



**United Nations Environment Programme  
Mediterranean Action Plan**



# **REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: POLICY AND TOOLS**



**A Mediterranean Partnership Initiative  
for the promotion of Sustainable Development**

**MCS D**

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## PREPARATION OF A REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: POLICY AND TOOLS



### SUMMARY:

The main objective of this proposal is to prepare a Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean, involving all concerned actors, most of them already active partners in MAP and the MCSD. In addition to the Mediterranean Countries, this initiative will be actively supported by Mediterranean representatives of the Major Groups and Civil Society, as well as, Regional Actors such as EMP/SMAP and METAP (these last two Partners are expected to provide substantial technical and financial support for the preparation and later on the implementation of the Regional Strategy).

The preparatory process of this Regional Strategy will make appropriate use of relevant information and analysis, available at regional and national levels, notably the Strategic Review prepared recently as an assessment of activities related to Sustainable Development at national and regional levels in relation with the implementation of Agenda 21, and the major Environment and Development report being prepared by MAP / Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre.

This Regional Strategy will focus on relevant policies and practical tools necessary for building up a coherent Strategic Programme with time bound and implementable results.

The expected results include the following:

- Better preparation at national and regional levels to ensure that the environment and trade policies are mutually supportive, in view of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade area;
- Better coordination and use of national and external investments in the Region;
- Strengthening of the MCSD through a stronger implication of concerned Major Groups;
- Exchange of experience among multi-stakeholders on sustainable development;
- Publications related to and international workshops on the Mediterranean Regional case for exchange of experience and possible replication;
- Awareness raising and capacity building in the field of sustainable development;
- Coherence between regional and national approaches for sustainable development; and
- Strengthening of existing networks (MAP, METAP, SMAP, Major Groups networks) and inter-linkages among them.

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**DATES:**

- September 2002 – December 2005 for the preparation and adoption of the Strategy by concerned partners;
- December 2010 for the implementation of specific time-bound targets.

**LINKS:**

Capacity-Building, Oceans / Coastal Areas and Information for Decision Making.



## REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: POLICY AND TOOLS

### A Mediterranean Partnership Initiative for the promotion of Sustainable Development

The **Mediterranean** is potentially one of the **eco-regions** in which the concept of sustainable development could be implemented, as a **regional test case**, due to its rapid development, the scarcity of its natural resources, the different levels of development between riparian States, and also because of certain quite spectacular developments which are very specific to the region, such as tourism development and competition for the coastal region.

#### THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

Both the Mediterranean Sea and the countries fringing it, particularly their coastal areas, face heavy pressures, most of them the result of human activities related to uncontrolled and rapid development. The resident population of the Mediterranean countries has jumped from 246 million in 1960 to 427 million in the year 2000. Urbanization, overcrowding in coastal regions, evolution of consumption patterns, intensive agriculture, mass tourism, and unrestricted coastal area development combine to assault the natural environment—marine, terrestrial and water resources. These factors interact to cause pollution loads that endanger peoples' quality of life. Pollution hot spots are

typically found in coastal areas with semi-enclosed gulfs and bays near important harbors, big cities and industrial areas. They constitute a major Mediterranean problem and a potential threat.

An important quantity of untreated wastewater and many toxic substances are discharged into the semi-enclosed Mediterranean Sea. Transport and industries cause atmospheric pollution that is damaging to human health, nature and archaeological sites. Increasing sea transportation of oil and hazardous materials poses threats of accidental pollution. The delicate Mediterranean ecosystem is disturbed in a variety of ways from the contamination of fish by industrial effluents to the destruction of the habitats of endangered species by tourism.

Through the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the European Union have been cooperating since 1975 to improve their common Mediterranean environment.

Over the past 28 years, UNEP/MAP has evolved in response to the improved understanding of the close relationships between environment, conservation and development. It has expanded its remit, and no longer focuses solely on **Mediterranean sea pollution** but also concerns itself with pollution generated on land due to the **development process with integrated coastal zone planning and natural resource management** as the key tools through which solutions are being sought. Global developments in environmental approaches confirmed and supported MAP's widening scope, in particular, Agenda 21. MAP responded in 1994 with the presentation of **Agenda MED 21**, adapting Agenda 21 to the Mediterranean context; MAP also revised the **Barcelona Convention** in 1995, incorporating the Rio Declaration Principles, and created the **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D)**.

