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Agenda item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting

Draft Decision: UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021

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Note by the Secretariat

The draft Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS) document is prepared based on the mandate of Decision IG.21/13 “Governance”, Annex II (COP 18, Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013). This Decision provides in particular that:

“The current Programming cycle of the Five Year Mid-Term PoW will be aligned with the COP decision-making and the Ecosystems Approach (EcAp) cycles, be integrated and strategic. This alignment will follow UNEP’s practice under the Medium-term Strategy... The (Mid-Term) Strategy will include major global and regional trends, lessons learned and comparative advantages; a vision; the main strategic directions/themes; the means of implementation including partnerships, institutional mechanisms and resources; the monitoring and evaluation cycle; and, a results matrix including objectives; expected outcomes and corresponding strategic targets to achieve.”

The first draft of the Strategic Framework was prepared by the Coordinating Unit in consultation and with the involvement of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), based on an Issue Paper prepared in accordance with the above-mentioned Decision. It was submitted to and welcomed by the 79th Meeting of the Bureau. The draft document was also shared with a wide group of stakeholders, which included MAP Focal Points, RACs Focal Points, MCSDD members, MAP Partners and experts.

Following the presentation and review by the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, May 2015) the draft Strategic Framework was further revised and developed into the full draft MTS, taking into account the guidance provided by the Focal Points. At its 80th Meeting (Athens, Greece, July 2015), the Bureau expressed support to the work done in developing the MTS.

The timing of the preparation of the MTS has presented opportunities and challenges. The simultaneous process of definition of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the upcoming UNFCCC COP 21 (Paris, France, November-December 2015) and the new climate agreement, the current review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the development of other MAP strategic documents on issues of increasing impact on the region, have presented the unique opportunity of making the MAP-lead processes converge into one strategic package being developed at once, while benefiting from the global debate leading to the new sustainable development agenda.

The MTS is meant to guide the path for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean to achieve Good Environmental Status, and contribution to sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2015-2021. The priority themes reflect legal commitments and respond to major needs, they contribute to the MSSD objectives, and they are part of the global efforts for sustainable development as defined at Rio+20.

The MTS will be implemented through the three consecutive biennial Programmes of Work and will be the subject of rigorous monitoring through a set of SMART performance indicators, whose baseline values will be defined in the first biennium.

Draft Decision IG.22/1**UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021**

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as “the Barcelona Convention”,

Recalling Articles 4 and 18 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

Recalling also Decisions IG.17/5 on Governance Paper of COP 15 (Almeria, Spain, January 2008) and in particular Section 6 “Work Programme and Long-Term Planning”, and IG.21/13 of COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013) on Governance mandating the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021;

Concerned with the increasing pressures on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, as highlighted in the 2012 UNEP/MAP State of Environment Report, and with the continuing unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the region;

Acknowledging the need for translating to the Mediterranean regional and national levels the global aspirations and goals for Sustainable Development expressed by Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDG;

Reaffirming the commitment to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, MSSD and other Regional Strategies and Action Plans to achieve Good Environmental Status and contribute to Sustainable Development;

Aware of the need for a strategic framework that ensures continuity, increased efficiency and relevance of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system, as well as predictability and access to resources;

Adopts the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (hereinafter referred to as “the MTS”) as contained in the Annex to this Decision, as the framework for the development and implementation of the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP;

Calls upon the Contracting Parties to provide full commitment and leadership for the implementation of the MTS to achieve the MAP/Barcelona Convention objectives;

Urges partner organizations to collaborate and support the implementation of the MTS, ensuring synergy, harmonization of efforts, and optimization of the use of resources;

Requests the Secretariat to maximize efforts for the implementation of the MTS in an integrated manner and the mobilization of adequate resources in cooperation with Contracting Parties and partner organizations;

Requests also the Secretariat to monitor and report on the MTS implementation on the basis of each biennial Programme of Work as adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, highlighting its contribution to the achievement of the MTS objectives and strategic outcomes;

Requests the Secretariat to launch an external evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 21 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.

Annex
DRAFT UNEP/MAP MID-TERM STRATEGY 2016 – 2021

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area
BC	Barcelona Convention
BP/RAC	Blue Plan RAC
CAMPs	Coastal Area Management Programmes
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
ClimVar & ICZM	Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (GEF project)
COP	Conference of Parties
CP(s)	Contracting Party (-ies)
CP/RAC	Cleaner Production RAC (now SCP /RAC)
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (UNEP)
EC	European Commission
EcAp	Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean (EU Project)
ECP	Executive Coordination Panel (MAP)
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FFEM	French Global Environment Fund (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)
FP(s)	Focal Points
FRAs	Fisheries Restricted Areas
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO)
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter (UNEP)
GPWW	Global Partnership on Waste Water (UNEP)
GPSW	Global Partnership on Solid Waste (UNEP)
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
H2020	Horizon 2020 Programme (EU)
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission
HW	Hazardous Wastes
ICZM	Integrated coastal zone management
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IHP	International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO)
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
Info/MAP	UN Mediterranean knowledge platform
INFO/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
IOC	International Oceanographic Committee (UNESCO)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LBS	Land Based Sources
LRTAP	Long Range Transfer of Air Pollution
MAP	Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Basin
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MedPAN	Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
MedPartnership	Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF Project also referred to as Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership)

MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
MPA	Marine protected area
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MAP)
MTS	Mid Term Strategy
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Conventions (Full name not in common use)
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme RAC
PEGASO	People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast (Project)
PoW	Programme of Work
PSSAs	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
ReGoKo	Regional Governance & Knowledge Generation Project (World Bank)
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SAP-BIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region
SAP-MED	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SCP/RAC	Sustainable Consumption and Production RAC (formerly, CP/RAC)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals (UN)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System (EU)
SFFA	Small scale funding agreement
SMART	Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound
SPAs	Specially protected areas
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas RAC
SPAMIs	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
SWITCH-Med	Switching to more sustainable consumption and production in the Mediterranean (EU Project)
SWIM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management (EU Project)
TEST	Transfer of environmentally sound technologies
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF-MedPO	World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office

1. INTRODUCTION

The MAP/Barcelona Convention system celebrates in 2015-2016 forty years of fruitful collaboration and joint efforts for the Mediterranean environment. With its seven Protocols, its administrative structure encompassing six Regional Activity Centers and – most importantly its twenty two Contracting Parties, this UN Regional Programme builds on a meaningful experience to prepare its future in a holistic and integrated way.

The Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) is meant to guide the path for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribution to sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2015-2021.

In line with the Rio+20 Outcome Document, the priorities of the MTS are intended to be “*action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, universally applicable to all countries in the region, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.*” They are developed to be “*focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development*”.

The priority themes have been defined collectively by the MAP Components. They reflect legal commitments and to major needs, they contribute to the MSSD objectives and they are part of the global efforts for sustainable development. Their respective outputs are expected to be achieved through the three successive MAP biennial Programmes of Work of the 6-year period.

The timing of the preparation of the MTS 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 for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the parallel MAP processes of development of other MAP strategic documents on issues of increasing impact on the region, 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 unrolling simultaneously. Therefore, they do not yet provide firm references for the development of the Mid-Term Strategy. However, this fact has presented the unique opportunity of making the MAP-lead processes converge into one strategic package being developed at once, while benefiting from the global debate leading to the new sustainable development agenda.

2. THE GENERAL PICTURE AND THE MAP/BC SYSTEM

2.1. State of the Mediterranean Environment

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).

The Mediterranean region is one of the world’s 25 top biodiversity hotspots characterised as an area of exceptional biodiversity value, with a large number of endemic species (i.e. native only to the region) and critical levels of habitat loss. The Mediterranean also hosts a diverse array of habitats of commercial, ecological, and cultural importance.

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. The Mediterranean region’s population is concentrated near the coasts. More than a third lives in coastal administrative entities totaling 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).

The Mediterranean region is undergoing intensive demographic, social, cultural, economic and environmental changes. The main drivers affecting the economic development in the Mediterranean are agriculture and forests, urbanization, tourism, industry and maritime transport. Population growth combined with the growth of coastal (peri) urban hubs generates multiple environmental pressures stemming from increased demand for water and energy resources, generation of air and water pollution in relation to wastewater discharge or sewage overflows, waste generation, land consumption and degradation of habitats, landscapes and coastlines. These pressures are further amplified by the development of tourism, often concentrated in Mediterranean coastal areas.

