the 6 year UNEP/MAP strategy in synergy with H2020 Work Programme 2015-2020.
23. The strategic theme “Land- and Sea-Based Pollution” aims to:
 - i. Build on the results of the implementation of the 5 year strategy adopted in 2009;
 - ii. Focus on priority basis on the work to support Contracting Parties to implement the programmes of measures as envisaged in the Updated National action plans/National Action Plans to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) for the pollution related ecosystem approach based Mediterranean ecological objectives. In this respect, developing and delivering a package of key technical implementation tools/guidelines and provide technical assistance and capacity building for their implementation remains a high priority;
 - iii. Support the updating and strengthening of national pollution monitoring programme to monitor good/poor environmental status, emerging pollutants as well as the effectiveness of programmes of measures/NAPs in line with Art 26 of the Barcelona Convention, Art 13 of the LBS Protocol and Art 5 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol;
 - iv. Further develop assessment methodologies to support setting where appropriate national, sub regional and regional GES targets, environmental targets, assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values and links and integration with all Mediterranean ecological objectives;
 - v. Enhance access to marine pollution information and data including hot spots and sensitive areas at regional, global and national levels based on SEIS principles;
 - vi. Takes into account the need to benefit from the important relevant global regional highlights thus avoiding overlapping and ensuring where appropriate harmonisation with inter alia:
 - the Minamata, Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the sustainable financial mechanism for chemicals established in the framework of UNEP;

- Rio+20 and the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly on Oceans and the law of the Sea (2012 and 2011) which identify plastics and nutrient over-enrichment as emerging issues deserving global attention;
 - UNEA decision on Marine litter, GPML, GP WW and GPSW;
 - IMO conventions (MARPOL, OPRC, Dumping);
 - LRTAP Convention (UNECE) with regards to air pollutant inventories, related tools and modelling to assess impacts on marine environment.
- vii. Establish strong and complementary synergies with the work of other Regional Seas, Agreements and relevant EU bodies for the implementation of the Regional Plans and Strategies in a coordinated manner;
- viii. Strengthen and contribute to the Partnership with H2020, and related programmes/projects and governing institutions.
24. The proposed thematic strategy is designed in an integrated manner with all the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy. It is an ambitious programme of work that will be implemented with MED POL and REMPEC leadership in close collaboration with SCP RAC as per their mandates and in partnership with regional and global partners including the NGO. Efforts are ongoing to ensure the mobilization of the required external resources to complement the MTF funding as appropriate (GEF, EU, H2020, UNEP/GPA, IMO, private sector).

- Objectives:**
1. To prevent, reduce and control contaminant inputs, oil discharges and spills, and human-induced eutrophication.
 2. To prevent, reduce and control marine litter generation and its impact on the coastal and marine environment.

- Indicators:**
1. Number of marine pollution prevention and control regulatory instruments and policies, including cooperation agreements developed or updated at regional, sub-regional and national levels.
 2. Number of countries reporting non-decreasing marine pollution trends for the priority sectors (land-based, shipping and offshore) of the relevant Regional Plans.
 3. Number of new and updated guidelines and other implementation instruments addressing pollution prevention and control, including SCP tools for key sectors and areas of consumption and production.
 4. Number of pollution hot spots eliminated.
 5. Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organizations capacitated to promote SCP solutions alternative to POPs and toxic chemicals, and marine litter reduction.

Strategic Outcomes	Key Outputs
<p>Facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	<p>Adopted pollution related Regional Strategies and Action Plans implemented.</p>
	<p>Common standards developed or updated for key priority substances or sectors and areas of consumption and production.</p>
<p>Strengthening, and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement.</p>	<p>Adopted NAPs (Art. 15, LBS Protocol) implemented and major outputs timely delivered. Enhanced financial sustainability of NAP implementation. Support to identification and development and where appropriate implementation of projects for the implementation of NAPs provided on the basis of well-defined priority selection criteria.</p>
	<p>NAPs developed to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.</p>
	<p>National policy and regulatory pollution prevention and control frameworks, including enforcement, strengthened, updated and integrated into national and sectorial processes (e.g. budget and policy development including policies on the use of economic instruments).</p>
<p>Monitoring and assessment of marine pollution, including through inventories of pollutant loads to marine and coastal environment.</p>	<p>National pollution and litter monitoring programs updated to include the relevant pollution and litter EcAp indicators and implemented through regular quality assurance programmes at national and regional levels and data reporting.</p>
	<p>Inventories of pollutant loads (NBB, PRTR from land based sources, and from offshore and shipping) to marine and coastal environment regularly reported and updated at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and supported by quality assurance systems.</p>
	<p>Marine pollution assessment maps (load levels and hotspots) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub regional and regional levels.</p>
	<p>In-depth thematic assessment reports delivered at regional, sub-regional and national levels to feed NAP and SAP-MED implementation indicators, SoE reporting for the parts related to pollution</p>
<p>Fact sheets for marine pollution assessment, based on EcAp, NAP, Regional Plans and H2020 indicators, developed and updated to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures aimed at Good Environmental Status.</p>	

<p>Technical assistance and guidance on priority sectors.</p>	<p>Guidelines and decision-support tools developed and updated for key substances and relevant sectors taking into account best available techniques and practices and SCP tools and practices. Priority sectors include marine litter, desalination, agriculture, industrial sector, hazardous waste, dumping, shipping and offshore, including up-to-date efficient authorization and integrated permitting and inspection systems.</p>
	<p>Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in priority areas of consumption and production such as tourism, food, housing and goods manufacturing, implemented and new ones developed for other sectors.</p>
<p>Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels for monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, authorization and inspections, and compliance with national legislation.</p>	<p>Training programs and workshops held at regional and sub-regional levels in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies and compliance with national legislation.</p>
	<p>Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges.</p>
	<p>Marine pollution prevention and control measures integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.</p>
<p>Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution.</p>	<p>Cooperation with stakeholders at all levels developed and strengthened through agreements, exchange of best practices and synergies.</p>
	<p>Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions contributing to alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and to reduce upstream sources of marine litter supported and coordinated.</p>

2. BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

25. The overall mission under this theme is to provide assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, and under the ‘Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean’ (SPA/BD Protocol), and implementing the ‘Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region’ (SAP BIO), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) (Decision IG.19/5).
26. In this context, a number of regional strategies have been developed, aiming at the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, which are:
- The ‘Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea’, and the emanating ‘Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020’;
 - Eight Action Plans for the conservation and/or management of endangered or threatened species and key habitats: Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Marine Vegetation, Marine and Coastal Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyan), Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions, and Dark Habitats;
 - A Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal;
 - An Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea; and,
 - Mediterranean Strategy on Ships’ Ballast Water Management Strategy and its Action Plan.
27. The MAP 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy “Biodiversity and Ecosystems” strategic theme will mainly focus on:
- Supporting the implementation of the ‘Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region’ (SAP BIO) regional and national Priority Actions for the period 2014-2020, as well as the SAP BIO related National Action Plans (NAPs). In this concern, SPA/RAC with the support of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and Components, national authorities, partner organizations and other relevant bodies will pursue investigating options for ensuring appropriate financial support for the implementation of SAP BIO at national and regional levels (Decision IG.20/4).
 - Facilitating the implementation of the ‘Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea’ of 2009, and more specifically the newly-developed ‘Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020’, in close collaboration with competent regional and national organizations, as well as NGOs and all other relevant stakeholders. A particular emphasis will be provided to the processes leading to the establishment of marine protected areas in the open seas by the concerned neighbouring countries, therefore allowing the management of Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJs), mainly through the declaration of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) as provided for by the SPA/BD Protocol, while taking into account the UN global process for the conservation of ABNJs.

