



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

The **MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION**
on **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

MCS**D**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SYNTHESIS OF THE STRATEGIC REVIEW



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SUMMARY

Assessing the political and institutional progress made towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean, the recently published Strategic Review represents the first self-evaluation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and particularly of its instrument for fostering regional sustainable development, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

The Review offers a frank analysis of the teething problems of what is a complex and ambitious remit, and assesses how the measures agreed upon by the Mediterranean community have effectively been implemented. This Review also contains encouraging updates from Mediterranean countries charting the steady permeation of a sustainable development way of thinking into Mediterranean countries.

It is hoped that it will inject renewed political impetus into regional sustainable development endeavours and represent a realistic guide to real challenges for other global regions seeking to translate sustainable development principles into concrete actions. Overall, it lays the ground for the forthcoming sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean.

The Strategic Review reflects the feedback to detailed questionnaires sent to 20 Mediterranean states and the European Union (EU) as well as a number of other MCSD members such as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and local authorities. It is also informed by studies on Mediterranean regional cooperation, major groups in society, and on MAP's relationship to sustainable development.

Among the key stumbling blocks highlighted by the Strategic Review is the fact that environmental policies still have too little an impact on development policies, remaining too compartmentalised to address themes constituting integrated policy.

Sustainable development policies also depend too exclusively on the public sector, when they need to foster partnerships between the public and private sectors, forming the type of new cooperative decision-making processes themselves increasingly in demand in the spheres of governance and local management. It also draws attention to the need to ensure that dynamic NGO participation becomes a more routine phenomenon and to take account of the varying capacities of countries at differing stages of development.

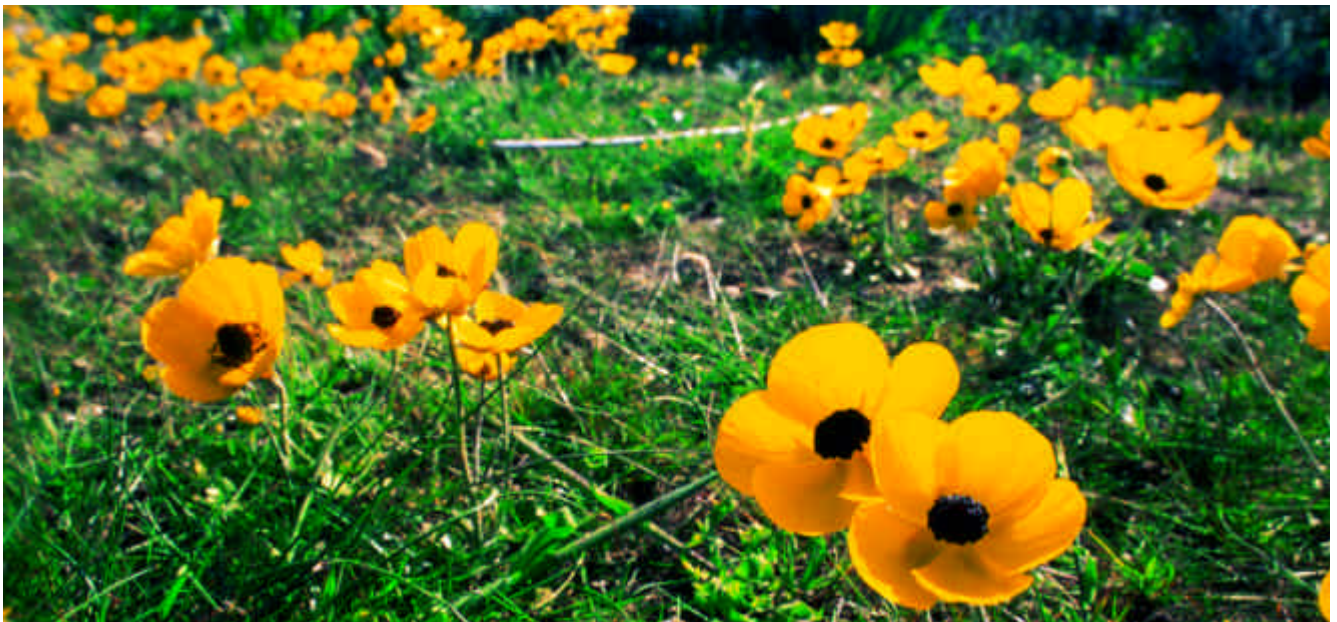
The Review emphasises that the needs of future generations, and thus a long-term view of development, often fall by the wayside in the drive for the short-term accumulation of wealth and accelerated change.

The difficulty, at national level, in giving concrete expression to sustainable development measures decided on by the Mediterranean community, shows that this new concept hasn't yet managed to mobilise all spheres of society and that states have been slow to implement some of the decisions taken. It therefore encourages the creation of more national commissions for sustainable development, whose representatives could later serve as MCSD members.

It additionally identifies a certain ambiguity in the MCSD role, as it is a forum for discussion but sometimes perceived as an operational structure. Also to be consolidated are the best means of tracking the implementation of adopted MCSD proposals.

The Strategic Review highlights several basic elements that would boost the success of a Mediterranean sustainable development strategy:

- Allowing states to play their full role and encouraging the emerging role of local authorities
- Drawing on all elements of civil society, tourists included, to safeguard natural resources and the vitality of natural ecosystems with the aid of an ambitious public awareness drive
- Working towards economic and social justice and greater democracy while respecting community values
- Promoting scientific activity and technological achievement
- Strengthening human resources
- Undertaking any necessary legislative, financial, trade or economic reforms likely to assist in implementing national sustainable development strategies
- Improving communications and ensuring that MCSD output is well publicised among the Mediterranean public and concerned institutional bodies as well as the interested international community and closely monitoring the implementation of MCSD proposals adopted
- Fostering stronger North-South and South-South Mediterranean cooperation



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC REVIEW

The MCS D Strategic Review, on which this synthesis is based, was prepared by the MAP Secretariat, and supervised by the MCS D Steering Committee in 2000. This Review is intended to provide the basis for the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and to assist in the compilation of the third UNEP report on the Future of the Global Environment (GEO 3), and the preparations for the 2nd Earth Summit in 2002, as well as for a broader dissemination to concerned countries and partners.

A mismatch continues to exist between the scale of global environmental damage highlighted, for example, by the UNCED at the Earth Summit 1 in 1992, and the notoriously inadequate mobilisation of political and socio-economic actors for the environment and sustainable development.

The obstacles are well known and include difficulties in correctly grasping the concept of sustainable development and in overcoming short-term interests, the persistence of non-sustainable consumption and production patterns, the excessive use of natural resources, the debt burden, as well as difficulties in solving questions of funding and the transfer of ecologically rational technologies.

The Mediterranean environmental protection setting

Twenty Mediterranean countries and the European Union are Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Barcelona Convention, the legal framework underlying the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) a pan-Mediterranean cooperative environmental protection endeavour under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), that has existed since 1975.

Initially addressing sea pollution, MAP has expanded its remit to cover land-based activities within countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, which exert heavy pressures on coastal resources, produce huge quantities of waste and lead to the deterioration of vulnerable and threatened landscapes.

Today, MAP is coordinated by an Athens-based coordinating unit which also supervises six Regional Activity Centres (RACs) providing programmes with expertise in specific areas such as integrated coastal area management and future environment and development scenarios, as well as a MEDPOL Programme aimed at combating pollution.

In 1994, the Mediterranean region responded to Agenda 21, a document highlighting the relevance of environmental concerns to all aspects of development, and publicised at the Earth Summit in Rio, with the presentation of Agenda MED 21, adapting the former document to the Mediterranean context, emphasising areas such as tourism, shipping, aquaculture and cultural heritage.

It provided a framework for reflection to identify the objectives to be achieved in relation to social and economic stakes, the conservation and management of resources, strengthening of the main groups in society, and strengthening the means for implementation.

In 1995, supported by shared experience spanning a quarter of a century, the Contracting Parties revised the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan to officially address sustainable development issues, renaming it the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean and provided it with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

The Mediterranean region faces the difficult task of juggling the legitimate development needs of large sections of its population whilst aware that the resources needed to ensure this development remain scarce.