The Mediterranean GDP share of the world's GDP has slightly decreased during the last 20 years, from more than 13.5% in 1990 to 11.5% in 2010. Meanwhile, when compared to the world's population, the share of Mediterranean population has remained constant, at about 7% (Joint EEA/UNEP/MAP report, 2014).

Despite compelling evidence of the importance of services delivered by Mediterranean coastal and marine systems, the Mediterranean ecosystem continues to be degraded (UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Initial Integrated Assessment, 2011).

According to some research, “the Mediterranean region currently uses approximately 2.5 times more natural resources and ecological services than their ecosystems can provide... When consumption exceeds local availability, countries either resort to depletion of ecological assets or turn to international trade in order to satisfy their demands... Countries highly dependent on natural resource imports expose their economies to the macroeconomic consequences of price volatility.” (Global Footprint Network, “Physical limits to resource access and utilisation and their economic implications in Mediterranean economies”, 2015).

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;**
- **Chemical contamination of sediments and biota;**
- **Eutrophication** (mostly of local concern);
- **Marine litter**, concentrated mostly in bays and shallow waters;
- **Over-exploitation** beyond sustainable limits;
- **Sea-floor integrity** is affected mainly by bottom fishing, but also by dredging and offshore installations;
- **Invasive non-indigenous species;**
- The impact of **marine noise** on biota, especially on marine mammals;
- **Changed hydrographic conditions** caused by local disruption of circulation patterns, due to humans-made structures;
- **Marine food webs** affected by fisheries pressures;
- **Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production** are upstream drivers of the above mentioned pressures and impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems.
- **Pressures on biodiversity** related to the cumulative effects of pressures on 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.
- **Climate change impact** is becoming increasingly evident in the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean Region is considered as “high vulnerable to climate change” and it “will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate changes” (IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, 2014)).

2.2. The Response of the MAP/Barcelona Convention

The Barcelona Convention (signed in 1976 and amended in 1995) with its associated seven Protocols is the only regional multilateral legal framework for the protection of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, 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”*.

Since the adoption of MAP phase II and the amendments to the Barcelona Convention in 1995 with the view to streamline/incorporate all Rio Principles and extend the geographical scope of the application of the Convention to cover the coastal zone, as well as its fields of action, the UNEP/MAP system has experienced additional important regulatory/legal and policy developments. The legal instruments (Convention, Protocols adopted and/or amended, as well as the Action Plans stemming from them) are listed in *Appendix 1*.

The adoption and ongoing implementation of a number of long-term strategic documents addressing pollution control and prevention (SAP MED), marine and coastal biodiversity conservation (SAP BIO), the Strategy to combat pollution from ships, the MSSD as well as a number of Action Plans to facilitate the implementation of the Protocols constitute important strategic milestones to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention and Protocols and guide the preparation of MAP biennial programmes of work.

Of major importance was the adoption in 2008 of a roadmap to apply ecosystem-based approach for the management of human activities in order to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) including seven steps, among which the vision, goals, ecological objectives, as well as related GES targets have been already implemented.

Another dimension that has emerged in recent year on which the MAP system has been pioneer among the UNEP Regional Seas programmes, is the integration of SCP in its regional strategic framework.

The MAP's **2010-2015 Strategic Programme of Work** outcomes were structured around six priority themes: Governance, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Biodiversity, Pollution Prevention and Control, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change. Each outcome was associated with one to three outputs.

The Strategy presented in this document builds on the MAP/Barcelona Convention instruments described above, and provides the framework for the elaboration and delivery of action during the next six years by the MAP system.

2.3. The International and Mediterranean Policy Context

The UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS) is a regional response to the global agenda about sustainable development for the mid-term.

The main global references for a new MTS are related to UNEP strategic documents. 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 policy context is offered by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the MTS development is fed by the most relevant Mediterranean-level processes and complementary strategies, like the reviewed Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

Major directions are offered by the following strategic documents in particular:

Rio +20 – “The Future We Want”

In 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 was underlined, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work. At the same time, protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change was stressed. At Rio+20 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.

UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2014-2017

The UNEP MTS has as a key goal: 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.

UNEP's strategic focus for the current MTS period is in seven areas, operationally referred to as sub-programmes: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflicts, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Chemicals and Waste, Resource Efficiency, and Environment under Review.

UNEP Regional Seas Programme Strategic Directions 2013-2016

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

The UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will focus on six horizontal priority actions, including the use of the EcAp, strengthening capacities and cooperation mechanisms, decoupling economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment etc.

A UNEP MTS 2018-2021 is under preparation.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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.

After a rigorous consultation process the Open Working Group (OWG) agreed earlier in 2015 on 17 goals (see *Appendix 2*) and their respective targets. Among them, Goals 6 (sustainable management of water), 11 (sustainable cities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 13 (climate change impacts), 14 (sustainable use of seas and marine resources), 15 (sustainable ecosystems) and 17 (global partnership) are directly related to the Barcelona Convention context.

MSSD context

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted by the CPs in 2005, focused mainly on the integration of environmental concerns into the key economic development sectors, while giving due consideration to social and cultural dimensions. It defined four priority objectives, nine challenges and 34 sub-objectives (see *Appendix 2*).

The revised MSSD 2016-2025 links to the proposed global 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.

The revised MSSD, meant to address all sustainable development aspects in the Mediterranean and involve all interested stakeholders, even beyond the Barcelona Convention system, has been endorsed by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and is [expected to be] ¹ approved at COP19. It focuses 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.

¹ The phrase in brackets will be deleted after approval at COP 19

3. THE MID-TERM STRATEGY PRINCIPLES AND MODEL

3.1. The Vision

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). It was set out as the first step of the ecosystem approach roadmap and it 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”.

The MTS is also inspired by the vision of the revised **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**, which wishes to achieve:

“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.”

The following elements of the revised MSSD set the framework of the vision towards which the MTS is expected to contribute:

- **“Investing in environmental sustainability** to achieve social and economic development.
- **Addressing cross-cutting issues** that lie in the interface between environment and development. Identifying a set of cross-cutting themes to provide scope for an integrated approach when addressing sustainability issues, as follows: Seas and coasts; Natural resources, rural development and food; Sustainable cities; Climate; Transition towards a green economy; Governance.”

The improvement of the **quality of the marine environment** remains the priority objective of the Barcelona Convention, confirmed through the Protocols and recently (COP18) with the commitment to achieve **Good Environmental Status (GES)**. The GES constitutes a major step towards the achievement of sustainable development, while the integration of the **Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)** in the management of human activities becomes fundamental for the fulfilment of the vision objectives.

3.2. The MTS Options

The Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 has put emphasis on integration and interlinkage of substantive issues, consistency and coherence in an inter-related structure, particularly taking into account the transversal character of ICZM and SCP to all strategic themes of the Mid-Term Strategy.

The MTS has been structured in a way to be: Integrated and coherent across the system; Consistent; Inclusive, Adaptive and flexible, Attentive to regional and national needs, Collaborative, based on participation and partnerships, Knowledge generating and sharing, Result-based and resource-efficient.

The **concept** of the MTS is reflected in Diagram 1. The ultimate objectives are the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean and the contribution to sustainable development. These objectives contribute clearly to the vision for the region: to ensure a healthy Mediterranean, with sustainable development for present and future generations. The strategic themes are selected to contribute, in turn, to the objective of GES and sustainable development. In this context, and to ensure effectiveness, the priority strategic themes will be promoted under the overarching theme of governance.