- Setting-up and implementing monitoring programmes for key species and habitats to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) for the biodiversity related ecosystem approach based Mediterranean ecological objectives, as provided for in the MAP/EcAp Integrated Monitoring Programme related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species, and in the regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention's SPA/BD Protocol.
28. In order to improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, collaboration will be enhanced with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components, as relevant and necessary. Memoranda of understanding and joint work programmes are developed with key partners, which are also consulted and involved in the preparation of important decisions and policies.
29. Many of the regional partners collaborating in marine conservation issues rely very much on technical tools, strategic documents and other outputs produced within the Barcelona Convention context, such as the SAP BIO strategic orientations and priority actions, the Action Plans for the conservation of species and habitats, the Reference Lists for Mediterranean habitat types, the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Species and Species whose Exploitation is Regulated, the Standard Data-entry Form for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, and others.

Objectives: To maintain and enhance biological diversity, so that the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions of the Mediterranean.

- Indicators:**
1. Percentage of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas.
 2. Number and status of endangered or threatened species.
 3. Surface evolution trends and status of key habitats..
 4. Number of countries applying biodiversity-related ecosystem approach.
 5. Number of countries having a National Action Plan for non-indigenous species.
 6. Number of countries reporting a reduction of invasive non-indigenous species introduction rate.
 7. Number of countries reporting non-compliance with ship ballast water management requirements of the Ballast Water Management Convention and/or any other requirements of the port State.
 8. Number of countries contributing to the establishment of a survey, biological monitoring and risk assessment system on ship ballast water

management.

9. Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organizations capacitated to promote SCP solutions contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems conservation

Strategic Outcomes	Key outputs
<p>Facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the obligations under the Convention, the SPA/Biodiversity Protocol, the SAP BIO, the Action Plans on Endangered Species and Key Habitats, and the Marine Protected Areas Regional Working Programme and 2020 Roadmap.</p>	<p>Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implemented.</p>
	<p>Actions of the SCP Action Plan directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems implemented.</p>
	<p>Management framework for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJs) in the Mediterranean, including concerned Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), updated taking into account the UN global process for the conservation of ABNJ.</p>
	<p>A procedure for precluding international trade in species listed in the Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol elaborated.</p>
	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>
	<p>Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species implemented in line with its timetable.</p>
	<p>Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management Strategy and Action Plan implemented and reviewed as necessary</p>
<p>Implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation at national levels.</p>	<p>The SAP BIO, and its related National Action Plans (NAPs) and national Priority Actions implemented.</p>
	<p>NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) and for Species Introductions and Invasive Species developed.</p>

	Biodiversity and ecosystem protection activities integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs, and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.
	Incentive schemes with adverse effects on marine and coastal biodiversity identified and measures to have them gradually phased out proposed.
	Measures developed and agreed at national levels to strengthen the protection and the management of marine and coastal sites of particular interest, especially those containing under-represented habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats), in accordance with the Marine Protected Areas 2020 Roadmap.
Inventory, monitoring and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats.	Research on biodiversity in the Mediterranean facilitated and coordinated through adequate mechanisms.
	A regional programme established for the monitoring of the socio-economic impact of changes in biodiversity.
	Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as provided for in the MAP/EcAp Integrated Monitoring Programme developed and implemented with regular quality assurance programmes at national and regional levels.
	Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species (MAMIAS) Information System updated and used as a tool for early warning and management.
	Monitoring activities of the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, with a particular focus on Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), supported.
Technical assistance and common tools for the conservation of biodiversity with the aim to achieve the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean.	Fact sheets on biodiversity conservation assessment developed to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures aimed at achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean.
	Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats developed and updated in line with EcAp Targets.
	Guidelines and other tools for the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas developed and updated.
	Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in priority areas of consumption and production relevant to biodiversity and ecosystems conservation implemented and new ones developed.

<p>Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity related national legislation.</p>	<p>National capacities on taxonomy maintained and further enhanced in areas including sampling techniques and reference collections maintenance.</p>
	<p>Capacity-building programmes related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats developed and implemented.</p>
	<p>Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas developed and implemented.</p>
	<p>EcAp biodiversity and non-indigenous species data set established and common indicators monitored in selected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at pilot level.</p>
	<p>Pilot projects developed to rehabilitate degraded wetland habitats rendering them useful for natural resources exploitation and compatible with biodiversity conservation.</p>
	<p>Awareness raising programmes targeting the general public and decision makers on the economic value of biodiversity, ecosystem services and protected areas.</p>
	<p>Training and awareness-raising programmes on SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society</p>
<p>Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity.</p>	<p>Cooperation with stakeholders at all levels developed and strengthened through agreements, exchange of best practices and synergies, including in areas such as fisheries.</p>
	<p>Participation in existing international initiatives on estimating the economic value of ecosystem goods and services such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB).</p>
	<p>Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems conservation coordinated through adequate mechanisms.</p>

3. CLIMATE CHANGE

30. The Mediterranean has long been identified as a “climate change hotspot” and climate change impacts in the region are becoming increasingly evident: observations over the last decades show that temperatures have risen faster than the global average and that dry spells are becoming frequent. All model projections agree on the region’s future warming and drying with potential huge risks and costs to the region’s economy, population centres and biodiversity.
31. UNEP/MAP has been working on the issue of climate change impacts on the marine and coastal zone as far back as in the 1990’s. Aimed to further work on that, the ‘Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region’ (SAP BIO) was updated on climate change issues, and a related Synthesis Document giving an overview on priority national needs and urgent actions related to vulnerability and impacts of climate change on biodiversity in marine and coastal areas was issued in 2009. At the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2009, the “Marrakesh Declaration” adopted by Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegation agreed to “Implement effective coordination to ensure the integration of climate change issues into development policies with the aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the MSSD, and ensure the strengthening of cooperation for the sharing of experience in the field of surveillance (early-warning systems) and the development and implementation of adaptation and risk-management strategies”.
32. In UNEP/MAP’s Six-Year Strategic Programme of Work 2010-2015, climate change was one of the six themes the PoW was built on. Following this, the Program of Work for 2014-15 contained several mitigation and adaptation actions, including the preparation of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and its review by the MSCD in order for it to be submitted for consideration by 19th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19).
33. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted in 2005, included the mitigation of climate change and adaptation to its effects under “Energy”, which was one of its 7 Priority Fields of Action. The Assessment on the Implementation of the MSSD report (2011) suggested that the revised MSSD should put more emphasis on orientations, actions and indicators concerning emerging priorities such as adaptation to climate change. The revision process of the MSSD currently under development has climate change as one of its 6 Focus Areas.
34. Next to the activities ongoing under the auspices of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention in relation to the creation of an adaptation framework for the Mediterranean coast and marine environment, there are various other regional initiatives, with which cooperation will be necessary:
 - UNEP Programme of “Ecosystem-based Adaptation” (EbA) - uses biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people and communities adapt to the negative effects of climate change.
 - EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change - identifies three priority areas, namely: 1. Promoting action by Member States, through encouraging the adoption of comprehensive adaptation strategies and providing funding to help them build up their adaptation capacities. 2. 'Climate-proofing' action by further promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors and ensuring that Europe's infrastructure is made more resilient. 3. Better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation.

- European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) - provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as: a toolset for adaptation planning; a database of projects and case studies; and information on adaptation action at all levels.
- The climate-related UfM policy framework - provides for the development of regional policy and action frameworks and projects in response to climate change challenges. The decisions of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change (13 May 2014, Athens) aim at enhancing coherence of and promoting joint action within a Mediterranean climate change agenda. In that context, the UfM Climate Change Expert Group and the UfM Working Group for Environment and Climate Change were established.
- The Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change, 2010-2020 - elaborated in the League of Arab States (LAS) framework, aims at enhancing the Arab countries' capacity to take appropriate measures for addressing climate change issues while achieving sustainable development targets and MDGs in the Arab Region.
- The South East Europe 2020 Strategy - developed in the framework of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and aspires to provide a major vehicle for growth in the region, closely following the vision of the EU 'Europe 2020 Strategy'. The Strategy's Environment Dimension tackles adaptation issues, including by linking water, agriculture, forestry, and tourism and risk management elements. An Action Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

35. The Mid-Term Strategy strategic theme "Climate Change" is aligned with the draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, which is developing around the following proposed 4 Strategic Objectives:

- i. Promote appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, increase awareness and stakeholder engagement and enhance capacity building and cooperation.
- ii. Identify, assess and implement best practices (including low regret measures) for effective and sustainable adaptation to climate change impacts.
- iii. Leverage existing and emerging finance mechanisms relevant to climate change, including international and domestic instruments.
- iv. Better informed decision-making through research and scientific cooperation and improved availability and use of reliable data, information and tools.