The main challenges relate to the fact that soil and water, possibly the most precious resources, have been impoverished and depleted; the food needs of a Southern rim population still forecast to grow are becoming pressing; the coast remains threatened, particularly by pressure from tourism; the fragile Mediterranean ecosystem is being chronically impaired, traditional cultures are facing a clash with new technologies and there is often a context of conflict and tension, hardly conducive to development.



The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

As an advisory body representative of the states yet at the same time broadly open to the main groups within society through its innovative membership structure, the MCSD has been able to provide effective assistance to the CPs through its proposals aimed at implementing a regional sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean.

Its official remit is "To identify, evaluate and assess major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals therein to the meetings of the CPs [to the Barcelona Convention], evaluate the effectiveness of the follow-up to the decisions of the CPs and facilitate the exchange of information among the institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean".

Significantly too, it exists "To enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean Basin for the integration of environment and development issues".

By its very composition, the MCSD has helped to polish the Mediterranean's image as an eco-region anxious to harness all potential forces within civil society in the interests of sustainable development. It acts as the interface for the work of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (UNCSD) at the Mediterranean level.

Why this Strategic Review?

This Review seeks to evaluate the sustainable development progress made in recent years in this eco-region and the extent to which the concept has mobilised members of civil society.

To what extent have states applied themselves to implementing decisions made? Is it feasible to envisage a mode of production-related growth and development that is more respectful of the Mediterranean eco-system and its threatened natural resources within the context of the current relations between Europe and the developing countries in the region and the widening gulf in terms of demographic, economic, technological and socio-cultural terms which exist between North and South?

Population growth, urbanization, littoralisation, and development of tourism now play a major role in the rapid "artificialisation" of the Mediterranean landscape and its deterioration process, despite the now fairly longstanding and rising level of environmental awareness, evidenced in numerous governmental and EU initiatives, including MAP.

Merely tackling ecological concerns relating to pollution, waste management, etc. and assessing their environmental impact does not actually question the basis of our current economic and social system. Rather, it postpones the moment when society and its living environment reach breaking point. Only once all human activities are marked by an environmental approach, can sustainable development really come into its own.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the Strategic Review involve:

- Highlighting MAP's efforts towards impetus and coordination at the regional level in the form of an exhaustive and critical assessment of steps taken since 1995.
- Evidencing the headways made by different countries levels towards sustainability in terms of effective reforms, genuine integration of environmental concerns in development programmes, and capacity building.
- Assessing the role played by MAP's regional partners and the Mediterranean states
- Putting forward relevant proposals likely to improve MAP's efficiency, involving the partners concerned to a greater extent, and building the capacity of the CPs to implement the policies and strategies of sustainable development.

The Mediterranean, as an area of North-South partnership between European and other Mediterranean countries, is after all a very apt arena in which to try out and apply the sustainable development concept.

The presence of shared resources such as the sea and coastal zones demand that ecological issues be commonly managed, and in contrast, the unequal development of economies and neighbouring countries, the presence of pockets of poverty, and the existence of conflict and tension represent major handicaps to this common approach.

Implementation by the countries of measures towards sustainable development requires:

- **Greater practical understanding of what sustainable development requires**
- **Consistency between the mechanisms to be established and the aims set**
- **A certain degree of authority to influence the behaviour and encourage the support of all citizens, as well as their actual involvement**
- **Cohesion and conviction on the part of the human capacity responsible for decision taking and implementation.**

A Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development will learn from other regional experiences and in order to avoid failure, should:

- **Allow States to play their full role and encourage the emerging role of local authorities**
- **Draw on all elements of civil society**
- **Work towards economic and social justice and take the ancestral values of communities into account**
- **Promote scientific activity and technological achievement**
- **Strengthen human resources**

It is vital that reform packages are multifarious, bundling statutory, fiscal, financial, commercial and economic measures as only these are able to tally to the far-reaching and widespread changes that sustainable development needs. Such reforms would also encourage growth, alleviate poverty and reduce income inequality.

Underlying the reforms and decisions to be taken is the pursuit of efficiency in terms of rationalising economic activity and creating equity in terms of social justice and shared well-being, and preserving the natural resource base in terms of recovering the real cost of their use.

Planning reforms related to sustainable development remains a delicate matter since it lies at the heart of the country's institutional and economic policy, raising sensitive issues such as the redistribution of profit, participation in decision-taking and compensation.

DEVELOPMENT STAKES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean context

At the crossroads of three continents, and as an eco-region, the sea, the coast and the land have multiple significance to the spirit and the lives of Mediterraneans. Its natural resources are an asset - for example its wealth of flora comprising around 25,000 species and 46,000 km of coastline. However these resources are also vulnerable. For example, its wealth of fauna has been widely affected by human pressure, a constant decrease in large land and marine mammal populations and a decline in forest areas, now only representing 5% of their initial size.

Water resources are also scarce and unevenly distributed - the Northern countries enjoying 86% of the Basin's resources, while two thirds of the South's resources are sourced elsewhere. Major natural risks exist in terms of soil erosion caused by wind and water, raising the threat of desertification. Losses affect one third of land in the Basin, amounting to 330 million tons of suspended matter being washed into the sea each year.

Development is intensifying competition for natural resources. Agriculture, conditioned by limited natural resources and highly dependent on irrigation, consumes 75% of water drawn in the region, which is having to cope with encroaching soil salinization in the South, due to poor drainage and high levels of evaporation.

This is accompanied by rapid industrialisation, now making itself felt on the Southern rim, and competing with urbanisation for the coastline, as well as a flourishing tourism industry - now with over 150 million international and domestic visitors and growing by more than 5% per year with potential in hinterland areas and Southern Mediterranean sites, and an active shipping hub representing 1/3 of world shipping along with expanding land and air transport services.

Island ecosystems are vulnerable, constituting an unstable balance between the environment, economy and society. They vary widely in terms of size, ease of access, population density and political status but share a strong local identity, a rich cultural heritage and an outstanding environment. They tend to lag behind in terms of development and face fluctuations in their economies while rural populations and their societies are undermined by town and mainland-bound populations and intense pressure from tourism, to the detriment of their environments, that nonetheless remains the main source of income for many of them. Sustainable development will need a strategy adapted to the needs of the region's many islands.