The priority core themes are:

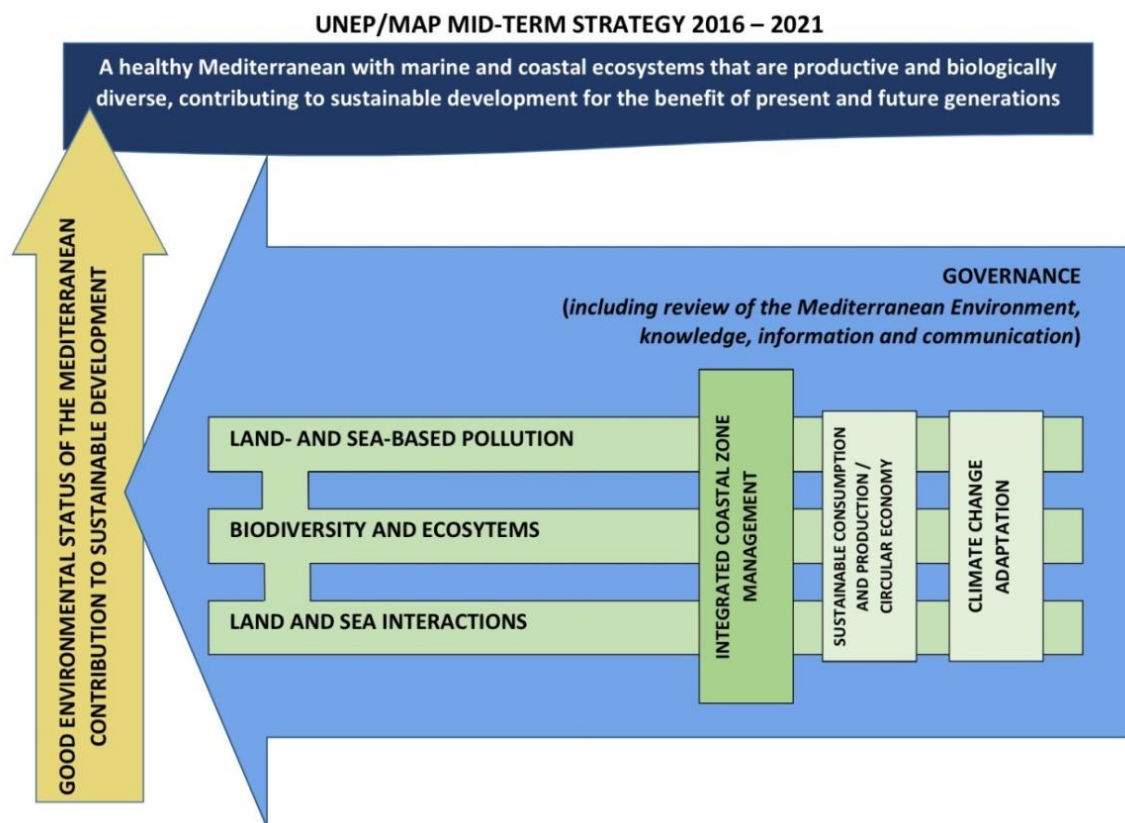
- Land and sea-based pollution,
- Biodiversity and ecosystems,
- Land and sea interactions.

The priority cross-cutting themes are:

- Integrated coastal zone management,
- Sustainable consumption and production,
- Climate change adaptation.

These themes reflect priority strategic issues of the MSSD, UNEP and the UN SDGs, as well as legal commitments of the CPs to the Barcelona Convention and their Decisions.

Diagram 1: The concept of the MTS



The MTS 2016-2021 is structured around the strategic themes (overarching, core and cross-cutting ones) mentioned above. The chapter of each theme starts with an explanatory introduction and sets out a number of strategic objectives, strategic outcomes with some indicators and respective indicative targets, as well as the expected key outputs. For some of the themes, there are also EcAp-based ecological objectives/long-term targeted impacts.

The **strategic outcomes** for each theme are meant to contribute respectively to:

- implementation of existing regional legal framework and decisions;
- development and approval of new plans/programmes/guidelines;
- assistance to CPs for implementation at national level;
- monitoring / evaluation;
- technical assistance/capacity building;
- networking;
- regional cooperation; and,

- dealing with emerging issues.

The selected **indicators** (mostly related to “deliverables” of work) are concrete and measurable, while the indicative **targets** (in brackets) are realistic and orient the three successive biennial Programmes of Work (PoW); this allows to monitor and evaluate the progress of work and to make adaptations on time if needed. Furthermore, for each outcome, there is a reference to concrete **key outputs** expected, showing the positive impacts on the Mediterranean, which the Contracting Parties (CPs) together with the Barcelona Convention/MAP system aim to achieve through their collective efforts. Setting out indicators to measure the impact on the environment requires identification of **baseline references per output**; the existing gaps will be filled in under the PoW of the first biennium.

4. THE OVERARCHING THEME: GOVERNANCE

This theme corresponds to the 6th MSSD objective and partly to SDG 17 and constitutes a prerequisite for the operation and effectiveness of the entire Strategy. It also reflects commitments of the CPs under Decision IG 20/13 adopted by COP 17 in Paris (2012), the Paris Declaration also adopted by COP 17 and Decision IG.21/13 adopted by COP 18 in Istanbul (2013).

In the context of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system, governance follows an efficient decision making process, a results-based management approach and covers broader management issues. It also includes review of the Mediterranean Environment, knowledge, information and communication.

The MTS aims at creating the necessary conditions for the Subsidiary bodies of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system and the Secretariat to efficiently deliver their key mandates as stipulated in Articles 17 and 18 of the Barcelona Convention, as well as to strengthen collaboration with major actors and relevant programmes and initiatives working in and for the Mediterranean region.

The MTS takes into account that the MAP legal system, i.e. the Barcelona Convention, Protocols further complemented through the legally binding Regional Plans, and Action Plans have entered or are about to enter into force. Ensuring an integrated and efficiently coordinated support to the CPs for their implementation and for achieving compliance remains a high priority of the MTS.

Furthermore, the “Mediterranean Environment under Review” is an important issue in the MAP framework, in line with the draft UNEP MTS 2018-2021. Activities in this field are not new for the MAP system, as 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 issue will provide integrated assessments and foresight studies in support of the strategic themes and help identify emerging issues and possible scenarios.

The strategic theme “Governance” is based on **five principles**: representativeness, accountability, effectiveness, higher level of participation and transparency.

The **expected accomplishments** are structured around:

- Enhanced capacity of CPs 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.

To achieve these accomplishments, the following **six Strategy Objectives** are set out for governance:

1. To strengthen regional and national governance mechanisms, resource availability and capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the adopted regional Strategies and Action Plans.
2. To mobilise additional resources to Mediterranean Trust Fund in order to increase its impacts on the Mediterranean environment.
3. To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among relevant international and regional partners and organisations active in the Mediterranean region, with the aim to promote the Barcelona Convention objectives.
4. To enhance stakeholders' (including NGOs) participation and outreach.
5. To deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development for informed decision-making and stakeholder work.

6. To ensure visibility of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its role and achievements.

These objectives correspond to the revised MSSD and its orientation to improve governance in support of sustainable development. They correspond also to the related recommendations of the Outcome Evaluation Study of the PoW 2010-2014.

For the period 2016-2021, **six Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on implementation, compliance, participation/synergies, knowledge of the environment, MAP information and awareness raising. For each strategic outcome, a number of indicators have been selected and respective **Targets** have been set out. Thus, the outcomes become SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out the expected ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all CPs, mobilisation of financial and human resources, increase of knowledge on and understanding of the marine environment, focused technical assistance to CPs, interface between science and decision-making, increase of visibility and further awareness raising.

In order to reach the strategic objectives and outputs, the MAP System will continue providing **technical support** for the implementation of measures and commitments. 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 realised through regular update of MAP Partners list, establishing new cooperation with competent institutions and effectively operationalising the existing cooperation agreements. Emphasis is given to capacity building initiatives to further enable human resources in the region on environmental governance.

Improving the visibility of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSDD) as well as of the MAP system in general is another priority that can contribute to ensuring increased input from the society and multiplying effects of their achievements.

A key output under this strategic theme is the efficiently and effectively functioning compliance mechanisms of the Barcelona Convention. The strategic role of the **Compliance Committee** finds its place in the Mid-Term Strategy to ensure provision of advice and assistance to CPs, further assisting them to comply with their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to generally facilitate, promote, monitor and secure such compliance.

In the mid-term, UNEP/MAP will be playing in the H2020 governance system an important co-chairing role with regard to two important sub groups on capacity building and on review and monitoring 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 the H2020 Work Programme 2015-2020.