Throughout the history, the regular and intense exchanges and inter-relations between the riparian countries, which created a series of **common concerns** and a certain **sense of Mediterranean identity**, have characterized the Mediterranean. This provided a solid basis for the cooperation in the region, notably through UNEP/MAP, for the protection of the sea in the beginning and progressively for the protection of the marine and coastal environment as well as for the promotion of sustainable development. Early enough and certainly in the '90s, the Contracting Parties have developed a real sense of ownership for their MAP, providing it with regular financial support and showing real interest in the preparation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of its programme of activities. This positive situation has then provided opportunities for substantial additional financial resources either from partners on a voluntary basis or through projects, mainly from the European Union and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Since the creation of MAP and mainly since the result of its activities in late '80s and early '90s, several regional programmes were established, aiming at further promoting MAP objectives through more practical projects; among these programmes the most visible ones are the **Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme (METAP)** and the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP)** and its Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP).

The establishment of the MCSD in 1996 demonstrated the commitment of MAP Contracting Parties to further working towards **integrating environment and development** in the entire region. The MCSD is composed of 36 members representing the 20 Mediterranean Countries and the European Community (EC); the NGOs (5); the Socio-Economic Actors (5) and the Local Authorities (5), the later 15 being renewed every two years to ensure a wider representation of the Civil Society and Major

Groups. The preparation and endorsement in 2001 of the Strategic Review for sustainable development in the Mediterranean together with the decision to prepare a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, Agenda MED 21 and the follow up of the WSSD, are two other indicators of the willingness of Mediterranean Partners to protect their environment and promote sustainable development.

These commitments were clearly expressed in the Mediterranean Declaration for the Johannesburg Summit prepared by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 12th conference (Monaco, 14–17 November 2001) and confirmed in the Catania Declaration of the Contracting Parties at their 13th meeting (Catania, 11–14 November 2004) highlighting the need for this Regional Sustainable Development Strategy that would give due consideration to, *inter alia*, coastal management and prevention / control of pollution.

A quarter-century of activities has seen a lot of progress and achievements, but there is still a long way to go towards a satisfactory protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. To progress further towards our goals, a series of achievements are required; the present **Partnership Initiative** is expected to contribute to the **further promotion and implementation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region**, in conformity with the Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration goals.

This new partnership initiative, agreed upon by concerned parties and their partners, is a contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, Agenda MED 21 and the follow up of WSSD and its Plan of Implementation, in particular regarding its application at Regional levels, in this case the Mediterranean Eco-Region.



**NAME OF PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE:**

Preparation of a Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Mediterranean: Policy and Tools

**DATE OF INITIATION:**

September 2002

**EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION:**

- December 2005 for the preparation and adoption of the Strategy by concerned Partners;
- December 2010 for the implementation of specific time-bound targets (would be reviewed throughout the process).

**PARTNERS INVOLVED:**

**GOVERNMENTS:** 21 Mediterranean bordering Countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:** UNEP/MAP, European Commission, as Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and Partner to METAP and EMP/SMAP, World Bank, UNDP and EIB as METAP Partners, together with MEDWET. Other partners would join this Initiative during the preparation and implementation of the Strategy, such as Arab regional institutions.

**MAJOR GROUPS:** Several Organizations from the Major Groups and Civil Society will be involved in the preparation of the Strategy, most of them being already active Partners to MAP and the MCSD such as the networks of the Mediterranean NGOs (MIO-ECSDE, MEDFORUM, ENDA, WWF, IUCN, Friends of the Earth, RAED, most of them already accredited to ECOSOC), network of Local Authorities (MEDCITIES) and of Private Sector (ICC, ASCAME, etc).

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**MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE:**

The main objective of this proposal is to prepare and then implement a Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean, involving all concerned actors, most of them already active partners in MAP and the MCSD; in addition to the Mediterranean Countries, this initiative will be actively supported by Mediterranean representatives of the Major Groups and Civil Society, as well as, Regional Actors such as EC-EMP/SMAP and METAP (these Partners are expected to provide financial and technical support for the preparation and later on the implementation of the Regional Strategy).

The preparatory process of this Regional Strategy makes appropriate use of relevant information and analysis, available at regional and national levels, notably the Strategic Review prepared recently as an assessment of activities related to Sustainable Development at national and regional levels in relation with the implementation of Agenda 21, following the request of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the framework of the preparatory process for the WSSD. The preparation for this Strategy will also make adequate use of the indicators and prospective analysis to be included in the Mediterranean Environment and Development Report, being elaborated by the UNEP/MAP Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre. This Regional Strategy will focus on relevant policies and practical tools necessary for building up a coherent Strategic Programme with time bound and implementable results.

Moreover, building on its large knowledge of the environment and development interrelations in the Region, as well as the commitments of the Mediterranean Partners, the preparatory process of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development will be a participatory one, involving all concerned actors, most of them being members of or partners to the MCSD; such process would then induce countries and concerned partners to prepare National / Local Sustainable Development Strategies. The Regional Strategy will also include a series of time-bound targets.