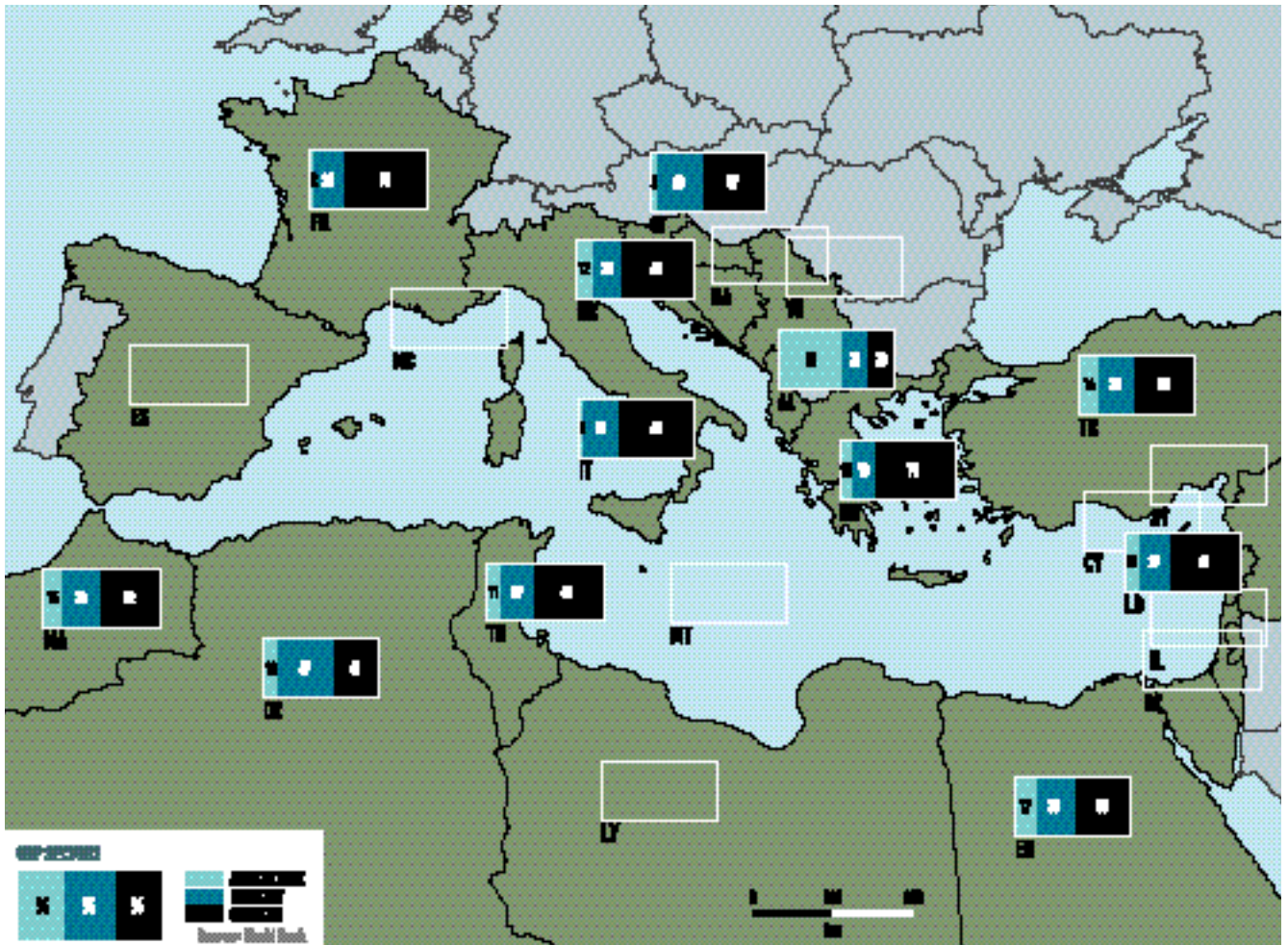
An area of contrast

Though now on a plateau in Northern countries, within half a century, the population of the Mediterranean countries has risen dramatically from 210 to 430 million inhabitants. This growth has been accompanied by urbanisation and heavy coastal area development exerting intense pressures on scarce resources with competition between users for space, as well as water supply, waste treatment, air pollution and urban planning problems.

The move from rural to urban areas jeopardises the ability of major urban centres to integrate and help in the socialisation of new arrivals.

While economic growth tends to be more pronounced in Southern Mediterranean countries, the North's substantially greater economic strength, and the fact that the South must also contend with continued population growth, means that any benefit is largely balanced out in terms of per capita GDP.

In the South, substantial population sectors are excluded from the benefits of economic growth because of the major difference in average standards of living. Thus economic and population developments are creating a widening gap between Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries.



Vital regional issues

MACRO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The preparation of sustainable development policies must necessarily take place within the international, regional and national macro-economic and financial context. Weak growth rates (which are in line with world averages), shaky public finances and rising debts don't favour sustainable development concerns.

All the indicators of human development, such as health, educational level and per capital income have followed positive trends throughout the region, which still enjoys a lower-than-average share of absolute poverty. However, economic disparity between the countries has grown overall.

Within the EU, economic and monetary integration continues with the latest Mediterranean Member States, Spain and Greece, enjoying a vast market and generous regional development aid, two factors which have allowed their national income and infrastructure, including that of an environmental nature, to develop in spectacular fashion.

Conversely, since 1990, the economies of Central and Eastern European countries have experienced a series of major shocks, with some caused by armed conflict. These economies are experiencing a period of transition, and restructuring.

Over the last decade, within the context of trade liberalisation linked to GATT/WTO agreements and trade agreements with the EU, trade balances have deteriorated in most Mediterranean countries. This is particularly important for Greece and Spain, the countries most recently admitted to the EU, and Israel, Turkey and Tunisia, countries having trade agreements with it.

Despite the growing success of tourism, some countries still have relatively large balance of payment deficits, amounting to up to 5% of GDP. This persists despite the fact that inflation is generally reigned in, and public finances are being better managed. Overall, the level of foreign investment in the majority of Mediterranean third countries remains low.

Foreign debt levels vary from 30% to 110% of GDP in some countries leading to costly debt servicing obligations, while the level of military spending continues to exceed the world average. A continued increase in the price of oil would somewhat alter the picture for producer countries.

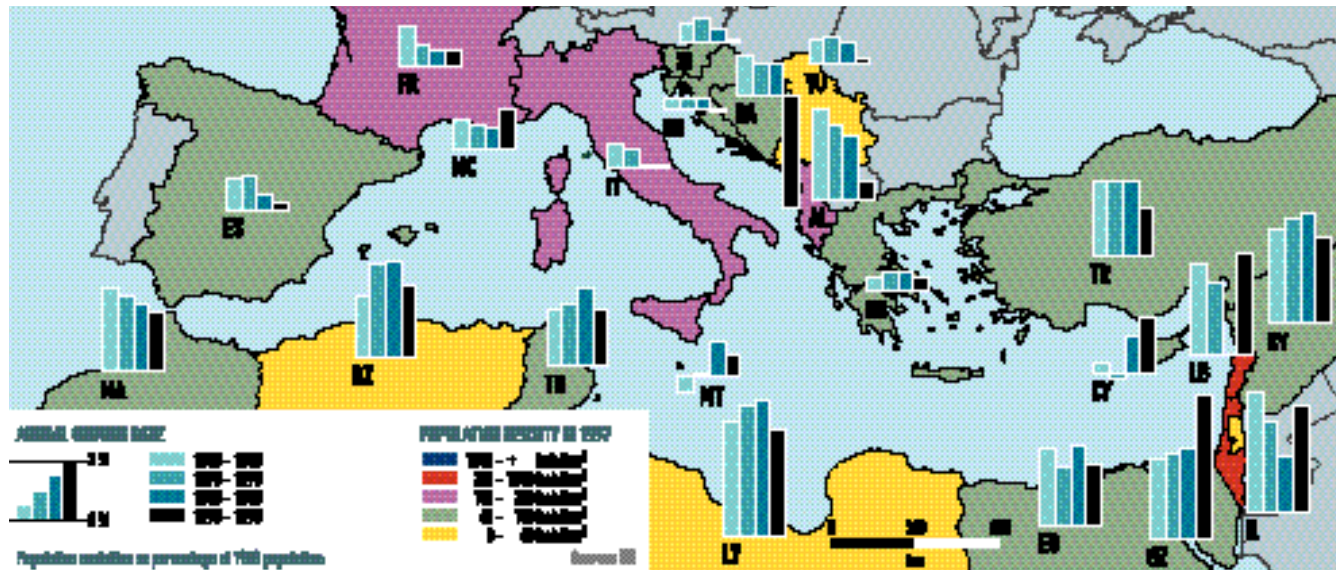
Whatever the case, the deterioration in foreign trade may well explain ongoing efforts to boost tourism, which given its potential for negative environmental impacts, needs monitoring so that the desire to balance their payments doesn't lead some countries to exceed the tourist carrying capacity of the natural environment and to sacrifice natural areas and landscapes.

Socio-economic aspects

DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURE

The Mediterranean population is forecast to reach 550 million by 2025. The Northern countries, which accounted for 2/3 of the total population in 1950, will only account for 1/3 in 2025, while the population on the Southern rim will have increased fivefold. This swing will be accompanied by ageing in the North and rejuvenation in the South, with a rise of jobseekers in coastal towns due to faster littoralisation and urbanisation which is set to affect more than 75% of the population in 2025.

This intensifying development will mean considerably greater demand on the countries of the Southern rim for food, industrial goods, energy, housing, water etc. and in turn on the environment.



MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN AGRICULTURE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

EU policies have modernised agriculture in the North, and led to a greater dependency on agronomic research, chemical inputs and structural policies. While this has led to polluting intensive agriculture on the one hand, it has also caused the abandonment of vast areas, with the consequent risk of fires and erosion. Countries on the Southern rim are facing population pressures, and the intensification of irrigated agriculture in an arid, less favourable context. This will lead to an increase in cultivated land at the expense of wooded and pasture areas, and an intensified use of natural resources, especially water. Water sourcing options such as the tapping of non-renewable fossil aquifers, or geo-political ones such as the exploitation of transnational rivers is politically problematic. Fish production, notoriously inadequate in terms of the needs of Mediterranean countries, is forcing the issue of rationalising fisheries to the fore, as well as the issue to develop aquaculture.

ENERGY-HUNGRY INDUSTRIALISATION

In the face of the relative decline of heavy industry in Northern countries, it is likely that more cases will be made for developing new generation industries such as bio-technology and electronics. Steel production, for instance, is forecast to be one and a half times greater in the South by 2025.

The need for the South to import energy sources, such as oil, is also foreseen, while domestic energy demand will also rise in tandem with increased urbanisation and industrialisation. Electricity consumption, for instance, is set to increase fourfold in Southern states by 2025.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND OUTDOOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES

A third of the world's tourists head for the Mediterranean while of the 450 million annual visitors to the region, 100 million holiday on the coast. With the number of coastal holidaymakers likely to double if not triple by 2025, coastal overcrowding is likely to diminish the attraction of these destinations, threatening the tourism industry - a vital source of hard currency throughout the region and an essential development factor for Southern countries. This customer disenchantment, however, is likely to help rebalance the industry between the two banks of the Mediterranean.

SPEEDIER URBANISATION ON THE SOUTHERN RIM

The urban population in the Mediterranean is forecast to reach circa 430 million in 2025, representing an urbanisation rate of 77% - Cairo is growing by an average of 1000 inhabitants each day, while density in the heart of Algiers has reached 200,000 inhabitants per km². Meanwhile, the Northern urban population will stabilise at around 90%.

It has not always been possible to meet the basic infrastructure requirements in urban areas, with shortages of housing, jobs and public transport.



STRAINED TRANSPORT SERVICES

The region is faced with an excessive rise in private car transport, and a Mediterranean car pool that surpasses 60 million vehicles, and is estimated to top 175 million by 2025, with a tenfold increase in the South. The new roads needed to accommodate this trend will swallow up some 20,000 km² of land. The provision of modern, non-polluting, safe and affordable public transport is vital but contingent upon the selected socio-economic development path.

Railways, less developed in the South, but possessing the capacity to open up hinterland areas, still require heavy investment in order to compete with maritime transport for cargo, and with air transport for passengers.

THE NEED FOR WIDESPREAD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Holistic environmental education and training, one that permeates the full complement of disciplines - the sciences and arts, and even ethics, needs to underline the current social changes transforming the basic links between man and his environment. This is because the protection and rejuvenation of the Mediterranean ecosystem requires individual and group commitment of Mediterranean people creating responsible citizens that can rise to the challenge of decentralised participation.

Environmental Aspects

THE SHRINKAGE OF FOREST COVER

Despite their important ecological and social role, forests and woodlands continue to deteriorate due to the dry climate and the hunger for pastureland and wood for energy. While the pressure upon woodlands in the south is likely to ease by 2025 with accompanying measures, the rehabilitation policy for land abandoned by agriculture in the North, is already making it possible to win back lost ground. Overgrazing, fires, excessive tourism, urbanization, rural population growth and acid rain hamper reforestation efforts.

SOIL IMPOVERISHMENT

Supporting biomass production and an important biological reserve, as well as part of the cultural heritage embedded in the landscapes shaped by human society, soil needs protection, particularly since its natural regeneration cannot keep pace with the rapid rate of its depletion by man.

Failure to implement sustainable soil use will result in the abandonment of impoverished land, food contamination, a drop in yields, restoration costs and a shorter working life for dams. Soil erosion in regions characterised by steep slopes and beset by torrential rain constitutes a threatening attack on the environment, particularly in Southern countries.

ENCROACHING SALINIZATION

Salinization becomes a problem when rainfall levels fall below 600mm per year. Intensive agriculture in pursuit of profitable high yields has been embraced, wherever soil and rainwater or irrigation have permitted it. However, the transition to industrial agriculture has negative consequences in terms of water and soil salinization. Poor management of irrigation, the lack of drainage and channel maintenance, have increased the prevalence of soil salinity, as have the over-exploitation of groundwater, and evaporation from areas of surface water.

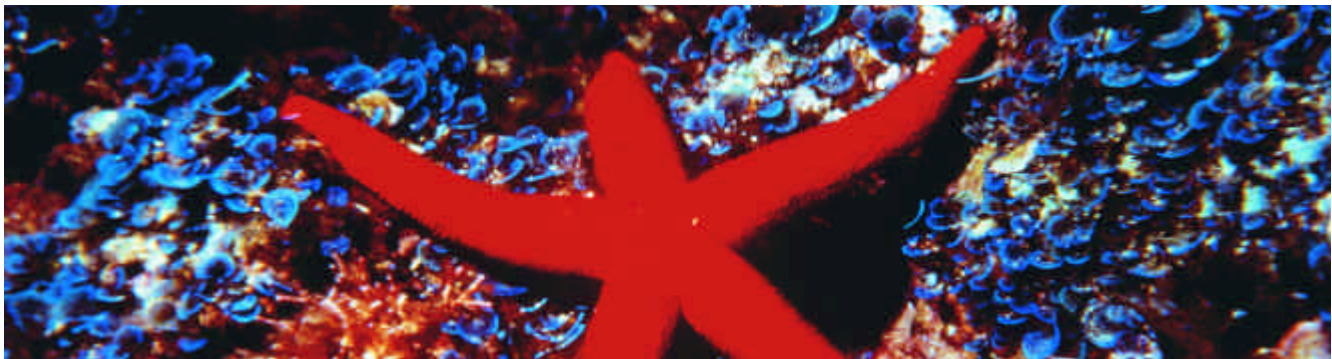
PRESSURE ON WATER RESOURCES

Although water demand varies, it is rising and has doubled over the last century. In many of the Southern countries, water consumption already exceeds 50% of renewable natural water resources while certain countries, such as Libya, only have non-renewable fossil sources.

Over-exploitation of coastal aquifers has already led to many cases of irreversible saltwater seepage, while dam construction is leading to annual capacity losses of 2-3%, bringing the sustainability of supply systems into question.

Conflicting interests relating to urban and rural use, upstream and downstream area and immediate and long-term use are tending to intensify. Despite high and rising production costs, unconventional sourcing methods such as reuse of treated wastewater, or drainage and desalination are being widely utilised by some Mediterranean countries. If current trends persist, there will be an increase in demand of at least 55% by 2025, exceeding the renewable water resources available in around 10 Southern countries.

The region urgently needs a policy to limit claims to water. Apart from demand management policies, this will involve an increased use of unconventional sources, and particularly, the structural adaptation of the agricultural and rural development policies in the Mediterranean.