Objectives: To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts.

Indicators:

1. Number of new national climate change adaptation strategies and related action plans developed and adopted in Mediterranean countries.
2. Number of MAP lead strategies and action plans in which responses to climate change are integrated.
3. Number of agreements with climate change research institutions towards a better understanding of climate change risks and impacts.

4. Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organizations capacitated to promote SCP solutions contributing to Climate Change mitigation.
5. Number of networks of stakeholders (including farmers, fishermen and tourism managers), organized to promote awareness raising, provide salient information and enhance their ability to respond to hazard events.
6. Number of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention responding to new reporting requirements on the implementation of climate adaptation policies and priorities.

Strategic Outcomes	Key outputs
<p>Facilitation and coordination of regional efforts to address climate change adaptation in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>“Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework” implemented through mainstreaming into available strategies and action plans like MSSD, SAP MED, SAP BIO, ICZM Action Plan and other existing or new regional strategies and action plans.</p>
	<p>Actions of the SCP Action Plan directly contributing to address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean implemented.</p>
	<p>Adequate institutional and policy frameworks promoted, including a regional approach to disaster risk management.</p>
<p>Support national level implementation of climate change adaptation strategies and related measures.</p>	<p>Development and implementation of National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans facilitated.</p>
	<p>Ecosystem-based responses (e.g. ecosystem services provided by wetlands) integrated in National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.</p>
	<p>Climate change and variability issues and adequate adaptation measures integrated into land-based pollution and biodiversity NAPs and ICZM national strategies, as well as CAMPs and ICZM Protocol implementation projects.</p>
<p>Better informed decision-making through research and scientific cooperation and improved availability and use of reliable data, information and tools.</p>	<p>Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications.</p>
	<p>A regional knowledge platform, able to harvest data from national institutions, established.</p>
	<p>Increased use of harmonized vulnerability and impacts indicators, also addressing socioeconomic trends.</p>
	<p>Endangered and threatened species, habitats and species communities potentially more affected by climate change</p>

	included in monitoring programmes.
	Inventory of coastal and marine habitats vulnerable to climate change developed.
	Assessment of the risks of sea level rise in the Mediterranean on coasts and on coastal communities developed.
	Assessment of sensitivity and adaptive capacities of marine ecosystems to changes in sea conditions developed.
	Assessment of the risks of climate change on water resources availability and allocation in coastal areas developed.
	Regional assessment and Coastal Vulnerability Index at regional and local levels developed.
<p>Technical assistance and capacity building activities to national institutions and stakeholders on climate change risks and responses.</p>	Capacity to develop proposals at national level to access international and regional funding opportunities to increase resilience to climate change supported.
	Awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on climate change adaptation enhanced.
	Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming on priority areas of consumption and production relevant to Climate Change implemented and new ones on other sectors developed.
	Training and awareness raising carried out for businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society to provide SCP solutions to climate change risks and impacts.
	Regional programme of training/capacity building for monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed.

4. NATURAL RESOURCES

36. There are numerous economic and social benefits generated by coastal and marine ecosystems (e.g. food, employment, carbon storage, coastal hazard protection). Unfortunately, the capacity of ecosystems to provide those benefits is constantly jeopardised by an unbalanced use and an insufficient preservation of the natural resources that they embrace. An important part of the Mediterranean coastal zone is occupied by cities, tourist complexes, industrial plants and infrastructure networks, which has led to its profound transformation and to severe conflicts regarding the use of natural resources.
37. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is for some time now considered as the most appropriate approach leading to sustainable coastal development. The ICZM Protocol entered into force to allow Mediterranean countries to better manage their coastal zones and to reconcile the many different interests by applying this "...dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account at the same time the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land parts."
38. ICZM involves a range of coastal planning, day-to-day coastal resources management and support activities (applied research, monitoring, education, law enforcement, institutional capacity enhancement and funding) that must be synchronised in order to address critical issues. The process of coastal management involves policy and plan formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation actions. All these activities are included in the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019 advocating for: well-informed development decisions that take into account the protection of natural habitats and species; bridges to be created between science and policy-making by transforming the scientific data into easy-to-use information; and provision of efficient and affordable working methods and tools as well as governance mechanisms.
39. By defining the geographical scope of its implementation, the ICZM Protocol advocates for and increased attention to be paid to another priority issue that is still emerging in the Mediterranean – the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Although the definition of the coastal zone provided by the Protocol is very bold in putting its seaward limit to the external limit of the territorial waters, the planning of the use of marine space still remains in the shadow of land-use planning.
40. Therefore, the Contracting Parties, at COP 18, recommended to strengthen MAP activities in this field in order to investigate in more details connections between land and sea areas and propose coherent land- and sea-use planning frameworks relating with key sectors: water, biodiversity, agriculture, fishery, energy, tourism sporting and recreational activities, utilization of specific natural resources, cultural values, landscape, transport and infrastructure and other economic activities that may affect the coastal and marine resources, which will also support the implementation of the recently enforced MSP Directive of European Union.
41. To be able to achieve the ultimate goal of ICZM and MSP – a rational and equitable use of coastal and marine resources for the benefit of environmental, social and economic sustainability, they need to draw on multidisciplinary competences and the integration of these in order to develop, test and validate various tools applicable at regional and local levels. The main challenge is to implement an ecosystem-based approach, which implies: collaboration between distinct disciplines and levels of governance for the purpose of consistency; development of adequate human, technical and institutional capacity; creation or reinforcement of networks for exchange of data, information and experience; and constant effort to raise awareness about the importance and value of coastal and marine ecosystems and services they provide.
42. Sustainable Consumption and Production is about the combined implementation of diverse actions, involving policy makers, businesses, retailers, academia and civil society in order to

redesign the way in which goods and services are produced and consumed to drive the revitalization of industrial and socio-economic development towards non-pollutant, no-waste, low-carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive, green and circular economies.

43. The UNEP/MAP has been pioneer among the UNEP Regional Seas programmes in integrating SCP in its regional strategic framework and thus fully contributes to the development of the 10YFP. This forefront position has been confirmed by the establishment of SCP as a thematic pillar of the Strategic Action Programme of the UNEP/MAP and as an overarching objective and a cross-cutting theme of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and by the assignment of a SCP mandate by the Contracting Parties to one of the Regional Activity Centre, the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production.
44. Based on the importance of SCP as a necessary strategic approach for the implementation of the Convention and the protocols, the Contracting Parties have requested MAP to prepare a specific SCP Regional Action Plan. This regional Action Plan will define common objectives and actions to implement SCP in the Mediterranean countries. It will also guide the definition of specific activities to provide technical support and capacity building to the countries on SCP and establishes the needed policy and regulatory mechanisms enabling a broad shift to SCP in the region.
45. SCP is a gate through which MAP will draw the interest and engagement for cooperation from the private sector, including local small, medium and big enterprises, multinationals, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, producers, retailers and sellers, for they are responsible of the production processes and bringing to market products and services, and hence are in a unique position to advance SCP in the region.
46. Integrating ICZM and SCP as transversal approaches for the Mid-Term Strategy enables MAP to strengthen its relationship and cooperation with other international and regional organizations such as FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP/DTIE, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, ESCWA, ILO, GFCM, GWP Med, IUCN, WWF Med, and international financial agents like the EBRD, EIB, IFC and WB, also promoting ICZM and SCP from diverse perspectives complementing MAP's mandate. In that line, ICZM and SCP are included as key themes of collaboration between UNEP/MAP and UfM in the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding. Finally, at its Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate change (Athens, 2014), the Union for the Mediterranean affirmed its commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, emphasising its strong support to the development of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

- Objectives:**
1. To implement ICZM and MSP for the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.
 2. To promote SCP in key economic sectors and human activities, with special emphasis on resource efficiency.