Table 1 describes the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 1. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and indicative Targets for Governance

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>1.1. CPs and Partners supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p> <p><i>Number of new ratifications of Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. (At least additional 12 ratifications)</i></p> <p><i>Level of satisfaction of services rendered to MAP meetings. (At least 80%)</i></p> <p><i>Share of external financial resources mobilised to co-finance MTF for the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy. (At least 20% of total MTF budget per biennium)</i></p> <p><i>Baseline values for evaluation of MTS implementation defined</i></p>	<p>1.1.1. Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all CPs supported.</p> <p>1.1.2. Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings.</p> <p>1.1.3. Coordination at national level facilitated across sectors for the implementation of Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MSSD, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p> <p>1.1.4. Funding opportunities for regional and national priorities identified, donors/partners informed and engaged, the Joint Resource Mobilisation Plan updated and implemented, and CPs assisted in mobilising resources.</p>
<p>1.2. CPs and Partners supported in compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p> <p><i>Number of Parties reporting on the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (All countries every biennium)</i></p> <p><i>Number of Parties reporting on the status of compliance. (All countries every biennium)</i></p>	<p>1.2.1. Compliance mechanisms effectively functioning, for general and legal advice to CPs and MAP Components.</p> <p>1.2.2. Coordinated technical assistance provided to CPs to enhance implementation of the Convention and its Protocols including reporting.</p>
<p>1.3. Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions.</p> <p><i>Percentage of biennial increase of civil society organisations and private sector partnering with MAP. (At least 20% every biennium)</i></p> <p><i>Number of substantive/technical contributions to initiatives/processes at global and regional levels (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of MoUs/MoCs concluded or renewed (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of joint activities with partners (At least 10)</i></p>	<p>1.3.1. Regional cooperation activities promoting dialogue and active engagement of global and regional organisations and partners, local authorities, donor agencies, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders in the work of the Barcelona Convention/MAP and within the framework of MCSD.</p> <p>1.3.2. UNEP MAP led regional initiatives on SAP BIO, Marine Litter, SCP, ICZM and MSP (e.g. regional conference, donor meetings). UNEP MAP role in UfM H2020 initiative and its governance bodies strengthened and synergies maximised.</p> <p>1.3.3. Participation in relevant existing or new international initiatives and dialogue (e.g ABNJ, MPAs, Offshore, Sustainable Development) to highlight the Mediterranean regional specificities and increase synergies.</p>

<p>1.4. Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making.</p> <p><i>Number of reports, fact sheets and other scientific publications produced by the MAP System. (At least 3 reports, 18 fact sheets and 6 scientific publications)</i></p> <p><i>Number of identified hotspots of consumption and production for marine and coastal ecosystems (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of periodic assessments (At least 1)</i></p>	<p>1.4.1. Periodic assessment of the state of the Mediterranean coasts published. This may include: a) Status Quality Report (2017), b) State of the Environment and Development Report (2019), jointly with H2020 Report, and c) “Med 2050 Report” (2021, to propose scenarios to explore paths for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin up to 2050). These assessments address also climate change--related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine and coastal zone in their analysis, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production.</p> <p>1.4.2. MSSD implementation monitored through developed set of indicators.</p> <p>1.4.3. Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp-based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including the preparation, periodic update and publication of GES common indicators fact sheets, and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into Info/MAP platform.</p> <p>1.4.4. Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific institutions, knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications.</p> <p>1.4.5. Educational programmes, including e-learning platforms and college level degrees, on governance and thematic topics of MAP relevance organised in cooperation with competent institutions.</p>
<p>1.5. MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding</p> <p><i>Number of Info/MAP services provided and of data set/data services made available through Info/MAP platform. (At least 5)</i></p> <p><i>Number of SEIS national nodes developed. (At least 6)</i></p> <p><i>Number of environment information system connections with relevant regional organisations (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of downloads of publications available on MAP system websites. (At least 250 downloads per annum)</i></p>	<p>1.5.1. Fully operative and further developed Info/MAP platform, also connected to RACs' information systems, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public.</p> <p>1.5.2. Interoperability between Info/MAP and other relevant regional knowledge platforms achieved, taking also into account SEIS principles.</p> <p>1.5.3. Barcelona Convention online Reporting System (BCRS) updated and operational, improved and maintained, and complemented and streamlined with other reporting requirements (e.g. NAPs, Regional Strategies and Actions Plans, and the Marine Litter databank).</p>

<p>1.6. Raised awareness and outreach</p> <p><i>Number of communication products released (At least 4 per year)</i></p> <p><i>Number of events featuring MAP system (At least 48 in other fora and 6 MAP events per biennium)</i></p> <p><i>Number of hits on the UNEP/MAP and MAP Components websites. (At least 10,000 total hits per annum)</i></p> <p><i>Number of interviews/features done with/on UNEP/MAP (At least 4 per annum)</i></p> <p><i>Number of MAP features posted on relevant CPs'/MAP Partners' websites, inserted in newsletters or disseminated (At least 12 per annum)</i></p> <p><i>Number of events of partner NGOs and IGOs under auspices of UNEP/MAP (At least 3 per annum)</i></p>	<p>1.6.1. Awareness raising initiatives (e.g. Mediterranean Coast Day annual celebrations, Mediterranean Environmental Friendly Cities Award, newsletters, policy briefs, press releases etc.) about the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and themes relevant to its mandate developed and carried out.</p> <p>1.6.2. The UNEP/MAP communication strategy updated and implemented.</p>
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5. CORE THEME 1: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION

This theme corresponds to the first MSSD objective and partly to SDG 14.

Furthermore, five out of the seven annexed Protocols aim at ensuring the good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and prevent pollution due to different types of land and sea-based sources.

The core theme “Land and Sea-Based Pollution” is designed in a manner that will provide effective support to the CPs to effectively implement the five pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention with a particular focus on legally binding commitments arisen from Articles 5 and 15 of the LBS Protocol. 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.

The core theme “Land and Sea-Based Pollution” aims to:

- Focus on priority basis on the work to support CPs 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 Mediterranean ecological objectives based on the ecosystem approach. 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- Enhance access to marine pollution information and data including hot spots and sensitive areas at regional, global and national levels based on SEIS principles;
- Take into account the need to benefit from the important relevant global and 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.
- 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;
- Strengthen and contribute to the Partnership with H2020, and related programmes/projects and governing institutions.

This theme is designed in an integrated manner with all the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy. It 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 NGOs. Efforts are

ongoing to ensure the mobilisation of the required external resources to complement the MTF funding as appropriate (GEF, EU, H2020, UNEP/GPA, IMO, private sector).

The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **four Ecological Objectives / Long-Term Targeted Impacts** for this core theme:

1. 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.
2. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health.
3. Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments.
4. Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems.

It also sets out the following **two Strategy Objectives**:

1. To prevent, reduce and control selected/regulated pollutant inputs, oil discharges and spills.
2. To prevent, reduce and control marine litter generation and its impact on the coastal and marine environment.

For the period 2016-2021, **seven Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on implementation, new action plans, marine pollution monitoring, capacity building, regional cooperation, and identification of emerging issues. For each strategic outcome, a number of SMART **Indicators** have been selected and respective **Targets** have been set out. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out the targeted measures, common standards and criteria per priority pollutant, regional programmes, guidelines, adopted NAPs, inventories of pollutant loads, marine pollution assessment tools, training programmes, networking, awareness raising and policy briefs.