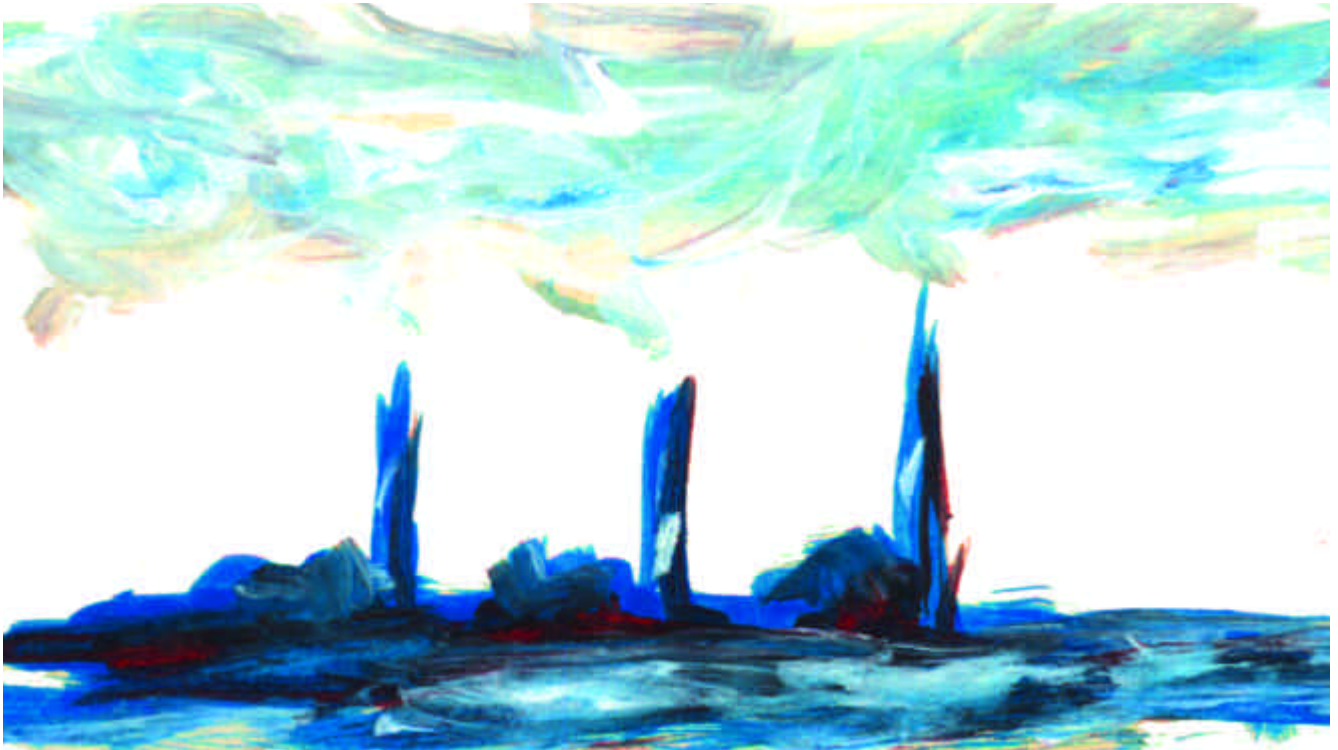
LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND LIVING RESOURCES

During the course of history, human pressures have taken their toll on natural resources, for instance, the disappearance of 50% of Mediterranean wetlands. Coastal ecosystems are most vulnerable when confronted by the process of coastal development. Urbanization, the break-up of habitats, deforestation, over-grazing, pollution and the exploitation of natural sites are threatening the region's genetic capital.

In common with other global regions, the number of endangered species is rising and the states' best approach to the conservation of biodiversity will be premised on a more thorough understanding of the endemic plant and wild and domestic animal species which will yield the data for the production of reliable indicators on the pressures exerted on assorted species. Countries involved with genetic modification are currently contesting the right of other countries to invoke the precautionary principle to defend their traditional agriculture from such developments.

AIR POLLUTION

Though regional air pollution only makes a minimal contribution to global pollution, at the local level, around the main metropolises, domestic heating, industry and transport produce a photochemical smog with worrying impacts on public health and the quality of life. The toxic threshold of 100 millilitres per m³ of air, for instance, is exceeded at certain junctions in major towns, while cement dust reduces the olive grove yield in Southern countries.



UNCONTROLLED LITTORALISATION

The population of the narrow Mediterranean coastal strip is forecast to reach 200 million in 2025, giving rise to heavy concentration of economic activity. Whilst coastal development in the North has tended to follow on from industrialisation, in the South, the attractiveness of the coast over the arid hinterland is preceding industrial development, further increasing the pressure to the detriment of tourism, which essentially seeks the sea.

With the bulk of coastal population growth occurring in the South, there are valid fears that infrastructures will fail to meet the water supply, waste treatment, refuse collection and urban planning needs of these expanding populations, and fail to adequately combat air and noise pollution. Density in the Mediterranean region averages 180 inhabitants per km² (not including the severe manifestations in Monaco and Malta).

THE DETERIORATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

As the final repository for the land that surrounds it, the Mediterranean Sea endures, for instance, almost 600,000 tonnes of oil dumped at sea each year, 30% of which reaches the coast, degrading the beaches. Pollution by less visible hydrocarbons as well as heavy metals can seriously affect human health. More vulnerable to human activity and pollution, Posidonian meadows, which provide the best indicator of the deterioration of the quality of the Mediterranean marine environment, are ailing.

The development of specially protected areas is one of the preferred measures for protecting turtles, monk seals and other animals as well as plant species. While a quarter of all land-based pollution in the Mediterranean is located in its North-Western part, the Southern countries are now becoming more exposed as a result of increased and unplanned coastal urban and industrial development.



THE INCREASE IN SOLID DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE

The solid waste produced by coastal towns, particularly plastic packaging, amounts to half a million m³ per day, varying widely in its composition according to location and level of income. This type of waste is forecast to increase by 43% in the 12-year period culminating in 2010 in countries to the Southern rim. Waste disposal, particularly in situ reprocessing, is costly, while it is often hard to find appropriate dumping sites on an already overcrowded coastline.

Moreover, municipal waste is often mixed with hospital and industrial waste - makes it hazardous. Rainwater carrying harmful substances seeps or is drawn into the water courses, contaminating the soil, the water table and the coastal waters. The practice of burning solid waste in the open air transfers pollution into the atmosphere.

THE FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

With the estimate of a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius in temperature and 20cm in sea level in the Mediterranean by 2026, seen as a cautious one, the effects of climate change would only exacerbate the population pressure on the coastline in the Southern urban centres and the need to increase food production and waste disposal in an area undermined by pressure on natural resources, excessive tourism and pollution. The temperature rise, extended summers and a Northward shift of the area with unreliable rainfall would have negative effects on much of the Mediterranean's productive land. For example, saltwater seepage would undermine the quality of coastal freshwater aquifers.

SOME RELEVANT INDICATORS

The indicators presented in the MCSD Strategic Review do not cover all aspects of sustainable development, but zoom in on prevailing regional trends. Priority has been given to:

- Indicators of pressures and driving forces that are undermining an already impaired situation by upsetting the fragile balance between development and the environment.
- Indicators of economic, political and institutional responses aimed at easing these pressures and rectifying the situation.
- Indicators of population and society

These indicators include ones on:

The rate of population growth; the employment rate; access to drinking water; annual per capita energy consumption; the growth rate of the urban population; protected forest area as a percentage of total forest area; the rate of population growth in coastal regions; the scale of protected coastal areas; direct foreign investment; percentage of irrigated arable land; the number and average power of fishing vessels; proportion of consumption of renewable energy sources; non-sustainable water production, greenhouse gas emissions and net migration rate.

MECHANISMS AND REGIONAL ACTORS WORKING TOWARDS MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For Mediterranean sustainable development, a transition phase bridging the gap between what is desirable and what is feasible will be necessary. This needs to be accompanied by strong political will on behalf of Mediterranean states, backed by donor support, a clear grasp of the need for the integration of the environment and development infused with the permeation of principles of equality and solidarity.

Sustainability is multi-dimensional

The sustainable development concept integrates economic, ecological, social, cultural and political dimensions. An assessment of the route to sustainability needs to refer to these five dimensions in both a systemic and holistic manner. The useful indicators that help assess this process include, for example, the strengthening of inter-sectorial policy coordination, and the creation of political, management, assessment and monitoring instruments for the sustainability process.

Important MAP partners in the pan-Mediterranean quest for sustainability are:

- **The Euro-Mediterranean partnership, through the MEDA support programme, and with the support of the EIB, aiming to nurture “an area of shared prosperity”**
- **The METAP, a technical assistance programme for the protection of the Mediterranean environment**
- **Regional bodies such as CEDARE (Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe) and the League of Arab States.**
- **The United Nations through its assorted specialised agencies including the WHO, IMO, WMO, UNESCO, the IAEA, UNDP and FAO, or donors such as the World Bank.**
- **The main groups from society, particularly the NGOs, professional organisations, local authorities and associations.**

The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols - a negotiated legal framework

The Barcelona Convention was approved in 1976 to support the collective efforts of Mediterranean states and the European Union against pollution. Since then the concerns, embodied in the MAP remit, have expanded to include broader environmental protection considerations. In 1995, it was revised to reflect this broader focus and now comprises six Protocols relating to: the dumping of waste in the Mediterranean Sea from ships and aircraft; the combating of sea pollution from oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency; the

protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources; the safeguarding of specially protected areas and biological diversity; the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from offshore exploration and the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by transboundary movements of hazardous waste.