- Indicators:**
1. Number of ICZM national strategies prepared.
 2. Number of ICZM Protocol projects implemented.
 3. Number of methodological guidance tools on MSP and SCP developed.
 4. Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organizations capacitated to promote SCP solutions on Resource Efficiency.

Strategic Outcomes	Key outputs
<p>Facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	National ICZM Strategies prepared, including specific provisions on MSP.
	ICZM Protocol Action Plan implemented and updated after 2019.
	A regional MSP framework, taking into account MPAs/SPAMIs, Sulphur oxides Emission Control Areas (SOx ECA) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas prepared and adopted.
	The Regional SCP Action Plan directly contributing to the efficient management of resources in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean implemented.
<p>Strengthening and implementation of natural resources management at national level</p>	New generation of CAMPs prepared to promote land-sea integration and use of MSP, also addressing trans-boundary aspects, as appropriate.
	SCP Action Plan requirements mainstreamed into NAPs and ICZM National Strategies, and relevant national processes such as NSSDs.
<p>New or enhanced mechanisms for monitoring, observation and assessment of the state of the coastal and marine resources.</p>	Fact sheets based on ICZM, MSSD, EcAp and SCP indicators developed to evaluate the effectiveness of natural resources management measures aimed to reach a Good Environmental Status.
	National coast and hydrography monitoring programs developed and updated to include the relevant EcAp indicators, and implemented through regular quality assurance programmes at national and regional levels including data reporting.
	Mapping of coastal and marine environmental pressures at regional and local levels developed.
<p>Technical assistance and guidance on priority sectors.</p>	Methodological tools for ICZM and MSP developed and implemented (e.g. carrying capacity assessment, vulnerability assessment, cumulative impact assessment), with special emphasis on linkages between land and sea use planning and management.

	<p>Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming on priority areas of consumption and production relevant to resource efficiency implemented and new ones on other sectors developed.</p>
	<p>Sustainable income generating models developed for local populations in Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, and in their surrounding zones.</p>
<p>Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with national legislation.</p>	<p>Med-Open Training Program regularly updated and implemented.</p>
	<p>Awareness among citizens and consumers raised on the relationship between consumption patterns, lifestyles and resource degradation.</p>
	<p>SCP Civil Society-led initiatives advocating for the efficient use of resources supported and up scaled.</p>
	<p>Training and awareness raising programmes to provide SCP solutions for resource efficiency delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.</p>
<p>Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to achieve sustainable natural resources management and resource efficiency.</p>	<p>Partnerships among producers, policy makers, retailers and consumers organizations to promote resource efficiency established.</p>
	<p>Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions for resource efficiency coordinated through adequate mechanisms.</p>
	<p>Water demand management supported through the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management and ICZM.</p>
	<p>Better energy use efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the production of non-conventional water resources (e.g. desalination, treated water reuse) promoted.</p>
	<p>Cooperation with fisheries relevant actors reinforced.</p>

5. GOVERNANCE

47. Decision IG 20/13 adopted by the COP 17 in Paris (2012), underlines the Contracting Parties' commitment to continue strengthening the Governance system of the Barcelona Convention/MAP based on an increased involvement of the Contracting Parties, and the Paris Declaration also adopted by COP 17 calls for the establishment of the conditions for transparent, effective and enhanced institutional Governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP.
48. Additionally, with Decision IG.21/13, referred to the actions carried out to bring the Barcelona Convention/MAP system into conformity with the Governance Decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and in particular measures taken by the Secretariat to improve the sound and efficient management of resources as well as the efforts and contributions of Contracting Parties at the Bureau, the meetings of MAP Focal Points and other informal endeavours on ways to improve the governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP.
49. Under the light of the above decisions, guidance and request by the Contracting Parties, the strategic theme "Governance" bases on five principles: representativeness, accountability, effectiveness, higher level of participation and transparency.
50. The expected accomplishments are structured around:
 - Enhanced capacity of Contracting Parties to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve agreed environmental objectives and goals; and comply with related obligations;
 - Coherence and synergy of actions on environmental issues between components, respecting their mandates;
 - Environmental sustainability increasingly mainstreamed in national and regional development policies and plans.
51. In order to reach these accomplishments, the MAP System will continue providing technical support implementation of measures and commitments coming from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, strategies and action plans; mobilizing mechanisms for strengthening coordination of actions on environmental policies and programmes; and providing support in strengthening Contracting Parties environmental institutions and laws.
52. Strengthening science-policy interface will be a priority, as well as facilitating the increased participation of stakeholders in environmental decision-making processes. This will be realized through regular update of MAP Partners list, establishing new cooperation with competent institutions and effectively operationalizing the existing cooperation agreements. Emphasis is given to capacity building initiatives to further enable human resources in the region on environmental governance.
53. A key output under this strategic theme is the efficiently and effectively functioning compliance mechanisms. The Compliance Committee is a subsidiary body of the Barcelona Convention and Protocols and of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, with the adoption of Decision IG.17/2 on Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms and the creation of the Compliance Committee in July 2008. The Committee has become more operational and effective when the Rules of Procedure for the Committee were adopted in Decision IG.19/1 and modified by CoP18 in Decision IG.21/1. The strategic role of the Committee finds its place in the Mid-Term Strategy to ensure provision of advice and assistance to Contracting Parties, further assisting them comply with their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to generally facilitate, promote, monitor and secure such compliance.

- Objectives:**
1. To strengthen the regional and national governance mechanisms, the resource availability and the capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans.
 2. To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among international and regional partners and organizations active in the Mediterranean region.
 3. To enhance stakeholders' participation and outreach.

- Indicators:**
1. Level of ratification of Barcelona Convention instruments and their entry into force.
 2. Number of regional policies guidelines and plans adopted, implemented and funded.
 3. Number of Parties reporting on the Barcelona Convention on-line reporting system and levels of compliance.
 4. Amount of financial resources mobilized to co-finance MTF for the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy.
 5. Percentage of biennial increase of civil society organizations and private sector partnering with MAP.

Strategic Outcomes	Key outputs
<p>Contracting Parties and Partners supported in the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	<p>Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings (COP, Meetings of the Bureau, Meetings of National MAP and its Components' Focal Points, MCSDD, Compliance Committee and EcAp CG).</p>
	<p>Compliance mechanisms efficiently and effectively functioning.</p>
	<p>SCP Steering Committee created and functioning to follow up and advise on the effectiveness of SCP actions in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols</p>
	<p>Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported.</p>
	<p>National level integrated approach supported across sectors for the implementation of Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MSSD, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>
	<p>Barcelona Convention online Reporting System updated and operational, improved and maintained.</p>

	<p>Technical assistance provided to Contracting Parties reporting officers in order to improve biennial national reporting on implementation.</p>
	<p>Funding opportunities for regional and national priorities identified, donors/partners well informed and mobilized, a Joint Resource Mobilization Plan elaborated, and countries assisted in mobilizing resources.</p>
	<p>Financial and human resources secured to provide general and legal advice to Contracting Parties, MAP Partners and MAP Components, particularly on compliance with Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.</p>
	<p>Educational programs, including college level degrees, on governance and thematic topics of MAP relevance organized in cooperation with competent institutions.</p>
<p>Strengthened engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions.</p>	<p>Stronger regional dialogue and cooperation promoting active engagement of global and regional organizations and partners, local authorities, donor agencies, civil society, scientific community, private sector and other stakeholders in the work of the Barcelona Convention/MAP and within the framework of MCSDD.</p>
	<p>Participation in global and regional processes to highlight the Mediterranean regional specificities.</p>
	<p>UNEP/MAP led regional initiatives for dialogue and cooperation organized on issues relevant to MAP mandate (e.g. regional conferences, regional/subregional/national symposiums, and donor meetings).</p>
	<p>A Mediterranean Action Network for SCP established to bring together businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents, academia, civil society, administrations and other relevant stakeholders.</p>
	<p>ICZM coordination enhanced through: (i) Mediterranean ICZM Governance Platform; (ii) formal national ICZM coordination structures, (iii) network of ICZM Protocol implementation projects.</p>

6. MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

54. “Mediterranean Environment under Review” is a new strategic theme in the MAP framework, although activities in this field are not new for the MAP system. They were scattered in the other business areas. As also indicated in the outcome evaluation of the current Six-Year Programme of Work, calling for better integration and consistency of MAP activities, this new strategic theme will provide integrated assessments and foresight studies in support of other strategic themes and help identify emerging issues and possible scenarios.
55. A specific effort will be made to ensure strong links with scientific communities working on the Mediterranean environment.
56. The “Mediterranean Environment under Review” activities will be achieved in cooperation with global exercises such as IPCC, IPBES, GEO and the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. At Mediterranean level, cooperation with EEA, CIESM, CIHEAM, GFCM, IUCN, WWF, IEMED, FEMISE, CMI and H2020 will be strengthened or developed.

