

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

*The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as "the Barcelona Convention",*

*Recalling* Article 4 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

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

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

*Acknowledging* the need for translating to the Mediterranean regional and national levels the global aspirations expressed by Rio+20 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including its SDGs;

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

*Aware* of the need for a strategic framework that ensures coherence, continuity, increased efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system and considering the need to match the ambition with predictable and realistic resource mobilization through an updated Resource Mobilization Strategy;

1. *Adopts* the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (hereinafter referred to as "the MTS") as contained in the Annex to this Decision, as the framework for the development and implementation of the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP;
2. *Urges* partner organizations to collaborate and support the implementation of the MTS, ensuring synergy, harmonization of efforts, and optimization of the use of resources;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to maximize efforts for the implementation of the MTS in an integrated manner and for the mobilization of adequate resources through the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy for 2016-2017 (Annex II of the Decision), in cooperation with Contracting Parties and partner organizations;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare for adoption at COP 20 a new, comprehensive Resource Mobilization Strategy corresponding to the period of the MTS;
5. *Requests also* the Secretariat to monitor and report on the MTS implementation on the basis of each biennial Programme of Work as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, highlighting the contribution of the Programme of Work to the achievement of the MTS objectives and strategic outcomes for information and possible adaptations of the Strategy, as appropriate;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.

**Annex**  
**UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)/Barcelona Convention system celebrates in 2015-2016 forty years of fruitful collaboration and joint efforts for the Mediterranean environment. With its seven Protocols, its administrative structure encompassing six Regional Activity Centres and most importantly its twenty two Contracting Parties, this UN Regional Sea Programme builds on a meaningful experience to define its future goals and work in an impactful and integrated way.

2. The Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) is meant to guide the path for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribution to sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2016-2021.

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

4. The priority themes reflect legal commitments and major needs at the regional and national levels, they contribute to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) objectives and they are part of the global efforts for sustainable development. Their respective outputs are expected to be achieved through the three successive MAP biennial Programmes of Work of the 6-year period.

5. The timing of the preparation of the MTS has presented opportunities and challenges. The processes of definition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the development of the 2015 climate agreement within the UNFCCC framework, the review of the MSSD, the parallel MAP processes of development of other MAP strategic documents on issues of increasing impact on the region, were all unrolling simultaneously. This has presented the unique opportunity of making the MAP-lead processes converge into one strategic package being developed at once, while benefiting from the global debate leading to the new global sustainable development agenda.

## 2. THE GENERAL PICTURE AND THE MAP SYSTEM

### 2.1 State of the Mediterranean Environment

6. The Mediterranean comprises a vast set of coastal and marine ecosystems that deliver valuable benefits to all of its coastal inhabitants, including brackish water lagoons, estuaries, transitional areas, coastal plains, wetlands, rocky shores and near shore coastal areas, seagrass meadows, coralligenous communities, frontal systems and upwellings, seamounts, and pelagic systems (State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment, UNEP/MAP 2012).

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

8. The total population of the Mediterranean countries grew from 276 million in 1970 to 412 million in 2000 (a 1.35% increase per year) and to 466 million in 2010. The population is predicted to reach 529 million by 2025. The Mediterranean region's population is concentrated near the coasts. More than a third lives in coastal administrative entities totaling less than 12% of the surface area of the Mediterranean countries. The population of the coastal areas of the Mediterranean grew from 95 million in 1979 to 143 million in 2000, and could reach 174 million by 2025 (UNEP/MAP/BP/RAC 2005).

9. The Mediterranean region is undergoing intensive demographic, social, cultural, economic and environmental changes. The main drivers affecting the economic development in the Mediterranean are agriculture and forests, urbanization, tourism, industry and maritime transport. Population growth combined with the growth of coastal (peri) urban hubs generates multiple environmental pressures stemming from increased demand for water and energy resources, generation

of air and water pollution in relation to wastewater discharge or sewage overflows, waste generation, land consumption and degradation of habitats, landscapes and coastlines. These pressures are further amplified by the development of tourism, often concentrated in Mediterranean coastal areas.