A structured Mediterranean Action Plan

The revision of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) in 1995 to fully embrace sustainable development principles and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (see next section) as a dedicated MAP advisory body, have served to indicate the rising significance of sustainable development for regional actors.

The organic links to UNEP, and the concerns of the CPs, were echoed in MAP's refocused objectives reflecting the need for strategies more likely to yield solutions to common development problems, involving actors from society more broadly, and to protect the common Mediterranean heritage. General consensus-based decisions include, for instance, the recognition of the need to upgrade information and encourage greater public participation.

The 12 priority sections for action selected in 1995 to run until 2005 in relation to sustainable development under MAP II concern:

The integration of the environment and development; Integrated management of natural resources; Integrated management of coastal zones; Waste management; Agriculture; Energy and industry; Transport; Tourism; Urban development and the environment; Information; Assessing and preventing marine pollution and Conserving nature, wildlife and the protection of historic and cultural sites.

The European Union, the Mediterranean and sustainable development

The impact of the Single Market on the development of Mediterranean countries is a double-edged sword. While increased consumption, prosperity and living standards are a welcome aspect to this economic integration, its negative environmental impacts have been caused by increased goods transport, the production of domestic waste and the spread of non-sustainable consumption patterns.

While the Structural and Cohesion funds have proved beneficial to EU Member States, enabling an upgrading of public infrastructure, often beneficial to the environment, many infrastructures, particularly roads built prior to the more recent insistence on prior impact assessments and adherence to more stringent environmental directives, have been detrimental to landscapes and natural habitats.

Overall, European environmental legislation has boosted the emergence of environmental policies and capacities, not only in EU Member States but also within other Mediterranean candidate countries, although one cannot yet talk of a sustainable development policy within Southern European countries.

The EU's cooperation and partnership policy with its external Mediterranean partners is already longstanding, (with the EU a CP since MAP's inception). The importance of instruments such as Life (third countries) and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership since 1995, bolstered by important funding mechanisms, which emerged out of the Barcelona Process with the intention of creating an area of shared prosperity and including a substantial sum designated to environmental projects, need to be stressed.

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership has also facilitated the mobilisation of a broad range of Mediterranean NGOs in the region's future planning, particularly in the debate on the possible sustainable character of the Mediterranean free trade area and its economic development generally.

Other multilateral actors

Initially conceived of as a tool to bridge gaps in policies and institutional instruments necessary for implementing sustainable development policies, *The Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP)*, funded by the World Bank, EIB, and UNDP, has developed a specific strategy on sustainable development for 14 countries in the region and provides a Mediterranean framework for the exchange of experience and expertise between actors addressing common problems. It collaborates with MAP and its RACs, and will, for example, be involved with the MAP Strategic Actions Programme addressing land-based pollution.

METAP identifies and lays the ground for projects, builds environmental management capacity, prepares and implements sustainable environmental policies and mobilises funds for environmental investment. Between 1990-2000, METAP mobilised a sum of around \$59 million to fund its technical assistance activities. Its most recent programme was restricted by a mismatch between ambitions and sums actually made available and a limited number of follow-up feasibility and investment studies for related projects.

CEDARE works with 32 Arab and European countries. Its priority programmes address the management of natural resources including coastal zone resources, urbanisation and human settlements and the socio-economic aspects of sustainable development. Its other main focus is information and awareness-raising, while 10% of its resources are invested in technical assistance for impact assessments.

CEDARE's human resources need to be better organised to allow technical assistance activities to be channelled and to promote participatory local governance towards sustainable development, while it must strive for more quantifiable and realistic objectives. Though working closely with MAP, for instance in the provision of joint workshops, there is scope for extended cooperation, especially as several Arab countries are Contracting Parties.

United Nations agencies

Within recent years, the search for sustainability has become central to the UN remit, despite the driving force behind cooperation remaining the improvement of market mechanisms and instruments within the context of market liberalisation and globalisation. A host of United Nations agencies are routinely active in the Mediterranean region.

The UNDP, for example, through its Capacity 21 initiative, aims to boost the ability of non-European Mediterranean countries to integrate Agenda 21 principles into their national planning and development. It is also active, through various programmes: in easing the cost of globalisation; in fostering the evolution of the state from provider of social services to social justice guardian; in urban management practices that are kinder to humans and their environment and in poverty eradication strategies.

Cooperation has proved harder in the last decade due to the static or decreasing sums allocated to it, and the criticism of forms of cooperation inadequately focused on capacity building and technology transfer. Overall, international funding agencies prefer the project to the programme approach, and even to the sustainable development approach, while there is some lack of coordination and work duplication.

While United Nations Agencies provide valuable technical assistance, much remains to be done towards the effective integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in the search for and construction of sustainable development, and the Mediterranean region could well act as a pilot region in this respect.



The main groups from within society

The role of environmental NGOs, local authorities, scientists and economic actors has been highlighted, and indeed embodied in the tapestry of Mediterranean environmental initiatives over the last decade. At Rio, the UNCED officially adopted the sustainable development concept, whose social dimensions include the prioritising of awareness-raising, education and participation. The commitment and involvement of the main groups in society was then felt to be essential to the implementation of Agenda 21 and hence the decision by the MAP CPs, at an early stage, to express the spirit of this change at regional level as outlined. In the Mediterranean, such participation has already been seen in the areas of information, public awareness, environmental education, tourism, sea turtles, cetaceans, and marine plant life.

Mediterranean local authorities, business groups and NGOs - three social groups granted MCSD membership

Local authorities are frequently an integral part of governmental structures and entrusted with increasing decision-taking powers and responsibility for resources, as the region follows the world trend for decentralisation policies. These authorities are equipped with in-depth knowledge of the problems raised by hand-on daily environmental management, and expertise in spatial planning, water and waste management and transport policy. Coastal communities, particularly, have a long history of direct exchange through the system of twinned towns and alliances, and more recently via the MedCities network, MAP Regional Activity Centre activities, and the beginnings of more exchange on the upper echelons - involving provinces and regions.

Business organisations are not optimally organised, although they have a long history of active participation in public affairs and the defence of their common interests. A Mediterranean-specific challenge is posed by the plethora of small to medium businesses with few links between them, the often inertia-ridden public industrial sector, and the many active multinationals. The scale of the problems generated by industry, tourism, transport and agriculture in the region justifies greater structuring by the economic sector which would make more appropriate representation possible within the MCSD.

Environmental NGOs, as well as involving the public - a key sustainable development audience, provide a fresh, critical, and demanding vision that adds to the quality of the regional debate on the environment and sustainable development, and contributes substantial scientific knowledge of environmental problems and solutions. A drive to be less event-specific and to work to longer mandates would help facilitate regional sustainability. Positively, new forms of collaboration are developing between governmental organisations and NGOs.

Other key audiences

The value of other social groupings in sustainable development endeavours should not be underestimated. Consumer associations wield considerable influence on family consumption patterns, while the media enjoy a captive audience. Children and youth represent the largest share of the population in Southern rim countries and as such figure prominently in Agenda MED 21. More input from scientific and academic experts would also be welcome.

THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As mentioned earlier, the MCSD was set up as a forum for open dialogue within the MAP framework in order to provide advice on programmes and prepare recommendations to the CPs. It emerged against a backdrop of a steady permeation of sustainable development perspectives into all MAP activities and programming directives.

The formation of the MCSD is part of a long-term regional goal of the preparation and implementation of a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development, itself to be founded upon national strategies, national commissions for sustainable development and other support mechanisms.