Table 2 gives the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 2. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and indicative Targets for Land and Sea-Based Pollution

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>2.1.Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and 4 pollution -related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans</p> <p><i>Number of categories of pollutants showing decreasing trends at regional level. (At least 6)</i></p> <p><i>Number of litter items showing decreasing trends. (At least 6)</i></p>	<p>2.1.1. Targeted measures of the regional plans/strategies facilitated and implemented</p>
<p>2.2. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines</p> <p><i>Number of regional regulatory instruments and policies and standards developed/updated to ensure marine and coastal pollution prevention and control, including Climate Change Adaptation, SCP measures and ICZM guidelines (At least 5)</i></p> <p><i>Number of new /updated guidelines and other implementation tools addressing pollution prevention and control, including SCP tools for key sectors and areas of consumption and production. (At least 8)</i></p>	<p>2.2.1. Common standards and criteria provided for in the Protocols and the Regional Plans developed or updated for key priority substances or sectors.</p> <p>2.2.2. Regional programmes of measures identified and negotiated for pollutants/ categories (sectors) showing increasing trends, including the revision of existing regional plans and areas of consumption and production with the view to achieve the GES targets on pollution and litter.</p> <p>2.2.3. Guidelines and decision-support tools developed and updated for key substances and relevant sectors taking into account best available techniques and practices and other tools and practices.</p>
<p>2.3. Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement.</p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting decrease of the number of the 2003 hot spots list. (21 countries)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting updated/new national marine pollution prevention and control regulatory instruments and policies. (21 countries)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting decreasing marine pollution trends for the priority sectors (land-based, shipping and offshore) of the relevant Regional Plans. (At least 5 countries)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting updated/new national policies and action plans, which mainstream climate change adaptation priority fields of action. (At least 3 countries)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting updated/new national pollution prevention and control regulatory instruments and policies, which mainstream SCP Regional Action Plan activities. (At least 3 countries)</i></p>	<p>2.3.1. Adopted NAPs (Art. 15, LBS Protocol) implemented and targeted 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>2.3.2. NAPs developed to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.</p> <p>2.3.3. National policy and regulatory pollution prevention and control frameworks, including enforcement, strengthened, updated and integrated into national and sectorial processes (e.g. policy development including policies on the use of economic instruments).</p> <p>2.3.4. SCP Regional Action Plan (pollution-related activities) mainstreamed into and implemented through NAPs and relevant national processes, such as SCP National Action Plans and NSSDs.</p>

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>2.4. Marine Pollution Monitoring and assessment</p> <p><i>Number of countries updating and implementing pollution monitoring programmes (contaminant, eutrophication and marine litter). (21 countries)</i></p> <p><i>Number of monitoring and assessments indicator fact sheets prepared. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of thematic assessments. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>2.4.1. National pollution and litter monitoring programs updated to include the relevant pollution and litter EcAp indicators and implemented through regular quality assurance and control programmes at national and regional levels and data reporting.</p> <p>2.4.2. Inventories of pollutant loads (NBB, PRTR from land-based sources, and from offshore and shipping) regularly reported and updated at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and supported by quality assurance and control systems.</p> <p>2.4.3. Marine pollution assessment tools (in depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator factsheets) developed and updated.</p>
<p>2.5. Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building</p> <p><i>Number of training programs and workshops. (At least 9)</i></p> <p><i>Number of pilot projects supporting implementation of measures. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organisations capacitated to promote SCP solutions alternative to POPs and toxic chemicals, and marine litter reduction. (At least 200 trainees (individual or institutions))</i></p>	<p>2.5.1. Training programmes and workshops in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorisation and inspections bodies and compliance with national legislation.</p> <p>2.5.2. Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges.</p> <p>2.5.3. Marine pollution prevention and control measures and assessments integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs and related Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.</p> <p>2.5.4. Training and awareness-raising programmes on SCP solutions for alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and reduction of upstream sources of marine litter delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.</p>
<p>2.6. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution</p> <p><i>Number of joint activities with partners, including industries and civil society. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of stakeholders' cooperation activities promoting SCP solutions. (At least 10)</i></p>	<p>2.6.1. Agreements, synergies and exchange of best practices with key relevant global and regional partners and stakeholders with a particular focus on marine litter.</p> <p>2.6.2. 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>
<p>2.7. Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate</p> <p><i>Number of reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to CPs. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>2.7.1. Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to CPs on emerging pollutants, ocean acidification, and linkages with relevant global processes as well as climate change.</p>

6. CORE THEME 2: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

This theme corresponds to the first MSSD objective and to SDG 14. It also contributes to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the promotion of the Aichi targets.

The overall mission under this theme is to provide assistance to the CPs 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 CPs in 2003, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) (Decision IG.19/5).

With the view to guide and facilitate the implementation of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol and of SAP BIO, a number of regional strategies have been developed and adopted, 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. Therefore, the MAP 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy “Biodiversity and Ecosystems” core theme will mainly focus on supporting their implementation respectively:

- 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”; 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 organisations, as well as NGOs and all other relevant stakeholders;
- Eight Action Plans for the conservation and/or management of endangered or threatened species and key habitats: Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Marine Vegetation, Marine and Coastal Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans), Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions, and Dark Habitats;
- A Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal;
- An Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea; and,
- The Mediterranean Strategy on Ships’ Ballast Water Management Strategy and its Action Plan.

Furthermore, support will be provided to CPs at national level to:

- Develop and implement, as a high priority, in a coordinated manner and where appropriate jointly, their national monitoring programme to assess progress towards GES with regards to MAP EcAp-based ecological objectives related to biodiversity, non-indigenous species and food webs closely interlinked with the relevant work under 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; and,
- Implement 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 order to improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, collaboration will be enhanced with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components, as relevant and necessary. 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.

The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **five Ecological Objectives / Long-Term Targeted Impacts** for this core theme:

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. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats.

It also sets out the following **four Strategy Objectives**:

1. To strengthen the management, including socio-economic aspects, and extend the network of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas including SPAMIs.
2. To strengthen the implementation of action plans on endangered and threatened species key habitats and Non-Indigenous Species.
3. To promote Coastal and Marine Protected Areas as a contribution to Blue Economy.
4. To strengthen the resilience of Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to the impacts of climate change.

For the period 2016-2021, **seven Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, enhanced regional cooperation, and identification of emerging issues. For each strategic outcome, a number of SMART **Indicators** have been selected and respective indicative **Targets** have been set out. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out the roadmap for a coherent network of well managed MPAs, management measures, Regional Action Plans, review of Ships' Ballast Water Management Plan, guidelines, use of Marine Spatial Planning, integration in CAMPs and ICZM actions, inventories, and networking.

Table 3 gives the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 3. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and Targets for Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key outputs
<p>3.1. Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments.</p> <p><i>Percentage of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas, which are conserved in conformity with Aichi target 11. (At least 10 % Aichi target)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries that apply Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats in line with EcAp relevant targets. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries that apply Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species in line with relevant EcAp targets. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>3.1.1. Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean implemented.</p> <p>3.1.2. Most relevant area--based management measures are identified, through global and regional tools (SPAMIs, FRAs, PSSAs, etc.), for the conservation of ABNJ, taking into consideration Mediterranean EBSAs, in cooperation with relevant global and regional organisations.</p> <p>3.1.3. Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats, on Species introductions and Invasive Species are implemented and updated as needed, in line with relevant EcAp targets.</p> <p>3.1.4. Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management reviewed in line with the Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species and relevant EcAp targets, and implemented.</p>
<p>3.2. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Number of guidelines and other tools elaborated/updated and disseminated. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of MSP pilot projects taking into account biodiversity conservation measures. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of methodological tools developed and tested in 2 SPAMIs for mainstreaming SCP in biodiversity and ecosystems conservation. (At least 2)</i></p>	<p>3.2.1. Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats, and for non-indigenous species control and prevention developed, updated in line with EcAp Targets and disseminated.</p> <p>3.2.2. Guidelines and other tools for the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas developed/updated and disseminated.</p> <p>3.2.3. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) applied in selected EBSAs at a pilot level linking coastal and open sea areas to major pressures.</p>
<p>3.3. Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures.</p> <p><i>Number of NAPs developed or updated in line with SAP BIO, EcAp, Aichi Targets and the Nagoya Protocol, including streamlining of climate change and SCP Regional Action Plan. (At least 6)</i></p> <p><i>Number of regulatory measures developed and agreed at national levels. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of biodiversity-related actions implemented within ICZM activities. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>3.3.1. NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and on Species Introductions and Invasive Species developed/updated, in line with EcAp, Aichi Targets and the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>3.3.2. Measures developed and agreed at national levels to strengthen the protection and the management of relevant marine and coastal sites, especially those containing under-represented habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats), in accordance with the Roadmap to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean and the relevant EcAp targets</p> <p>3.3.3. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection actions integrated in CAMPs, other ICZM Protocol implementation projects and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.</p>

