

The partners of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Partnership are:



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A New Partnership for the Mediterranean

Reducing pollution impacts on environment and human health
 Reaching sustainable fisheries
 Protecting coastal-marine biodiversity and communities

The countries of the Mediterranean, in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the Barcelona Convention, and with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and of the World Bank, have embarked on a strategic international partnership to protect the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas.



For the first time the countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea, with the support of major international organizations and regional and international NGOs, will have the opportunity to join forces and catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting this unique large marine ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.

Major transboundary environmental concerns in the Mediterranean:

- Decline of biodiversity;
- Decline in fisheries;
- Decline in seawater quality;
- Human health risks;
- Loss of groundwater dependent coastal ecosystems;
- Numerous coastal pollution hot spots.

The project activities will be carried out in the following GEF eligible countries: *Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority also participates.*

The two main regional policy frameworks to face this environmental challenge

The countries of the Mediterranean, with the support of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP), and of the GEF, have adopted two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) aimed at reducing land-based sources of marine pollution (SAP-MED) and protecting biodiversity and living resources and their habitats (SAP-BIO). The two SAPs identify the major problems, indicate possible remedial measures and their cost and set concrete targets and deadlines for their implementation.

THE MED-LME STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: HOW IT WORKS



A new Partnership for action in the Mediterranean Basin

The GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LME, implemented by UNEP and the World Bank, and executed by UNEP/MAP, responds directly to priorities of the countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin as identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, and agreed interventions as outlined in the two Strategic Action Plans, SAP-BIO and SAP-MED. The two SAPs are now ready for implementation.

The main objective is to assist basin countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors that address transboundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection priorities identified in the two SAPs. The Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem its contributing freshwater basins, habitats and coastal aquifers. It will also develop a strategic regional approach to investments for greater benefit to the countries in the region. A specific framework will be designed to replicate and transfer investment experiences throughout the region.

This will be the largest regional project ever implemented in the Mediterranean. Its total budget, including co-financing, is expected to exceed USD 250 million.



The Strategic Partnership consists of two individual components, which fit together to assist the countries in a collaborative manner:

- **Regional Component:** Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (USD 13 million GEF grant, to be implemented by UNEP/MAP and partners);
- **Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership** (USD 85 million GEF grant, implemented by the World Bank).

A Coordination Group will ensure that the Regional Component and the Investment Fund will work in close collaboration and interaction. A well developed Replication Strategy will identify potential projects to be replicated to other countries with a minimum cost and maximum effectiveness.

The large interest generated by this project is proved by the fact that France, Italy and Spain will co-finance it in cash with an approx. amount of USD 5 million, while the EC has agreed to participate together with them and all recipient countries in the Steering Committee of the project.

This will ensure a strong ownership of the Project by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention while UNEP/MAP being responsible for its implementation, will be at the heart of this great effort.