The MCSD has proved to be an interesting forum for dialogue and partnership. By promoting its visibility at the global level, the MCSD could be strengthened and its regional case as a bridge between global and national / local levels could be shared with other regions that could draw lessons and adapt similar structures to their contexts.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS:

- Improved Governance for regional and national sustainable development;
- Better preparation at national and regional levels to ensure that the environment and trade policies are mutually supportive, in view of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade area;
- Better coordination and use of national and external investments in the Region;
- Strengthening of the MCSD through a stronger implication of concerned Major Groups;
- Exchange of experience among multi-stakeholders on sustainable development;
- Publications related to and international workshops on the Mediterranean Regional case for exchange of experience and possible replication;
- Awareness raising and capacity building in the field of sustainable development;
- Coherence between regional and national approaches for sustainable development;
- Strengthening of existing networks (MAP, METAP, SMAP, Major Groups networks) and interlinkages among them.

#### SPECIFIC TARGETS OF THE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE AND TIMEFRAME FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS:

To induce and assist Mediterranean Countries and partners in (to be reviewed throughout the preparatory process of the Strategy and better defined in 2005):

- Establishing National Environment and Development Observatories or similar information and decision making tool (5–8 countries by 2010);
- Establishing Cleaner Production Centres (7–10 countries by 2010);
- Preparing and implementing Local Governance through coastal management and participatory approach (5–8 countries by 2010);
- Halting the decline of biodiversity by managing specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance;
- Developing and implementing plans for integrated management of the water demand, putting special emphasis on drinking water and irrigation;
- Encouraging the establishment of National Commissions on Sustainable Development and the adoption of National Sustainable Development Strategies;
- Developing and implementing a Regional Strategic Action Plan on Tourism and Sustainable Development (by 2008);
- Preparing and implementing a Regional Information, Awareness and Public Participation Strategy (by 2006).

#### COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS:

All 37 MCSD members (representing Mediterranean countries: 21; European Commission and the Majors Groups: 15) are committed to this partnership, as the preparation of the Regional Strategy and then the follow up of its implementation constitute a commonly agreed task for the MCSD, upon the request of the Contracting Parties.

Under the supervision of the Steering Committee (SC) of the MCSD, the implementation will be coordinated by the Secre-

tariat of MAP and MCSD with the support of its members and the assistance of a team of eminent and highly qualified experts.

Following the WSSD in Johannesburg, a group of 3 experts has been appointed. The preparatory process was launched in September 2002 for the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy starting with the elaboration of coherent framework “orientations” related to the three pillars.

In order to carefully prepare the Regional Strategy, it was decided to first define and agree on an “orientations framework” for the Strategy to be based on a limited set of key stakes and priority issues, with as far as possible some quantifiable and time-bound results; in this context, three background “thematic” studies related to the three pillars have been undertaken on “economic development and social equity”, “environment and natural resources” and “governance, policy and institutional issues”, all three giving due consideration to relevant contents of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals as well as to decisions taken by concerned partners and relevant to the Mediterranean regional context.

#### PROGRESS AND FURTHER STEPS:

The Contracting Parties have delegated the MCSD SC, composed of four representatives of countries, and of one representing each of the private sector, the NGOs and the Local Authorities, to follow the preparation of the MSSD. This SC has reviewed a first draft for these three studies and discussed the framework orientations together with next steps; a workshop of some 50 qualified experts was then organized on 13–15 March 2003 in Barcelona, Spain, to further discuss the findings of the three studies and define the framework orientations.

A report on the common “Vision for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean” was prepared and a draft report on “Framework Orientations” was elaborated

outlining the diagnostic, main challenges, priorities for action and objectives to be dealt with by the Strategy; the latter would become the basis for the elaboration of the Strategy, identifying its main challenges with a strong commitment to Peace and Security. Both reports were reviewed by the members of the MCSD during their 8th meeting on 14–16 May 2003 in Cavtat, Croatia and then by the SC. Revised reports were finally presented along with a road map for the elaboration of the Strategy to the Contracting Parties at their 13th meeting in Catania Italy on 11–14 November 2003.

Following the outlines of the Road map a meeting of consultation with the NGO Partners took place in Madrid (17–18 January 2004) to discuss how the NGO community in the Mediterranean can best contribute to, and participate in the development of the Strategy.

The Mediterranean NGO Community is preparing for a dynamic and pro-active contribution to the MSSD formulation through the organization of a series of national NGO consultations on the MSSD, culminating in a regional NGO conference on the MSSD. The national consultations are expected to contribute, and in some cases, initiate national debate on implementing sustainable development locally. They would serve to raise awareness of, and develop sense of ownership for the MSSD.