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key outputs
<p>3.4. Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats.</p> <p><i>Number of countries implementing the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, including biodiversity conservation and non-indigenous species introduction prevention and control. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of monitoring and assessment indicator fact sheets prepared. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting on invasive non-indigenous species introduction rate. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of SPAMIs assessed with respect to their effectiveness. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries piloting the incorporation of climate change into their biodiversity monitoring programmes. (At least 6)</i></p>	<p>3.4.1. Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the MAP/EcAp Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme are developed and implemented including monitoring activities of the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, with a particular focus on SPAMIs supported.</p> <p>3.4.2. Biodiversity conservation assessment tools (in-depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator fact sheets) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub regional and regional levels, and measure the effectiveness of the SAP BIO NAPs and Regional Action Plans implementation</p> <p>3.4.3. Endangered and threatened species, habitats and species communities potentially more affected by climate change, and climate change effects on non-indigenous species distribution and their evolution trends, included in monitoring programmes.</p> <p>3.4.4. Inventory of coastal and marine habitats vulnerable to climate change and assessment of sensitivity and adaptive capacities of marine ecosystems to changes in sea conditions (including acidification) as well as of the role of services they provide to climate resilience developed.</p>
<p>3.5. Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity -related national legislation.</p> <p><i>Number of capacity building / training events. (At least 20)</i></p> <p><i>Number of MPAs/SPAMIs with ongoing pilot monitoring projects for common indicators. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of convened scientific meetings on Mediterranean marine biodiversity. (At least 8)</i></p> <p><i>Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organisations capacitated to promote SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity. (At least 100 trainees (individual or institutions))</i></p>	<p>3.5.1. Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented.</p> <p>3.5.2. EcAp biodiversity and non-indigenous species data set established and common indicators monitored in selected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and (SPAMIs) at pilot level.</p> <p>3.5.3. 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>3.6. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Number of joint strategies developed. (At least 2)</i></p>	<p>3.6.1. Joint strategies on Biodiversity and Ecosystems conservation developed with relevant partner organisations at global and regional levels.</p> <p>3.6.2. Joint working programmes on Biodiversity and Ecosystems conservation with relevant partner organisations developed and implemented.</p>

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key outputs
<p><i>Number of joint working programmes established and implemented. (At least 6)</i></p> <p><i>Number of stakeholders involved in cooperation activities promoting SCP solutions. (At least 10)</i></p>	<p>3.6.3. Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems conservation coordinated through adequate mechanisms.</p>
<p>3.7. Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate</p> <p><i>Number of reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to CPs. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>3.7.1. Position papers on ABNJ conservation, and other relevant Coastal and marine biodiversity conservation issues assessed and prepared for consideration by the CPs.</p>

7. CORE THEME 3: LAND AND SEA INTERACTION AND PROCESSES

This theme provides for the support necessary for the effective promotion of objectives under several other strategic themes (e.g. ICZM, biodiversity/ecosystems, and climate change adaptation). Article 2.e. of the ICZM Protocol states that “ ‘Coastal zone’ means the geomorphologic area either side of the seashore in which the interaction between the marine and land parts occurs in the form of complex ecological and resource systems made up of biotic and abiotic components coexisting and interacting with human communities and relevant socioeconomic activities.”

Coastal areas are complex natural systems with important interactions between their land and sea parts. Furthermore, the coastal marine zones represent the major interface between humans and the marine environment. Coastal ecosystems (terrestrial and marine ones) are those most heavily impacted by human activity.

This core theme aims at supporting a better understanding and taking into account by the decision makers and planners of these natural processes such as wave action, the risks of flood, erosion, sea level rise or even tsunami and the buffer role of dunes with the view to enhance planning and managing of coastal areas. Furthermore, it aims at supporting holistic landscape and seascape approach that incorporates all processes affecting the flux of materials, their transport, delivery, the ultimate impact on coastal ecosystems as well as the potential impacts of climate change on the vulnerable coastal fringe.

Such interactions will be taken into consideration in the context of Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments and other methodological tools provided for in the MTS and in particular in new generation of CAMPs.

The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **two Ecological Objectives / Long-Term Targeted Impacts** for this core theme:

1. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved.
2. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems.

It also sets out the following **four Strategy Objectives**:

1. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent or reduce their degradation.
2. To ensure preservation of the integrity of coastal ecosystems, landscapes and geomorphology.
3. To adopt measures to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards and in particular of climate change.
4. To ensure that activities on the land and the sea part of the coastal zones are compatible and mutually supportive.

For the period 2016-2021, **seven Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, enhanced regional cooperation, and identification of emerging issues. For each strategic outcome, a number of SMART **Indicators** have been selected and respective indicative **Targets** have been set out. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out the reduction of pressures on marine and coastal areas, methodological framework for ICZM (land and sea parts), mapping of pressures and risks of erosion, fact sheets, climate change adaptation of coastal areas, guidelines, capacity building, inventories, policy briefs and networking.

Table 4 gives the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 4. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and indicative Targets for Land and Sea Interaction and Processes

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>4.1. Strengthening regional 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><i>Number of tools developed for implementation by the CPs. (At least 2)</i></p>	<p>4.1.1. CPs assisted in implementing specific tools to reduce pressures on coastal and marine areas (coastal setback, land policy measures, zoning, etc.).</p>
<p>4.2. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines</p> <p><i>Number of methodological documents developed. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>4.2.1. Methodological framework for integrated spatial planning of the marine and terrestrial areas prepared and adopted.</p>
<p>4.3. Strengthening national implementation</p> <p><i>Number of projects, including CAMPs, addressing land-sea interactions. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>4.3.1. New generation of CAMPs prepared to promote land-sea integration, also addressing trans-boundary aspects, as appropriate.</p>
<p>4.4. Monitoring and assessment</p> <p><i>Number of mapping exercises for major sea characteristics. (At least 6)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries developing monitoring programmes - based on relevant EcAp indicators, interactions and processes. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of monitoring and assessments indicator fact sheets prepared. (At least 4)</i></p> <p><i>Number of assessments of sea level rise and coastal erosion. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of thematic assessments on coast and hydrography, including impacts of climate change. (At least 2)</i></p>	<p>4.4.1. Mapping of interaction mechanisms on coastal and marine environment at regional and local levels developed.</p> <p>4.4.2. National coast and hydrography monitoring programmes developed and updated to include the relevant EcAp indicators, and interactions and processes.</p> <p>4.4.3. Assessment of the risks of sea level rise and coastal erosion, and their impacts on coastal environment and communities developed.</p>
<p>4.5. Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building</p> <p><i>Number of training events organised. (At least 6)</i></p>	<p>4.5.1. Capacity building for the application of tools for assessing interactions and integrating them in planning/management of coastal and marine environment implemented.</p>
<p>4.6. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels</p> <p><i>Coastal networks established and functioning. (At least 2)</i></p>	<p>4.6.1. Networks of CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation projects to promote the exchange of data, experience and good practices established.</p>
<p>4.7. Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate</p> <p><i>Number of pilot studies on water availability and demand. (At least 1)</i></p> <p><i>Number of reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to CPs. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>4.7.1. Additional stresses on water resources due to climate change assessed.</p> <p>4.7.2. Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to CPs, <i>inter alia</i> impacts from possible tsunami cases explored.</p>

8. CROSS-CUTTING THEME 1: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM)

This theme corresponds to the first and partly third MSSD objectives and it is related to SDG 9, 11, 14 and 15. It is meant to assist CPs in their efforts to implement the ICZM Protocol and the respective Action Plan approved by COP16.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is a transversal policy, with strategic options, plans and management measures, which can integrate and reflect on the same coastal geographic unit (with its terrestrial and marine parts) all thematic policies and horizontal dimensions, encompassing development measures, environmental protection, SCP, adaptation to climate change etc. ICZM, as expressed in the – worldwide unique – respective Mediterranean Protocol, is a framework-policy-instrument to promote and implement major objectives of the Barcelona Convention as amended in 1995, in an integrated manner. The different nature of this cross-cutting theme and its broader role is reflected in the way it is shown in *Diagramme 1*.

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 and allows 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.”