Objectives:

1. To deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development for informed decision-making and stakeholder work.
2. To ensure visibility of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its role and achievements.

Indicators:

1. Number of reports, fact sheets and other scientific publications produced by the MAP System.
2. Number of Info/MAP services provided and of data set / data services made available through Info/MAP platform.
3. Number of SEIS national nodes developed.
4. Number of hits on the UNEP/MAP and MAP Components websites.
5. Number of downloads of publications available on MAP system websites.

Strategic Outcomes	Key outputs
<p>Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts for informed policy-making.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments and made available to decision-makers and stakeholders.</p>
	<p>One State of the Environment Report, one State of the Environment and Development Report and one document on Med 2050: Scenarios explored to propose paths for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin up to 2050 published.</p>
	<p>Thematic fact sheets produced and published at regular intervals.</p>
	<p>EcAp based integrated monitoring and assessment programme implemented, updated and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into Info/MAP platform.</p>
	<p>Gaps on knowledge and measures on marine pollution prevention and control, ecosystem services, drivers affecting sustainable development, cumulative impacts and ICZM identified and addressed.</p>
	<p>EcAp indicators monitored throughout the basin and the Secretariat undertakes the assessment of the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast based on relevant data reported by the Contracting Parties.</p>
	<p>Enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific and assessment institutions to ensure that the Mediterranean issues and realities are included in their processes.</p>
<p>MAP knowledge basis developed and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding</p>	<p>Info/MAP platform and its services operative and further developed</p>
	<p>Access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public facilitated.</p>
	<p>Interoperability between Info/MAP and other relevant regional knowledge platforms developed.</p>
	<p>Technical assistance provided to Contracting Parties for developing their SEIS national nodes.</p>
	<p>Online BCRS interface complemented, and streamlined with other reporting requirements (e.g. NAPs, Regional Strategies and Actions Plans, and the Marine Litter databank).</p>

	<p>Information and Communication strategy implemented, monitored and updated.</p>
	<p>An integrated MAP components library developed and on-line.</p>
	<p>Biennial Mediterranean Environmental Friendly Cities Award launched.</p>
	<p>A Mediterranean SCP Hub for knowledge and networking fully operative and performing as connector and lever for new partnerships and initiatives providing SCP solutions.</p>
<p>Raised awareness and outreach about the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.</p>	<p>Higher visibility in international environmental outreach opportunities ensured.</p>
	<p>Mediterranean Coast Day annually celebrated.</p>
	<p>Awareness raising initiatives about the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and themes relevant to its mandate developed and carried out.</p>

ANNEX I

**UNEP/MAP MID-TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021
ISSUES PAPER**

UNEP/MAP MID-TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021

ISSUES PAPER

This document is submitted as per Decision IG.21/13 “Governance”, Annex II, which requests the Secretariat to prepare an issues paper as part of the integrated strategic planning process. It includes an overview of the current status of the Mediterranean Sea and coasts, lists existing legal tools and proposes a generic framework for the Mid-Term Strategy that will cover the period 2016-2021.

The first draft of this document was submitted to and welcomed by the 79th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7). The draft document was also shared with a wide group of stakeholders, which included MAP Focal Points, RACs Focal Points, MCSD members, MAP Partners and experts on 5 March 2015. The current document encompasses the feedback received from the respondents.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Mediterranean comprises a vast set of coastal and marine ecosystems that deliver valuable benefits to all of its coastal inhabitants, including brackish water lagoons, estuaries, transitional areas; coastal plains; wetlands; rocky shores and nearshore coastal areas; seagrass meadows; coralligenous communities; frontal systems and upwellings; seamounts; and pelagic systems (State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment, UNEP/MAP 2012).
2. The Mediterranean occupies a basin of almost 2.6 million km². The coastline is 46,000 km long, and the basin itself about 3,800 km from east to west and 900 km from north to south at its maximum between France and Algeria. The average water depth is approximately 1,500 m with a maximum depth of 5,121 m off south-western Greece. The shallowest part of the Mediterranean Sea is the northern Adriatic, where the average depth does not exceed 50 m. The Mediterranean Sea can be divided into two sub-basins, the Western and the Eastern Mediterranean, which in turn are composed of a series of varied small basins (Amblas et al. 2004). The estimated residence time of Mediterranean waters is quite high, around 50–100 years (Millot and Taupier-Letage 2005), which has important implications for the cycling and eventual export of contaminants. The Mediterranean drainage basin extends over an area of more than 5 million km².
3. Marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean is high by all measures. The basin supports some of the richest fauna and flora in the world and has an extraordinary diversity of habitats. It is recognised as one of the world’s 25 top biodiversity hotspots, defined as areas with rich biodiversity, a large number of endemic species (species unique to the region), and critical levels of habitat loss. There are an estimated 10,000–12,000 marine species in the Mediterranean, comprising approximately 8,500 macroscopic fauna, over 1,300 plant species, and 2,500 species from other taxonomic groups (UNEP/MAP 2012). This represents 4–18% of the world’s known marine species, depending on the taxonomic group (from 4.1% of the bony fishes to 18.4% of the marine mammals), in an area covering less than 1% of the world’s oceans and less than 0.3% of its volume (UNEP/MAP 2012; Bianchi and Morri 2000).
4. The total population of the Mediterranean countries grew from 276 million in 1970 to 412 million in 2000 (a 1.35% increase per year) and to 466 million in 2010. The population is predicted to reach 529 million by 2025. Four countries account for about 60% of the total population: Turkey (81 million), Egypt (72 million), France (62 million), and Italy (60 million) (Plan Bleu computations based on UNDESA 2011). Overall, more than half the population lives in countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, and this

proportion is expected to grow to three-quarters by 2025 (UNEP/MAP/MEDPOL 2005). The Mediterranean region's population is concentrated near the coasts. More than a third lives in coastal administrative entities totalling less than 12% of the surface area of the Mediterranean countries. The population of the coastal areas of the Mediterranean grew from 95 million in 1979 to 143 million in 2000, and could reach 174 million by 2025 (UN/MAP/BP/RAC 2005).

2. PRESSURES AND IMPACTS

5. Despite compelling evidence of the importance of services delivered by Mediterranean coastal and marine systems, the Mediterranean ecosystem continues to be degraded (The UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Initial Integrated Assessment, 2011). The pressures and impacts vary in severity from region to region.
6. The state of the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment varies from place to place, but all parts of the Mediterranean are subject to multiple pressures acting simultaneously and in many cases chronically. The State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report (UNEP/MAP, 2012) highlights the following as the major issues requiring coordinated policy and management responses in the coming years in order to stem the tide of degradation of the Mediterranean ecosystems.
 - **Coastal development and sprawl**, driven by urban and touristic development, leading to fragmentation, degradation and loss of habitats and landscapes, including the destabilization and erosion of the shoreline. Special attention should be paid to the degradation of transitional areas, including deltas, estuaries, and coastal lagoons, which serve as critical nursery areas for commercial fisheries and support unique assemblages of species, but also to the broader coastal zone.
 - **Chemical contamination** of sediments and biota caused by pollution from urbanization, industry, anti-foulants, and atmospheric transport. Although environmental conditions are improving in regard to certain pollutants in many Mediterranean areas, thanks to improved control of land based pollution releases, contamination linked to hazardous substances remains a problem in many areas.
 - **Eutrophication** caused by human-mediated input of nutrients into marine waters is a source of concern, especially in coastal areas near large rivers and/or cities. Impacts of eutrophication include algal blooms, some of them harmful and hypoxia. The direct socioeconomic impacts are related to toxicity or mortality of harvested fish and shellfish, loss of aesthetic value of coastal ecosystems, and reduced water quality.
 - The impact of **marine litter**, concentrated especially in bays and shallow areas, has recently been identified as a matter of concern across the Mediterranean.
 - The impact of **marine noise** on biota, especially marine mammals and fish, requires targeted research. Intense maritime traffic, particularly in the Western Mediterranean, and intense offshore exploration and military activities in specific locations, suggest potentially serious impacts.
 - **Invasive non-indigenous species** have increased in recent years, particularly in the easternmost reaches of the Mediterranean. Documented impacts on natural diversity include predation, alteration of the food chain, niche competition, and modification of habitats, leading to a variety of impacts on fishing, aquaculture, human health, and tourism.