Eventhough it is rather difficult to mobilize the interest of the Business sector around the Mediterranean, the ICC, through its antenna in Monaco, has been developing in this context constructive partnership for the promotion of sustainable development; an internal Mediterranean Network is being structured within the ICC and a training programme is being prepared “for promoting public-private partnerships in the Region, that would involve managers and responsible officers from both sectors, focusing on the management of coastal resources. It is



an opportunity for promoting and sharing experience on the global initiatives (Global Compact, MDG, JPOI, BASD) and on Mediterranean and European relevant ones". This would start as a summer school in Croatia first, before extending it to other Mediterranean countries.

A significant workshop involving representatives from MAP Contracting Parties, MCSD members, the Civil Society and experts is planned for early May 2004 in Rabat, Morocco to define in more details the preparatory process of the Strategy including annotated table of contents, objectives and actions for each of the Priority Areas of the MSSD Framework Orientations, partners to be involved and respective responsibilities, necessary technical / financial means and possible sources, organization of the preparatory process, road map with intermediary working sessions and documents. Various working sessions to follow the preparatory process are foreseen between July 2004 and April 2005. In the mean time the draft documents on the preparatory process and the preliminary draft of the Strategy will be reviewed by the MCSD in their 9th (Italy, June 2004) and 10th MCSD (June 2005) meetings and, if necessary would be finalized in a special meeting of the MCSD dedicated to the conclusion of the Strategy document before its presentation for adoption by the Contracting Parties in their meeting in Slovenia (November / December 2005).

Interest from the IGOs (the World Bank, UNDP, EC and EIB) to contributing to this Regional Strategy has been confirmed during several meetings when progress on preparatory process was presented; more partners will be identified through the preparatory process with the objective of securing their effective participation and commitment in the elaboration and implementation of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy. A meeting with the JCEDAR (Joint Committee for Environment and Development in

the Arab Region —LAS, ESCWA, ROWA and CEDARE) will be organized soon, so as to get their interest and involvement in this process, notably in relation with the analysis and recommendations of the UNDP Arab Human Development Reports and the UNEP/GEO III.

In order to ensure active participation and contribution to the preparation and implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy by concerned Regional Actors, a more pro-active information and communication mechanism is being prepared so as to secure partnerships, commitments and ownership, with necessary means.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNDING:

During the 2002–2003 biennium, launching of this Partnership Initiative has benefited from a financial support of about US\$ 180,000: US\$ 70,000 from MAP budget (Contracting Parties and the European Commission) and US\$ 110,000 from Monaco and Spain; During the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, Italy, some € 275,000 were allocated for 2004–2005 for the preparation of the Strategy: € 175,000 from the budget of MAP (Contracting Parties and the European Commission) and € 100,000 from Italy.

Additional financial support could be reasonably expected from donor countries and partners in addition to projects to be submitted to relevant funding agencies. In this context cooperation is expected from the AZAHAR Programme —Cooperation Programme on Sustainable Development, environment and protection and the prevention of natural resources in the Mediterranean Area of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Agency for International Cooperation.

Finally, a "sustainable development Officer" would be employed soon to assist in the MCSD activities and in particular the preparation of the Strategy.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:

Throughout the period of the project, several workshops for exchange of information, awareness raising and capacity building will be organized on specific issues such as:

- Preparation of national Sustainable Development Strategies;
- Exchange of experience on governance for sustainable development at the national and local level, with focus on participatory approach;
- Planning for sustainable development policies in relation to some critical fields: tourism, transport, energy, urban and rural development, coastal management, water and waste management.

## LINKS OF PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE WITH ON-GOING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL AND / OR REGIONAL:

The preparation of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy will take into account the developments within the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, more specifically the establishment of a Free Trade Area in the Region, the Enlargement of EU, the Euro-Arab cooperation, the East-Adriatic and Arab Subregional initiatives, as well as the GWP Med Initiative on "Water and Poverty" in the Mediterranean, the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region, Mediterranean Education Initiative / MEDIES, local Agenda 21 Initiatives, and other regional Partnerships. It will benefit from the international meeting to be organized by France in 2004 as a contribution to this Regional Strategy.

## MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS:

Once the MSSD will be agreed upon, a set of monitoring and performance indicators will be identified and a reporting system established, to be regularly reviewed, assessed and evaluated by the MCSD and the SC and members / partners at the regular institutional meetings.

## OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Considering the WSSD Plan of Implementation, it is important that the Commission on Sustainable Development gives adequate visibility to Partnerships and facilitates the exchange of experiences between those that address some common concerns.

In the particular case of this Partnership, it is necessary that the Commission on Sustainable Development gives more importance to regional approaches, not just through the classical UN regions but also through eco-regions such as the UNEP Regional Seas and in particular the Mediterranean Region;

Identifying, informing and inducing new potential partners to join and support some of the Partnership initiatives could also be of great support.

## WEBSITE:

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