The process of integrated coastal management involves policy and plan formulation (including marine spatial planning), implementation, monitoring and evaluation actions. All these activities are included in the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019.

The CPs, at COP 18 recommended to strengthen MAP activities in the field of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in order to contribute to GES, investigate in more details connections between land and sea areas and propose coherent and sustainable land and sea-use planning frameworks relating with key economic sectors and activities that may affect the coastal and marine resources; this will also support the implementation of the recently approved MSP Directive of European Union.

This theme addresses also a major challenge, related to the governance of ICZM: bringing together decision-makers, planners, scientists of different backgrounds and stakeholders, building trust and fostering partnerships and synergies, ensuring proper participatory and decision-making procedures and thus achieving consensus are key actions and prerequisites of effective implementation.

Integrating ICZM as a transversal approach for the Mid-Term Strategy enables MAP to strengthen its relationship and cooperation with other international and regional organisations 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 from diverse perspectives complementing MAP’s mandate. In that line, ICZM is included as key theme of collaboration between UNEP/MAP and UfM in the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding.

The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **three Long-Term Targeted Impacts** for this cross-cutting theme:

1. The sustainable development of coastal zones is facilitated by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development.
2. The sustainable use of natural resources is ensured, particularly with regard to water use.
3. The coherence is achieved between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone.

It also sets out the following **two Strategy Objectives**:

1. Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels, as stipulated in the Action Plan 2012-2019.
2. Strengthen the capacities of CPs to use, in an effective manner, ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes.

For the period 2016-2021, **six Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, and enhanced regional cooperation. For each strategic outcome, a number of SMART **Indicators** have been selected and respective indicative **Targets** have been set out. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out the MAP regional strategies, action plan for the implementation of ICZM, methodological tools and guidelines, national ICZM strategies, gap analysis, fact sheets, training programmes, and coordination.

Table 5 gives the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 5. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and indicative Targets for Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>5.1.Strengthening regional 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><i>Number of regional policies and action plans in which the ICZM Protocol objectives and principles have been reflected. (At least 5)</i></p>	5.1.1. MAP regional strategies SAP BIO, SAP MED, Offshore Action Plan and Strategy to combat pollution from ships implemented in an integrated manner, as provided for in ICZM Protocol to enhance the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.
<p>5.2. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines</p> <p><i>Number of action plans and guidelines. (At least 3)</i></p>	5.2.1. Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol implemented and updated after 2019.
	5.2.2. Methodological tools and guidelines for ICZM developed and implemented (e.g. carrying capacity assessment, MSP tools, vulnerability/suitability assessment and adaptation to climate change, regional GIS mapping).
	5.2.3. Climate Change-related vulnerabilities and risks addressed in the development and implementation of biodiversity -related regional and national strategies, action plans and measures.
<p>5.3.Strengthening national implementation</p> <p><i>Number of national ICZM strategies. (At least 3)</i></p> <p><i>Number of gap analysis on national legal and institutional provisions for ICZM. (At least for 3 countries)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries reporting updated/new national policies and action plans, which mainstream climate change adaptation and SCP measures. (At least 3)</i></p>	5.3.1. National ICZM Strategies prepared including streamlining pollution, biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and SCP, as well as sustainable cities.
	5.3.2. Countries assisted in carrying out gap analysis on national legal and institutional frameworks for ICZM in order to facilitate the transposition of the ICZM Protocol provisions into national legislations.
	5.3.3. SCP Regional Action Plan activities mainstreamed into and implemented through ICZM national strategies, as well as CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation projects.
	5.3.4. Climate change adaptation priority fields of action mainstreamed into and implemented through ICZM national strategies, as well as CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation projects.
<p>5.4. Monitoring and assessment</p> <p><i>Number of fact sheets. (At least 6)</i></p>	5.4.1. Fact sheets - based on ICZM indicators - developed to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal and marine resources management measures.
<p>5.5. Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building</p> <p><i>Number of MedOpen Training Courses. (At least 3)</i></p>	5.5.1. MedOpen Training Programme on ICZM regularly updated and implemented.
<p>5.6. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels</p> <p><i>ICZM Platform established (1)</i></p> <p><i>Number of ICZM coordination bodies established. (At least 3)</i></p>	5.6.1. ICZM coordination enhanced through: (i) Mediterranean ICZM Platform; (ii) national ICZM coordination bodies.

9. CROSS-CUTTING THEME 2: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP)

This theme corresponds to the 5th MSSD objective and to SDG 12.

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is about the combined implementation of diverse actions, involving policy makers, businesses, retailers, academia and civil society in order to redesign in an innovative manner the way in which goods and services are produced and consumed to drive the revitalisation of industrial and socio-economic development towards non-pollutant, no-waste, low-carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive, green and circular economies.

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). More specifically, in the Barcelona Convention/MAP context, SCP is highlighted in article 4 of the amended Convention, in article 5.4 and Annex IV of the LBS Protocol, in article 5.2 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol and in article 9 of the ICZM Protocol.

Based on the importance of SCP as a necessary strategic approach for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols, the CPs 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 will establish the needed policy and regulatory mechanisms enabling a broad shift to SCP in the region, in order to reduce pressure on the marine and coastal environment.

The circular economy concept is a response to the aspiration for sustainable development, given the growing pressure of consumption and production on the world's resources and environment. So far the economy has operated on the basis of a "take-make-dispose" model – a linear model where every product is bound to reach its "end of life". A transition to circular economy means changing focus towards reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling materials and products. The so far "wastes" can become "resources". Shifting to circular economy requires the involvement of many different groups of people and creates new markets based on sustainable consumption and production.

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.

Integrating SCP as a transversal approach for the Mid-Term Strategy enables MAP to strengthen its relationship and cooperation with other international and regional organisations 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 SCP from diverse perspectives complementing MAP's mandate. In that line, SCP is included as key theme 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, May 2014), the UfM 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.

The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **one Long-Term Targeted Impact** for this cross-cutting theme:

1. A prosperous Mediterranean region is established, with non-pollutant, circular, socially inclusive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, preserving natural resources and energy, ensuring the well-being of societies and contributing to clean environment and healthy ecosystems that provide goods and services for present and future generations.

It also sets out the following **two Strategy objectives**:

1. Support the effective implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan and its Roadmap of (2016-2021).
2. Strengthen technical capacities and facilitating access to funding to businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations to implement SCP solutions.

For the period 2016-2021, **four Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, and enhanced cooperation to prevent marine pollution. For each strategic outcome, a number of SMART **Indicators** have been selected and respective indicative **Targets** have been set out. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out related methodological tools, action plans, SCP indicators, training programmes, networking, and involvement of stakeholders.

Table 6 gives the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 6. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and Targets for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>6.1. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines and implementation of current ones.</p> <p><i>Number of new/updated guidelines and other implementation tools addressing SCP tools for key sectors and areas of consumption and production. (At least 4)</i></p> <p><i>Number of actions of the SCP Action Plan contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>6.1.1. Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in CC adaptation and mitigation regional strategies and frameworks developed.</p> <p>6.1.2. Actions of the SCP Action Plan directly contributing to address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean implemented.</p> <p>6.1.3. Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in the priority areas of consumption and production of the Regional Action Plan on SCP - tourism, food, housing and goods manufacturing implemented and new ones developed for other sectors.</p> <p>6.1.4. Actions of the SCP Regional Action Plan directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems identified and implemented.</p>
<p>6.2. Monitoring and assessment.</p> <p><i>Number of key SCP indicators for the areas of consumption and production acting as main upstream drivers of pressures on EcAp Environment Quality Objectives for coastal and marine ecosystems. (At least 10)</i></p>	<p>6.2.1. SCP Action Plan indicators identified, selected and factsheets developed by a Technical Working Group in line with the MSSD.</p>
<p>6.3. Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building</p> <p><i>Number of entrepreneurs and civil society organisations trained on SCP solutions. (At least 3,000 trainees)</i></p> <p><i>Number of start-ups and civil society led initiatives created (At least 20)</i></p>	<p>6.3.1. Training and support programme for green entrepreneurs and civil society as SCP drivers.</p>
<p>6.4. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution</p> <p><i>Number of stakeholders' cooperation activities promoting SCP solutions. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of projects, training and capacity building activities in application of the SCP Action Plan. (At least 10)</i></p> <p><i>Number of financial institutions and impact investors trained on SCP investments mechanisms and joining the Green Impact Investing Network. (At least 20)</i></p>	<p>6.4.1. Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions established, including a Mediterranean Green Impact Investing Network.</p> <p>6.4.2. Informal task force of SCP AP facilitators with the mission of engaging key stakeholders and support the implementation of the AP fully operational.</p> <p>6.4.3. A Mediterranean SCP Hub for knowledge exchange and networking fully operative and performing as connector and lever for new partnerships and initiatives providing SCP solutions.</p>

10. CROSS-CUTTING THEME 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

This theme corresponds to the 4th MSSD objective and partly to SDG 13.