- **Over-exploitation** beyond sustainable limits affects many of the commercially exploited fish stocks of the Mediterranean. The result is changes in species diversity, with some species regarded as Endangered, Vulnerable or Near-Threatened. Over-exploitation also leads to changes in community structure, the food web, and, ultimately, ecological processes and the delivery of ecosystem services. Other pressures brought by the intense fishing activity in the Mediterranean include **bycatch**, **non-selective fishing methods**, and **destructive fishing**. Understanding how multiple pressures reduce resources below the sustainable limits is necessary for effective fisheries management, which is crucial in a part of the world where seafood is both culturally and economically vital. While touted as a means of reducing pressure on wild stocks, **aquaculture** has increased noticeably since the 1990s, adding new pressures. These include nutrient and organic matter pollution leading to eutrophication and eventual benthic anoxia, pollution through the release of antibiotics and biocides, and the introduction of non-indigenous species.
 - **Sea-floor integrity** is affected mainly by bottom fishing, but also by dredging and offshore installations. Bottom fishing and dredging lead to the re-suspension of sediment and organisms and to changes in the structure of benthic communities. The impact of offshore installations is not well researched.
 - Changed **hydrographic conditions** caused by local disruption of circulation patterns by human-made structures, changes in freshwater fluxes to the sea, brine release from desalination plants, or climate change influence on both nearshore and offshore areas. Changes in freshwater flows also affect sediment delivery to the coastal zone near river mouths, with impacts on coastline stability and key systems, such as dune-beach complexes.
 - **Marine food webs** have been affected by fisheries pressures that led to the estimated reduction on average of one trophic level in the fisheries catches during the last half-century, increased jellyfish numbers, and reduced abundance of large predator species. Other pressures on marine food webs like pollution and invasive species are also significant.
 - Finally the state of **biodiversity** reflects the cumulative effects of the pressures affecting the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment. Although there is still high diversity in the Mediterranean, some species of reptiles, marine mammals, birds, and fish are reaching dangerously low abundance levels. The Mediterranean also hosts a diverse array of habitats of commercial, ecological, and cultural importance. Many are under a variety of pressures. Complicating the issue, many offshore areas, where upwellings develop and seamounts provide important habitat, are located beyond national jurisdiction.
7. **Climate change** impact is becoming increasingly evident in the Mediterranean. The recent IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, 2014) considers the Mediterranean Region as “high vulnerable to climate change” and states that it “will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate changes”. According to observations, in recent decades warm days, warm nights, heat waves, extreme precipitation and soil dryness have increased and cold days and nights have decreased.–The projected impacts (2081-2100 compared to 1986-2005) mentioned in the Report include an increase of 4-7o C in surface mean air temperature in the worst case scenario (RCP 8.5), 10-20% decreases in mean annual precipitation, increased risk of desertification, soil degradation, an increase in duration and intensity of droughts, changes in species composition, increase of alien species, habitat losses, agricultural and forests production losses.
8. According to the EU funded “Climate Change and Impact Research: the Mediterranean Environment” (CIRCE) project's conclusions:

- In the course of the 21st century the Mediterranean region might experience a substantial warming, which in summer might be of the order of 0.6°C/decade.
 - The warming appears to be accompanied by a reduction in precipitation (projected annual mean precipitation in the 2021-2050 period decreases by about 5% compared with the mean for the 1961-1990 period) over the entire region, more pronounced in the southern and western part of the basin, during summer.
 - Interannual variability of temperature and precipitation in the Mediterranean basin is projected to generally increase, especially in summer, as is the occurrence of extreme heat and drought events.
 - The sea level of the Mediterranean Sea might rise causing adverse impacts on the coastal areas. The projected mean sea level rise in the period 2021-2050 due to thermal expansion and salinity-density compensation of sea water might be in the range of about +6 / +11 cm.
 - There is an expected increase in the number of very hot days and nights as well as longer heat waves. The projections indicate also an earlier onset and a longer duration of droughts.
 - Overall, there is an increase in the intensity of heavy precipitation events over most of the Mediterranean region in all seasons.
9. **Acidification** is an additional anthropogenic pressure on Mediterranean Sea ecosystems. The Mediterranean Sea is considered a small-scale ocean with high environmental variability and steep physicochemical gradients within a relatively restricted region. Its circulation is characterized by zonal gradients of physicochemical variables, with salinity, temperature, stratification and alkalinity all increasing towards the east. The generally low-nutrient (from oligotrophic to ultraoligotrophic) waters offshore stand in contrast to many near-shore regions, often containing coral and seagrass ecosystems, which are affected by human-induced eutrophication. With their relatively short residence times, Mediterranean Sea deep waters are likely to lag changes in surface waters by a few decades at most. Changes in deep-water formation sites, such as characterized by the dramatic shift with the Eastern Mediterranean Transient, are likely to coincide with changes in the hot spots where much of anthropogenic CO₂ is taken up from the atmosphere and transferred into the deep sea (where it is stored for longer periods). The efficiency of carbon uptake and export from the surface waters to the basin interior depends on the relatively rapid time scales for surface-to-deep water exchange and the Mediterranean general circulation. (www.medsea-project.eu)
10. **Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production** are upstream drivers of the above mentioned pressures and impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems, in terms of pollution and waste generation (marine litter, toxic chemicals, nutrients), land degradation (intensive resource exploitation, coastal artificialization, erosion) and biodiversity (decrease of local species, overexploitation of fisheries, habitat degradation). Food and agriculture, tourism, fisheries, housing and construction, goods manufacturing and related activity sectors have been broadly recognized as main drivers of environmental pressures from both a production and consumption perspective (UNEP, EEA, Global Footprint Network). In the Mediterranean those sectors are considered both relevant areas of economic activity for the sustainable development of the region (UNEP/MAP/Plan Bleu, 2009) as well as key contributors to the vulnerability of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries to environmental degradation (World Bank/IBRD, 2012). Likewise those sectors as well as the main pollution and environmental challenges associated to their unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are identified as priorities for action in several protocols of the Barcelona Convention (e.g. LBS, ICZM and HW Protocols).

3. THE NEW MID-TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021 - MAIN GLOBAL REFERENCES

11. Under this heading, the main global references for a new UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) will be briefly explained. Being part of UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Regional Seas Programme (RSP), the Medium-Term Strategy of UNEP for the period 2014-2017 and the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programme 2013-2016 are considered as the overarching references for the framework of UNEP/MAP MTS. Another reference will be made to Sustainable Development Goals. These will be followed by Mediterranean-level processes, which are expected to feed the MTS development and complementary strategies like the reviewed Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

3.1. Rio +20 – The Future We Want

12. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio+20 was the third international conference on sustainable development aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community. Hosted by Brazil in Rio de Janeiro from 13 to 22 June 2012, Rio+20 was a 20-year follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit / United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in the same city, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.
13. The primary result of the conference was the document entitled "The Future We Want," in which the heads of state of the 192 governments in attendance renewed their political commitment to sustainable development and declared their commitment to the promotion of a sustainable future.
14. In particular, under the "Oceans and Seas" chapter, the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change were stressed. The countries committed to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

3.2. UNEP's Medium-term Strategy for the period 2014-2017

15. UNEP's vision for 2014-2017 is derived from its mandate:

To be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

16. Whereas the vision statement defines the long-term ambition of UNEP, the UNEP MTS has a goal statement that expresses the focus for the period 2014-2017. For this period, the key goal of UNEP is:

To catalyse a transition towards low carbon, resource efficient and equitable development based on the protection and sustainable use of ecosystem services, coherent environmental governance and the reduction of environmental risks for the well-being of current and future generations and the attainment of global environmental goals in order to contribute to sustainable development.