The MCSD identifies and evaluates major economic, environmental and social problems in the spirit of Agenda MED 21. It is expected to track the implementation of the proposals it forwards to the Contracting Parties, and to promote cooperation and information exchange concerning activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

The Commission is also broadly open to participation from the main groups in society, (a rotating panel of 15 representatives from local authorities, business groups and NGOs sit on an equal footing with governmental representatives of the 21 CPs).

The eight themes tackled to date by the MCSD as activity programmes for its working groups cover the following issues: Water demand management; Sustainable management of coastal regions; Indicators for sustainable development; Tourism; Information, awareness-raising, environmental education and participation; Free trade and the environment; Industry and Urban development. Most of the above have generated proposals that have been adopted by the Contracting Parties.

Mediterranean sustainable development - trends and uncertainties

MAP activities related to sustainable development occur against a broader socio-economic setting and major emerging trends. These include globalisation, a rise in ecological awareness among all strata of society, a revitalised participatory process, free trade policies and the impact of new technologies. Since sustainable development is now globally accepted as the general conceptual framework for the preparation and assessment of national development policies, it is the regional, national and local peculiarities that condition its implementation in practice.

The establishment of the MCSD and the implementation of its programme have brought additional activities into MAP and raise questions as to its precise function. As an upping of Contracting Party contributions is unlikely, there will be a need to seek external funding.

The MCSD: An examination of flaws

The MCSD flaws identified by the Strategic Review relate to MCSD policy, operation, and its relationship with states and international actors, particularly the MAP structure.

The terms of reference do not address procedural issues, and in particular make no mention of assessing and following up the decisions approved by the Contracting Parties, which has created a degree of ambiguity concerning the MCSD's role within MAP. Is it a forum, or, on the contrary, an operational structure?

Moreover, the ratio of independent and CPs representatives comprising the core MCSD structure leads to a degree of predominance of governmental representation, which, however, is not surprising given that MAP remains an inter-governmental institution.

Despite its efforts to reconcile the need to be representative with the need to rotate the social groups it has contact with, participation in the MCSD meetings and thematic working parties has not always been sustained over the longer term. This is in part due to the failure of these groups to fully utilise the MCSD as a forum for discussion. It is worth pointing out that no major differences have ever arisen within the MCSD between governmental and non-governmental members.

While experience shows that members of society intervene in various ways at local level via the Agenda 21 process and through NGO participation in certain local authority activities, and that the economic sector is in regular contact with local and national governments, it is rare for actors from civil society to meet and compare their positions.

As the MCSD is an instrument for promoting sustainability, it is important that it is flexible enough to continuously identify anew its target audiences and their representatives. The public opinion lobby also has a huge role to play, as no shared vision of the medium term future of the Mediterranean basin has arisen to guide riparian state actions. Overall, an urgent need exists to involve a broader segment of society in all of MAP's projects.

Opportunities for improving the MCSD role

The MCSD Strategic Review identifies a number of opportunities for improving the way in which the system works within the context of MCSD activities and at the general MAP level.

These include: the identification of more appropriate performance indicators when programme proposals are being drawn up; the revision of the format of the national reports drawn up by the Contracting Parties in order to obtain explicit reports on how the MCSD recommendations have been implemented and the allocation of follow-up responsibility to the MAP Coordinating Unit, with feedback relayed to the MCSD and featured in the progress reports prepared for key MAP meetings.

While the MCSD work method has proven effective and relatively inexpensive, the logistics of reporting on the fate of activities once they have gained CP approval need refining, especially in view of the region's noted weak-

ness in its capacity for technology transfer. Moreover, the MCSD's interrelations with other MAP components need clarification.

The role of the RACs and MED POL in terms of the realisation of these sustainable development roads needs clearer definition, steered by an intensified coordinating role from the MAP Coordinating Unit, and probably more staff. With their knowledge and expertise, and proven analytical skills, RACs are well suited to the role.

Guided to embrace sustainable dev more fully, and to focus on the practical aspects related to development at the sub-national and local level, they and should be able to distinguish between "workable" recommendations and more general guidelines, often of a general political nature. As the execution of the MCSD working group recommendations should be dealt with at the level of the Coastal Area Management Programmes, the MCSD could benefit from studying these initiatives.

Though MAP's current international cooperation is extensive, there are no specific documents on MAP's international cooperation policy. There is still huge scope for a more closely shared vision and streamlined cooperation that would avoid duplication. The rightly sensed need for "strengthened cooperation" however, needs the support of an in-depth analysis of the policy, aims, benefits and possible improvements to be realised.

Already apparent, for instance, for the advancement of regional sustainable development, is the need to adopt a selective approach regarding potential international partners, focusing attention on the best qualified, and to consolidate and sustain the relationship with the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (UNCSD).



What has been the extent of Mediterranean national governments' backing for the implementation of sustainability-oriented projects and activities, ad hoc institutional reforms and capacity building and the proactive integration of environmental concerns into development programmes? How have these been translated into policy? In answering this question, the Review focuses on steps made in:

- 1) Mitigating or controlling pressure exerted on resources and surroundings**
- 2) Integrating the environment and development and implementing multilateral agreements**
- 3) Policy performance**

The following summary of decisions, measures and actions is based on the information contained in the questionnaires completed by all Contracting Parties as well as a number of other MCSD members. While this uniform completion is encouraging evidence of a widespread concern for the Mediterranean environment, respondents have tended to gloss over difficulties in order to convey a more positive impression.

Overall, as regards controlling pressure on the environment, most Mediterranean countries have either adopted or are preparing actions to combat pollution from a range of sources, or to prevent the pollution of sea and water resources and to protect forests and other key areas.

The feedback reveals that the existence of international or institutional cooperation frameworks has proved an important catalyst for increased awareness of the stakes involved and a trigger for action.

With reference to some environmental pressures, such as combating desertification and greenhouse gases, action is still in its teething stage. Progress also needs to be stepped up in several key areas such as controlling urbanization, urban waste management, and transport, all of which require efficient administrative systems, major investment and quasi-coercive measures.

As far as the integration of the environment and development is concerned, political declarations have rarely been followed by specific action, while there is some administrative inertia regarding the changes demanded by a strategic approach to sustainable development.

Recently, however, initiatives towards such integration have been launched, particularly through the establishment of new consultation and coordination mechanisms (national commissions for sustainable development, observatories), or the preparation of policy frameworks (national or local Agenda 21s). The priority still lies with development fuelled by an economic impetus in most countries.

While most Mediterranean countries have ratified the main international environmental Conventions as well as the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, current reporting practices make the extent and quality of implementation hard to assess.

Sustainability policies and particularly their implementation, are still at a relatively early stage, echoing the disparity in development levels between the two banks of the Mediterranean, a degree of inertia, and the persisting compartmentalisation of green priorities which stifles their outreach role, despite it being a key element in the sustainable development equation. The Review, however, in a frank analysis of progress made to date, highlights the willingness of main Mediterranean actors to accelerate policy successes.

1) Controlling pressures on the environment and resources

The Strategic Review examines the above under environmental topic headings, with references to several countries under the respective topics. Due to shortage of space, this data is not included in this synthesis but a copy of the overall report including comprehensive country-specific details of efforts to relieve pressures on natural resources is readily available by request from UNEP/MAP.

2) Integrating the environment into development

Mediterranean countries have made some progress at the institutional and legislative level towards aligning development with environmental concerns. National laws on environmental protection, national environment and development observatories and/or national commissions for sustainable development or similar bodies prompting inter-ministerial cooperation already exist in several countries. A number of countries are embracing measures to integrate environmental concerns into specific national and local policies through governmental planning.

This is evident, for instance, in land planning and energy saving programmes and in drives for "green local authorities". Many countries are already using financial incentives and/or prohibitive fines to compel businesses to, for instance, implement cleaner production measures to combat pollution at source.

Private sector initiatives such as eco-labelling have been instigated in a number of countries in response to consumer pressure, while recent sub-contracting initiatives relating to, for example, the management of wastewater networks, have helped rationalise and improve service provision. Bilateral cooperation initiatives in the legislative, institutional and technical fields are also on the rise.

Measures to facilitate heightened public awareness of the importance of sustainable development and greater public participation are multiplying across the region. These include enhanced research capabilities, environmental campaigns such as clean-up days or recycling schemes and ambitious educational and continuous training projects.

