



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP/MED WG.477/4



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

UNEP

6 November 2019
Original: English

Regional Stakeholders Consultation Meeting
to contribute to the preparation of the
Ministerial Declaration of COP 21

Athens, Greece, 24-25 October 2019

Conclusions and Recommendations

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

**Regional Stakeholders Consultation Meeting to contribute to the preparation of the
Ministerial Declaration of COP 21
(Athens, Greece, 24-25 October 2019)**

Conclusions and Recommendations adopted at the Meeting

Thematic Priority Area: Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity

- Support the need for developing a post 2020 Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAP BIO), a Post-2020 Roadmap on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean; these programs and measures must be results-based, measurable, prepared through a participatory and transparent process, in line with the existing and upcoming global environmental commitments and with targeted actions at local, national, Mediterranean and eco-regional levels;
- Request Governments for their full commitment and adequate resources in order to: expand and sustain MPAs; strengthen their planning and effective management; provide the support needed in order to make MPAs in the Mediterranean concrete and effective tools for conservation and sustainability; facilitate the active involvement of MPAs managers, national and local authorities, NGOs, socio-economic actors and relevant stakeholders; and develop measurable targets in order to achieve the CBD Aichi Target 11, the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goal 14;
- Promote and support cooperation and networking between MPAs, their involvement in Marine Spatial Planning, as well as the exchange of information, practices and solutions at all levels and strengthen the link between field action and policy making in order to enhance their efficiency and connectivity through the ecosystem-based approach and to address common conservation and management issues.

Thematic Priority Area: Marine litter

- Increase efforts to achieve SDG Target 14.1 and commit to eliminate the leakage of plastics in the Mediterranean by 2025;
- Encourage industries, including plastic industry, to develop sustainable alternative materials considering the life cycle approach and promoting eco design, also taking into consideration socio-economic aspects and the circular economy approach;
- Foster the responsibility of producers and consumers by strengthening awareness, education and communication tools;
- Enforce the science-policy interface and mobilize research institutions in order to fill knowledge gaps and policy needs (e.g. the monitoring of the presence and impacts of nanoplastics in the marine environment and biota, sea food safety and human health and the impact of marine litter on marine biodiversity with focus on MPAs);
- Harmonize and strengthen marine litter monitoring programs and the identification of common indicators among the regional and global contexts by promoting the need for an agreed common baseline;
- Commit to concrete measures to prevent marine litter generation and reduce impacts.

Thematic Priority Session: Climate Action

- Commit to take into account the consequences of the climate driven changes in marine and coastal habitats, like erosion and flooding, on priority marine habitats and species, e.g. Posidonia meadows, marine turtles and monk seals;
- Acknowledge the impact of increasing temperatures on communities and marine species and habitats and commit to enhance adaptation and mitigation measures;
- Commit to take into account consequences of the invasive alien species on the public health, ecosystems, fisheries and tourism;
- Promote the recognition of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture, and coastal and marine areas protection as mitigation and adaptation measures against climate change;
- Develop and apply the concept of environmental and socio-economic resilience at all levels;
- Promote nature-based solutions and, whenever possible, consider them as alternatives or complements to infrastructure projects;
- Follow a precautionary principle in relation to climate change adaptation measures, in particular considering marine spatial planning.

Thematic Priority Session: Blue Economy

- Promote the implementation of common sustainability standards in marine and coastal investments, based on the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles, with a view to support the delivery on environmental, climate and social goals, including the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement;
- Develop a clear structured approach to sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean, based on the work done by the MAP-Barcelona Convention system; providing criteria, goals, measures and actions to specifically address tourism activities in the Mediterranean that involve all dimensions of the MAP-Barcelona Convention System (institutional, regulatory and implementation); this will be done in cooperation with all stakeholders and in coordination with the other regional processes;
- Develop and endorse a regional taxonomy for sustainable tourism activities, in line with other regional processes (e.g. EU Action plan on sustainable finance) to facilitate sustainable investments in tourism at the regional level and to promote sustainable tourism and eco-tourism development in the region.

Thematic Priority Session: Guidance

- Emphasize the role of the cities as engines of development and laboratories of solutions to environmental emergencies and the promotion of sustainable development;
- Promote the role and raise the capacities of women taking into account their perception of biodiversity, climate change and the specific adaptation to any change; promote the role of young people as effective actors and communicators as well;
- Acknowledge and facilitate the role of Civil Society and support the transition from public participation to active engagement for the implementation of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system via new tools of assessment (e.g. legal indicators);

- Build capacity for all relevant actors, by (a) developing, through education and training, an innovative approach to creative negotiations as a structured process of governance, generating common interest at all levels for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and by introducing a dialogue platform to encourage informed participation, as well as by (b) developing a public trust approach, as a sustainability-related legal and policy platform to enhance implementation of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system to protect the environment and natural resources contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations;
- Recognize the critical role of national and international parliaments, and their active contribution, through the instrument of legislative action and parliamentary diplomacy, for the achievement of the goals and mission of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in protecting the environment of the Mediterranean Sea, its coastal zones and enhance the sustainable and harmonious development of the entire region;
- Facilitate the engagement of local communities in the Mediterranean by developing, in a collaborative manner and in cooperation with Civil Society Organizations, tools to help the communication, dissemination, understanding, also through education, and easier and effective implementation of the measures agreed at institutional level;
- Support the development of a new deal for nature that strengthens global targets and mechanisms to protect and restore nature by 2030, in support of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, and in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Commit to implement the roadmap for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Area as Emission Control Area for Sulphur dioxide (ECA) with adequate supporting measures for the Contracting Parties and a comprehensive proposal to submit to the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- Promote the use of modern data collection technologies such as the Geographic Information systems (GIS) as effective tools to collect and share relevant data, information and knowledge.

The above conclusions and recommendations are also relevant for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027.