17. UNEP will achieve this goal by providing active and focused services to relevant UN agencies, governments and other relevant stakeholders in their work towards achieving and tracking global environmental goals and environmental dimension of existing and future sustainable development and environment goals. UNEP will do more to ensure that environmental sustainability contributes to the goals of the other two pillars of sustainable development (social and economic).

18. UNEP's strategic focus for the current MTS period is in the following areas, operationally referred to as subprogrammes:

- **Climate Change**
- **Disasters and Conflicts**
- **Ecosystem Management**
- **Environmental Governance**
- **Chemicals and Waste**
- **Resource Efficiency**
- **Environment under Review**

19. These areas have been reviewed against the decisions taken by member states in GA resolution 66/288 (2011) and validated as a priority for UNEP. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity underpins many of these sub-programmes and each programme will contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

3.3. UNEP Regional Seas Programme Strategic Directions 2013-2016

20. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans aim to increase their effectiveness and outreach in the period of 2013-2016, through increasing country ownership, promoting the incorporation of the Convention and/or Action Plan and their protocols into national legislation, promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms, involving civil society and the private sector, building capacities, ensuring viable national and international financial arrangements, as well as developing assessment/evaluation procedures where appropriate.

21. The key issues for the work of the Global Regional Seas Programme are identified as follows:

- **Coastal Area Management** (Coastal Zone Management and Coastal Development)
- **Ecosystems and Biodiversity** (Coral Reefs, Marine Mammals, Marine Protected Areas, Marine and Coastal Invasive Species, Large Marine Ecosystems)
- **Land-based Sources of Pollution**
- **Marine Litter**

- **Shipping and Sea-based Pollution**
- **Small Islands**

22. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will:

- a) Endeavor to effectively **apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment** in order to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations.
- b) Contribute to the **implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**, especially in the core partnership areas of wastewater, nutrients and marine litter.
- c) **Strengthen capacities at the national level on marine and coastal governance**, in order to enable coordination and coherence with systems such as the Large Marine Ecosystem approach, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and River Basin Organizations, as appropriate.
- d) Support the provision of tools **to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity**, including assessing the value of the services provided by key ecosystems.
- e) Strengthen coordination and **build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment**, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process).
- f) **Strengthen collaboration mechanisms** to address **common regional objectives, partnerships and coordinated regional implementation** of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, global and regional initiatives by United Nations Agencies.

3.4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

23. Rio+20 stated that the SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account the different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. The SDGs should address and incorporate in a balanced way the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and their linkages.
24. Established in January 2013 by the UN General Assembly, a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) was tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs; and the issues have to be addressed in a comprehensive, holistic, balanced and integrated manner. After a rigorous consultation process the OWG agreed on 17 goals and their respective targets. The list of proposed SDGs is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Goal 1. | End poverty in all its forms everywhere |
| Goal 2. | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture |
| Goal 3. | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages |

- Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- *Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.*
- Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

4. THE NEW MID-TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021 - REGIONAL RESPONSE TO PRESSURE AND IMPACTS

4.1. Current strategic approach

25. Being the only regional multilateral agreement for the protection of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, the Barcelona Convention, aiming “to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest extent possible eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area” and “to protect and enhance the marine environment in that area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development”, rests on seven associated protocols:
- The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea (Dumping Protocol, adopted 1976, in force 1978, amended 1995),
 - The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol, adopted 1976, in force 1978), replaced by the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol, adopted 2002, in force 2004),
 - The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol, adopted 1980, in force 1983; amended 1996, in force 2008),
 - The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol, adopted 1982, in force 1986) replaced by the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol, adopted 1995, in force 1999),
 - Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol, adopted 1994, in force 2011),
 - Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol, adopted 1996, in force 2008),
 - Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM Protocol, adopted 2008, in force 2011)
26. The Mediterranean Action Plan II adopted in 1995 by COP 10 as well as by a Conference of the Plenipotentiaries held in Barcelona, Spain, June 1995 contains three principal components:
- i. Sustainable development in the Mediterranean
 - Integration of environment and development
 - Conservation of nature landscape and sites
 - Assessment, prevention and elimination of marine pollution
 - Information and participation
 - ii. Strengthening of the legal framework
 - iii. Institutional and Financial Arrangements

It also contains an annex describing priority fields of activities for the environment and development in the Mediterranean basin (1996-2005) that was further complemented and

replaced in 2005 and 2009 by the multiannual programme of work of the MCSD (COP 14) and 5 year UNEP/MAP strategic programme of work (COP 16).

27. In addition to MAP II, the Convention and its Protocols, the following regional strategies and programmes provided foundation for medium term and biannual planning and programming of UNEP/MAP's work so far:
- The Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP MED), adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their Tenth Meeting held in Tunis in 1997
 - The Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their Thirteenth Meeting held in Catania in 2003
 - The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their Fourteenth Meeting held in Portoroz, Slovenia in 2005
 - Regional Strategy for Prevention of and response to marine pollution from Ships
 - Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management
28. The Mediterranean Action Plan's Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work for the period 2010-2014 was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at its meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2009 (Decision IG.19/8: Adoption of the Five-Year Programme of Work and Programme Budget for the 2010-2011 biennium). It was designed alongside the biennial Programme of Work for 2010-2011 and provided a reference for the biennial Programmes of Work for 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.
29. The Five Year Strategic Programme of Work outcomes are structured around six priority themes: Governance, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Biodiversity, Pollution Prevention and Control, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change (Table 1). Each outcome is associated with one to three outputs.

Table 1. Five Year PoW Theme, Outcomes and Outputs

Theme	PoW Outcome	PoW Outputs
Governance	Barcelona Convention, protocols, and strategies effectively implemented	I. Strengthening Institutional Coherence, efficiency and accountability II. Implementation gap filled: Contracting Parties supported in meeting the objectives of BC, protocols and adopted strategies III. Knowledge and information effectively managed and communicated
Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	Sustainable development of coastal zone enhanced	I. Coastal zone management achieves effective balance between development and protection (sustainable development of coastal zone)
Biodiversity	Marine and coastal biodiversity loss reduced	I. Ecosystem services provided by the marine and coastal environment identified and valued II. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (strategic vision, new objectives in the post 2010 context, including fisheries, ballast, non-indigenous species), endangered and threatened species III. Network of Marine and coastal Protected Areas (MPAs), including Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), extended, strengthened and effectively managed

Theme	PoW Outcome	PoW Outputs
Pollution Prevention and Control	Land-based and sea-based pollution reduced	I. Early warning of pollution (spills, dangerous/hazardous substances) II. Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments
Sustainable Consumption and Production	Unsustainable consumption and production patterns changed	I. Drivers affecting ecosystems addressed: economic activities, patterns of consumption, infrastructure and spatial development more sustainable, transport
Climate Change	Mediterranean environment less vulnerable to Climate Change	I. Mediterranean region able to face climate change challenges through a better understanding of potential ecological impacts and vulnerabilities II. Reduced socio-economic vulnerability

30. The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, in their Decision IG.21/17 – “MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium”, approved the extension of the current Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work (2010-2014) for one additional year and requested the Secretariat to carry out an external evaluation of that programme. The Parties asked the Secretariat with the participation of MAP Components and in full consultation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, the MAP Focal Points and MAP Partners to prepare for consideration and approval by the 19th meeting of the Contracting Parties a Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021.