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.

The Mediterranean Region is considered as “high vulnerable to climate change” and it “will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate changes” (IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, 2014)). The projected impacts (2081-2100 compared to 1986-2005) mentioned in the Report include an increase of 4-7°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. The EU funded “Climate Change and Impact Research: the Mediterranean Environment” (CIRCE) project leads to similar conclusions.

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 CPs 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”*.

In UNEP/MAP’s Strategic Programme of Work 2010-2015, climate change was one of the six themes the PoW was built on. Following this, the Programme 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 MCSD in order for it to be submitted for consideration by 19th meeting of the CPs to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19).

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.

There are several regional initiatives relevant and instrumental for the development of an adaptation framework for the Mediterranean coast and marine environment, with which cooperation will be necessary.

The Mid-Term Strategy cross-cutting theme “Climate Change” is aligned with the draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, which is developing around the following proposed **4 Strategic Objectives**:

1. Promote appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, increase awareness and stakeholder engagement and enhance capacity building and cooperation.
2. Identify, assess and implement best practices (including low regret measures) for effective and sustainable adaptation to climate change impacts.

3. Leverage existing and emerging finance mechanisms relevant to climate change, including international and domestic instruments.
4. Better informed decision-making through research and scientific cooperation and improved availability and use of reliable data, information and tools.

The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **one Strategy Objective**:

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

For the period 2016-2021, **five Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, and capacity building. For each strategic outcome, a number of **SMART Indicators** have been selected and respective indicative **Targets** have been set out. Among the **Outputs**, the expected results and impacts, one can point out related regional strategies, methodological tools, action plans, ng programmes, awareness raising, and emerging issues.

Table 7 gives the selected Outcomes and expected Outputs, with the indicators and indicative targets set out, which can facilitate both the programming and the monitoring of progress.

TABLE 7. Strategic Outcomes, Key Outputs, Indicators and indicative Targets for Climate Change Adaptation

Strategic Outcomes <i>Outcome Indicators (and indicative Targets)</i>	Key Outputs
<p>7.1. Strengthening the regional 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><i>Number of countries mainstreaming climate change adaptation into existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures. (At least 5)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries integrating SCP measures to address climate change adaptation in existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures. (At least 1)</i></p> <p><i>Number of countries adopting SCP Regional Action Plan actions addressing climate change adaptation (At least 1)</i></p>	<p>7.1.1. Climate Change Adaptation mainstreamed into the implementation of existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures.</p> <p>7.1.2. Actions of the SCP Regional Action Plan directly contributing to address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean implemented.</p>
<p>7.2. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines</p> <p><i>Number of countries mainstreaming climate change adaptation into the development and implementation of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines (At least 3).</i></p>	<p>7.2.1. Climate Change Adaptation mainstreamed into the development and implementation of new regional strategies, regional action plans and measures.</p> <p>7.2.2. Ecosystem--based responses (e.g. ecosystem services provided by wetlands) integrated in National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.</p> <p>7.2.3. Climate Change-related risks addressed in the development and implementation of pollution - related regional strategies, regional action plans and measures.</p>
<p>7.3. Strengthening national implementation.</p> <p><i>Number of countries mainstreaming climate change adaptation priority fields of action at national level. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>7.3.1. Climate change adaptation priority fields of action identified by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework mainstreamed into and implemented through NAPs and national ICZM strategies.</p>
<p>7.4. Monitoring and assessment.</p> <p><i>Number of thematic assessments. (At least 1)</i></p>	<p>7.4.1. Climate Change vulnerability assessment undertaken and map produced.</p>
<p>7.5. Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.</p> <p><i>Number of countries enhancing capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building on climate change adaptation issues. (At least 3)</i></p>	<p>7.5.1. Awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on climate change adaptation and on its links with the core themes enhanced.</p>

11. IMPLEMENTATION: PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

The implementation of the MTS is a collective process. The MTS can be used as a common platform for joint actions not only by CPs and the MAP system, but also for fostering cooperation with other International and Regional Organisations and programmes active in the Mediterranean. Civil society has always been an important group of stakeholders in the MAP system. In the implementation of the MTS, its role remains critical. “Synergies” and “complementarity” are once more the key words when seeking effectiveness, positive impacts and sustainability. To this end, the private sector – if mobilised properly – could become an important ally and contributor to the implementation of the MTS, in particular given its key role in the emerging green/blue economy.

The MAP system maintains privileged cooperation relations with the EU institutions (in particular the European Commission and EEA), since EU is a CP, and with GEF. Furthermore, UNEP/MAP has signed individual Memorandum of Understanding with IUCN, the UfM and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) respectively. Among the International and Regional Organisations, with which UNEP/MAP has long lasting cooperation, the following – playing already a role in the Mediterranean – are potential important players expected to contribute to the implementation of MTS 2016-2021: European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP/DTIE, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, ECLAT, ESCWA, ILO, RAMOGE, CIESM, CEDARE, GWP Med, Birdlife, WWF Med, the Mediterranean Energy Observatory and international financial agents like the FFEM, EBRD, EIB, IFC and WB.

The MTS, having a strategic nature, does not enter into budgetary details. Such details, as well as the actors and components in charge of implementation by activity, are to be found in the PoW of the relevant biennia of the period 2016-2021.

The main challenge when trying to achieve the objectives of Strategy is in the availability of financial resources, in particular taking into consideration the global and regional circumstances. The good practice of the last years, of mobilizing additional funding for specific projects in line with the PoW, is encouraged to continue and be further extended to include other donors too.

In general terms, it would be important for the implementation of the objectives and outcomes set out by strategic theme to mobilise as many resources as possible, with an effort to meet – and hopefully exceed – the target of 20% external funding compared to the total budget for the actions to be carried out. The Joint Resource Mobilisation Plan approved by COP 17 can be the guide to this end.

Furthermore, emerging funding possibilities under the EU, like the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, need to be seriously explored and used.

12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGY

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

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

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

The indicators listed under each strategic theme will be thoroughly monitored as well as the progress in reaching the respective targets. A **dashboard** will be circulated every biennium to follow progress on the basis of indicators set out and focus additional efforts on issues with slow results. To check outcomes in terms of sustainable impacts on the Mediterranean environment, there is a need to further develop **“baseline” references by theme**, to allow for comparisons and objective tracking of the changes. To the extent that “baseline” references are defined, it will become more detailed to correspond to indicators and targets set out.

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

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

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APPENDIX 1
MAP LEGAL INSTRUMENTS, REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

MAP LEGAL INSTRUMENTS, REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

Barcelona Convention

Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (adopted in 1976, in force 1978), amended and renamed as Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (adopted 1995, in force 2004).

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 Combatting 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, Combatting 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).

REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

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 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, Chlordecone, 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

Means of Governance

- Establishment of a compliance mechanism to facilitate and support the CPs in their efforts to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and achieve compliance;
- Establishment of a coherent reporting system on measures taken by the CPs to implement the Convention and the Protocols;

APPENDIX 2
UN POLICY REFERENCES ACTING AS THE BROADER CONTEXT
FOR THE MTS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

UN POLICY REFERENCES ACTING AS THE BROADER CONTEXT FOR THE MTS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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.

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 industrialisation 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 revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

2. MSSD context

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was adopted by the CPs 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.

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.

Accordingly, it established seven priority fields of action:

- Better management of water resources and demand;
- 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.

The decision to review MSSD was taken by the CPs 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 CPs 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.

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.