Though the endorsement by Mediterranean countries of global environmental protection measures is generally advanced, and non-EU as well as EU Mediterranean countries are increasingly positively affected by EU environmental outreach projects, the accelerated ratification of all the revised Barcelona Convention Protocols would boost the regional sustainable management of over-burdened coastal areas.

For a more comprehensive country-specific analysis of measures taken towards fusing environmental concerns with business growth, please refer to the complete Strategic Review available by request from UNEP/MAP.

3) Policy performance

Policy performance ultimately depends on the task of setting priorities and the institutional framework at the national level. Overall, it is more evident in the adoption of policies respecting sustainable development principles than in their implementation. This is in part due to the delays inherent in the difficulty of moving from the conceptual to the operational level, but also to institutional inertia.

Performance and development conditions

While Northern countries are more advanced in terms of policies adopted, they sometimes lag behind in relation to other European countries with stronger green awareness traditions, institutional mechanisms for cooperation, participation in decision-taking and the setting of priorities - all conditions for sustainable development.

The emerging economies to the South and East of the Mediterranean are facing population migrations to coastal economic centres, without adequate institutional structures to meet their needs. Though some innovation has allowed for the adoption of new concepts as steps towards sustainable development policies, these trends don't benefit from widespread popular recognition.

At present, the effort for development and economic restructuring places greater emphasis on economic performance at the expense of sustainability principles. Social inflexibility and limited administrative and financial support compound the problem.

The circumstances of economies undergoing transition and often emerging from highly centralised planned economies do not predispose them to the innovative concepts of responsibility-sharing and mobilisation of social actors, although this is mitigated by social progress. A number of recent regional conflicts affecting population movement, economic performance, and hinging on the difficulty of access to resources, impact on policy options.

Performance and institutional structures

Most Northern Mediterranean countries with well-developed institutions and clearly established political responsibilities, offering better opportunities for coordination have embarked on several sustainable development initiatives.

Several countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean that have relatively undeveloped over-centralised administrative systems and shaky institutional partners less able to share the workload, have met with less success in their sustainable development policies.

Regional institutions and sustainable development

Regional-level endeavours instigated by regional institutions reveal their commitment to sustainability. Notably, MAP is credited for its important role in sensitising governments and for its supportive initiatives such as the setting up of the MCSD as a complementary outreach mechanism. The EU has, in many respects, been fulfilling a pioneering role, principally via its "towards sustainability" action programme currently being updated.

However, its sustainability projects wield an inadequate influence on the rest of EU policy, still driven by economic concerns. The EU has initiated a number of regional level initiatives such as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the SMAP (Short and Medium Term Environmental Action Programme) but specific activities remain limited. Generally, regional groups and networks are better prepared than individual actors to introduce sustainable development policies.



Sustainable development and national policies

Sustainable development appears to exert little influence on the policies of many Mediterranean partners beyond its environmental protection component. Sectorial priorities still predominate and environmental policies have little impact on development policies. Short-sighted economic efficiency remains the driving force behind policy for most Mediterranean countries. Policies however, have to adapt to a new emerging consensus about revised social equity interpretations, and concerns about the environment of future generations, despite financial and institutional capacity shortfalls.

National environmental policies are still too compartmentalised to address themes falling into the realm of integrated policy, with the present priorities largely restricted to protecting nature and controlling pollution.

In terms of content, most relevant sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean have not managed to face up to three important problems:

- Reforming policies in the key sectors, particularly agriculture and tourism
- Controlling urbanisation and littoralisation
- Developing infrastructure while respecting local resources and heritage

More positively, the CPs and other MCSD members believe that practically all action aimed at protecting the environment has its place within the development approach, as the region faces growth paralleling wider economic, technological and socio-cultural change, globalisation and tourism.

While institutional capacity needs to be hugely enhanced to bring about changes, and concrete actions need to be greatly multiplied, it is encouraging that sustainable development stakes are increasingly being included or even integrated into development plans.

MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

A rational future for Mediterranean sustainable development

The Review offers a number of pointers that MAP could follow to optimise regional sustainable development. These include that legal assistance be assured to states to facilitate the adoption of new legal instruments and that it develop a new strategy for sourcing external funding.

To foster a more bottom-up approach that focuses on specifics rather than general commitments, it needs to sharpen its information dissemination role. It needs to facilitate country involvement in the sustainable development process by shaping specific actions to be implemented in major development areas, including coastal area expansion, and to further revise the remit of its RACs to meet the needs of sustainable development activities.

Other scope for improvement lies in the provision of more quantitative information, the highlighting of examples of good practice, intensified environmental awareness-raising, consumer action bolstered by media support and more local Agenda 21 exercises.

NGOs have a crucial role to play in drawing in publics to effective involvement in regional sustainable development.

Local authorities too are essential partners since international and national efforts only acquire any sort of specific dimension at local level, and they can play an enhanced role in addressing the challenge of littoralisation.



The importance to long-term regional sustainable development of the mobilisation of socio-economic actors should not be underestimated, since all activities and initiatives depend on the autonomous decisions of the economic actors and governments. New development models, which take greater account of the social well-being of the entire population and of environmental concerns, should be sought.

It is evident that the environmental, economic and social cost to be borne in the short-term by certain countries, within a context of integration and liberalisation favouring market mechanisms, can only be acceptable if serious accompanying measures are adopted in order to cushion the impact on the least privileged sectors of society.

At the national level, the difficulty of giving concrete expression to measures towards sustainable development decided upon by the Mediterranean community shows that the new concept hasn't yet mobilised all spheres of society and that states have been slow to implement some of the decisions taken.

Although highly prevalent, cooperation in the Mediterranean is on the one hand affected by a lack of common vision and in need of intensification, and on the other, by a mismatch between resources available for development and investments, given the scale of the tasks to be accomplished, and a background of worsening foreign trade deficits in Mediterranean countries.

Apart from a clear political impetus, any shift towards sustainable development also requires reference models tailored to the Mediterranean region that identify and convey a shared vision, as well as a coherent strategy capable of guiding the various stages of its implementation. To this end the MCSD proposes the following steps.

A common vision and a regional strategy

This Strategic Review invites Contracting Parties and concerned partners to prepare a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, within the framework of MAP, with a view to possible adoption at MAP's 13th Ordinary Meeting in 2003. Paying particular attention to the implementation of the MCSD's proposals gleaned from key areas examined, this Strategy should:

- Take account of the diversity of existing political, social, economic, cultural and environmental systems.
- Allow states and local authorities to play their full role
- Respect the multiple values of Mediterranean societies
- Draw on all elements of society
- Promote social equity
- Ensure respect for the integrity of ecosystems
- Apply a participatory approach
- Identify and promote adequate methodologies and tools
- Promote the transfer and mastery of cleaner technologies
- Promote bilateral and regional cooperation
- Take due account of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility
- Encourage complementarity and synergies with other relevant programmes
- Express at the Mediterranean level the aims and proposals for action laid down by major global conventions, as well as the UNCSD's recommendations
- Facilitate implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and MAP recommendations
- Build the required capacities to effectively meet the above-mentioned goals

Mediterranean states are also invited to draw up or revise national sustainable strategies, drawing upon MCSD proposals, as soon as possible. They are urged to set up national commissions on sustainable development or similar bodies, representative of wider society, to boost coherence and convergence in action. These constitute part of the vital follow-up process to MCSD proposals.

As regards the legal framework for sustainable development, states are invited to take identified steps, namely to: update and implement their national legal frameworks in line with international agreements they have ratified; to bolster the organisation of local and national institutional structures and to facilitate access to justice at a national level to ensure that environmental law gets heeded. Given the strategic importance of coasts, and the need for the implementation of integrated coastal zone management, the granting of further powers to local authorities and guidelines for new national legislation need to be considered. While care should be taken that MCSD members are truly representative and even more involved, liaison between the MCSD and MAP Focal Points needs to be maximised.



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EGYPT	SLOVENIA
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FRANCE	SYRIA
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MAJOR GROUPS

CURRENT MEMBERS

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