4.2. Ecosystem Approach Implementation in the Mediterranean

31. Decisions IG 17/6 “Implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment” and IG 20/4 “Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap adopted by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention” respectively in COP 15 (2008) and COP17 (2012) articulate a systematic process for moving forward towards more effective ecosystems-based management in the Mediterranean. COP17 adopted the following ecological objectives, which have been defined through an intensive process of consultation led by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat fully owned by the Contracting Parties and with participation of MAP Partners and technical experts:
- (1). **Biological diversity is maintained** or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions.
 - (2). **Non-indigenous species** introduced by human activities are at levels that **do not adversely alter the ecosystem**.
 - (3). **Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits**, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock.
 - (4). **Alterations to components of marine food webs** caused by resource extraction or human-induced environmental changes **do not have long-term adverse effects** on food web dynamics and related viability.

- (5). **Human-induced eutrophication is prevented**, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.
- (6). **Sea-floor integrity is maintained**, especially in priority benthic habitats.
- (7). **Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems.**
- (8). The **natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained** and **coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved.**
- (9). **Contaminants cause no significant impact** on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health.
- (10). **Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments.**
- (11). **Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems.**

Additionally, COP 18 with its Decision IG.21/3 on the “Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets”, adopted an integrated list of Mediterranean GES and related targets associated with the Operational Objectives and indicators as agreed through Decision IG.20/4 (COP 17, Paris, 2013).

4.3. Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and its review

32. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)¹ was adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2005, as a regional response to the global agenda about sustainable development. It focuses mainly on the integration of environmental concerns into the key economic development sectors, while giving due consideration to social and cultural dimensions.
33. Defining four priority objectives, nine challenges and 34 sub-objectives, the MSSD set clear objectives and targets associated with follow-up actions. Adopting an integrated approach to economic and social development, environmental protection, and cultural advancement, the MSSD establishes four objectives aiming at promoting progress towards sustainability in the economic, social and environmental areas and in the field of governance, as follows:
 - Objective 1: **Contribute to economic development** by enhancing Mediterranean assets;
 - Objective 2: **Reduce social disparities** by implementing the MDGs and strengthen cultural identities;
 - Objective 3: **Change unsustainable production and consumption patterns** and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources; and
 - Objective 4: **Improve governance** at the local, national and regional levels.
34. Accordingly, it established seven priority fields of action:
 - Better management of water resources and demand;

¹ http://195.97.36.231/dbases/acrobatfiles/05IG16_7_eng.pdf

- Improved rational use of energy, increased renewable energy use and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
 - Sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management;
 - Sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector;
 - Sustainable agriculture and rural development;
 - Sustainable urban development; and
 - Sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources.
35. The decision to review MSSD was taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 18th Ordinary Meeting in Istanbul in December 2013, with view to submitting a reviewed strategy for consideration and adoption next meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2015. Key opportunities for the MSSD review are the link to the global process to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thus ensuring that the Mediterranean region remains a frontrunner in the area of environmental and sustainability governance, and, the building on synergies between the MSSD and other regional initiatives.
36. The Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (June 2014) recommended that the revised MSSD be focused on six thematic areas in line with the global process to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, the first one being Sea and Coast, towards reaching Good Environmental Status of the Marine and Coastal Mediterranean environments, thus encompassing the EcAp objectives. These six thematic areas are as follows:
- **Seas and coasts**; including efforts towards reaching Good Environment Status of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems;
 - **Natural resources**, rural development and food; including links not only to marine and coastal, but also terrestrial habitats, and to fresh waters;
 - **Climate**; including the impacts of climate change on natural resources and socioeconomic sectors and possible responses;
 - **Sustainable cities**; including coastal urbanization and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, land transport, waste management, infrastructure, housing and energy;
 - **Transition towards a green economy**; including sustainable consumption and production, circular economy;
 - **Governance**; including financing, Aarhus Convention–related issues such as public participation, and cooperation.

4.4. Regional Strategies and Action Plans

37. There exist a number of adopted **regional strategies and action plans**, of which some are legally binding and will **provide a strong basis for translating the responses into actions**, in addition to the **legally binding framework of the Convention and its Protocols**. These strategies and action plans are already being implemented, whereas few are under development and will be submitted to COP 19 for adoption. These are:

Biodiversity

- Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)
- Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal

- Regional Strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal
- Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles
- Action Plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan for the conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan for the conservation of the Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-Concretions in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea (Dark Habitats Action Plan)
- Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea
- Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea
- Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management
- Draft roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs to achieve Aichi 11 target in the Mediterranean (under preparation for consideration by COP19 with a view to its adoption)

Coastal Management

- The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Action Plan

Climate Change

- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean and Coastal Zone (under preparation)

Sustainable Development

- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) (current and the reviewed)

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

- SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean (under preparation)

Pollution Reduction, Control and Prevention (Legally binding under Article 15 of the LBS Protocol)

- Regional Plan on the reduction of inputs of Mercury in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the reduction of BOD5 in the food sector (adopted in 2012)

- Regional Plan on the phasing out of Hexabromodiphenyl ether, Heptabromodiphenyl ether, Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the on the phasing out of lindane and endosulfane in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the phasing out of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid , its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the elimination of Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, Betahexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordane, Hexabromobiphenyl, Pentachlorobenzene in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the Phasing Out of DDT in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the reduction of BOD5 from urban waste water in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Plan on the elimination of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex and Toxaphene in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- Regional Strategy for Prevention of and response to marine pollution from Ships
- Marine Litter Regional Plan
- The Draft Offshore Action Plan

5. PREPARATION OF THE UNEP/MAP MID-TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021

5.1. First Step – Internal Discussions

38. The Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), in its 20th Meeting (October 2014) discussed and identified initial lists of strategic axes, responses/actions/techniques/approaches, strategies/action plans/legal framework, means/tools and guiding principles to be considered in the development process of the Mid-Term Strategy for UNEP/MAP.
39. The ECP proposed the following issues that are “strategic themes” of UNEP/MAP to form the basis of the new Mid-Term Strategy:
- **Land and sea based pollution;**
 - **Biodiversity and ecosystems;**
 - **Climate change;**
 - **Natural resources;**
 - **Governance**
 - **Mediterranean environment under review**
40. According to ECP, the Mid-Term Strategy should be:
- **Integrated and coherent across the system**
 - **Consistent**
 - **Inclusive**
 - **Adaptive and flexible**
 - **Attentive to regional and national needs**
 - **Collaborative, based on participation and partnerships**
 - **Knowledge generating and sharing**
 - **Result-based and resource-efficient**
41. Additionally, overarching responses to the issues highlighted above considered by ECP are as follows:
- Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) implementation (including biodiversity protection, natural resources management, combating pollution and litter);
 - coastal and marine management (Integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning, integrated river basin management, marine and coastal protected areas etc);
 - sustainable consumption and production; and
 - climate change adaptation.
42. In its 21st meeting, the ECP agreed on a draft list of objectives per each “strategic theme” as listed in paragraph 39 as follows:

STRATEGIC THEME	OBJECTIVES
Land and sea based pollution	<p>(1) To prevent, reduce and control contaminant inputs, oil discharges and spills, and human-induced eutrophication.</p> <p>(2) To prevent, reduce and control marine litter generation and its impact on the coastal and marine environment.</p>
Biodiversity and ecosystems	To maintain and enhance biological diversity, so that the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions of the Mediterranean.
Climate change	To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts.
Natural resources	<p>(1) To implement ICZM and MSP for the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.</p> <p>(2) To promote SCP in key economic sectors and human activities, with special emphasis on resource efficiency.</p>
Governance	<p>(1) To strengthen the regional and national governance mechanisms, the resource availability and the capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans.</p> <p>(2) To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among international and regional partners and organizations active in the Mediterranean region.</p> <p>(3) To enhance stakeholders' participation and outreach.</p>
Mediterranean environment under review	<p>(1) To deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development for informed decision-making and stakeholder work.</p> <p>(2) To ensure visibility of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its role and achievements.</p>

43. The ECP also agreed on a draft format to be used in structuring the Mid-Term Strategy as follows:

Strategic Outcome	Key Output	Legislative authority	MAP Components	Synergies with Global/Regional processes/policy frameworks/initiatives