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

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

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

13. The state of the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment varies from place to place, but all parts of the Mediterranean are subject to multiple pressures acting simultaneously and in many cases chronically. The State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report (UNEP/MAP, 2012) highlights the following as the major issues requiring coordinated policy and management responses in the coming years in order to stem the tide of degradation of the Mediterranean ecosystems:

- Coastal development and urban sprawl;
- Chemical contamination of sediments and biota;
- **Eutrophication** (mostly of local concern);
- **Marine litter**, concentrated mostly in bays and shallow waters;
- Over-exploitation of coastal and marine resources **beyond sustainable limits**;
- **Sea-floor integrity** affected mainly by bottom fishing, but also by dredging and offshore installations;
- Invasive non-indigenous species;
- The impact of **marine noise** on biota, especially on marine mammals;
- **Changed hydrographic conditions** caused by local disruption of circulation patterns, due to humans-made structures;
- **Marine food webs** affected by fisheries pressures;
- **Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production** as upstream drivers of the above mentioned pressures and impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems;
- Pressures on biodiversity;
- Climate change impact.

## 2.2 The Response of the MAP/Barcelona Convention

14. The Barcelona Convention (signed in 1976 and amended in 1995) with its related seven Protocols is the only regional multilateral legal framework for the protection of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, setting the obligations "to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest extent possible eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area" and "to protect and enhance the marine environment in that area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development".

15. Since the adoption of MAP phase II and the amendments to the Barcelona Convention in 1995 to streamline/incorporate all Rio Principles and extend the geographical scope of the application of the Convention to cover the coastal zone, as well as its fields of action, the UNEP/MAP system has experienced additional important regulatory/legal and policy developments. The adoption and ongoing implementation of a number of long-term strategic documents addressing pollution control and prevention (SAP MED), marine and coastal biodiversity conservation (SAP BIO), the Strategy to

combat pollution from ships, the MSSD as well as a number of Action Plans to facilitate the implementation of the Protocols constitute important strategic milestones to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention and Protocols and guide the preparation of MAP biennial programmes of work. Of major importance was the adoption in 2008 of a roadmap to apply ecosystem-based approach for the management of human activities in order to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) including seven steps, among which the vision, goals, ecological objectives, as well as related GES indicators and targets have been already implemented. In recent years the MAP system has been a pioneer among the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes in the integration of SCP in its regional strategic framework.

16. The outcomes of the MAP 2010-2015 Strategic Programme of Work were structured around six priority themes: Governance, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Biodiversity, Pollution Prevention and Control, Sustainable Consumption and Production, and Climate Change. Each outcome was associated with at least one output.

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

### **2.3 The International and Mediterranean Policy Context**

18. The MTS (2016-2021) is a regional response to the major global agendas about sustainable development for the mid-term. The MTS is consistent with the following strategic documents at regional and global levels in particular:

#### **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD)**

19. The MTS development was fed by the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD) and most relevant Mediterranean-level processes and complementary strategies. The MSSD links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that the Mediterranean region remains a frontrunner in the area of environmental and sustainability governance, and builds on synergies between the MSSD and other regional initiatives.

20. The MSSD focuses on six thematic areas in line with the global process to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, towards reaching Good Environmental Status of the Marine and Coastal Mediterranean environments, thus encompassing the EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.

#### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

21. The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. Through the 2030 Agenda, countries have committed to bold and transformative steps to shift the world on to sustainable and resilient path. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. Regional and sub-regional frameworks are recognized as facilitating the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.

22. The 17 SDGs balance the three dimension of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The immediate reference for the MTS is SDG 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". Other relevant SDGs are SDG 6 (sustainable management of water), 11 (sustainable cities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 13 (climate change impacts), 15 (sustainable ecosystems and biodiversity) and 17 (global partnership).

## **3. THE MID-TERM STRATEGY PRINCIPLES AND MODEL**

### **3.1 The Vision**

23. The vision of the MTS is the following:

*"A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations".*

24. It is based on the vision approved by COP 16 in 2009 (Decision IG.17/6): "A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations".

25. It is inspired by the vision of the MSSD: "A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean Region, in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance."

26. The following elements of the MSSD have contributed to the vision of the MTS:

- Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development.
- Addressing cross-cutting issues that lie in the interface between environment and development.

27. The improvement of the quality of the marine environment remains the priority objective of the Barcelona Convention, confirmed through the Protocols and recently (COP 18) with the commitment to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES). The GES constitutes a major step towards sustainable development, while the integration of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the management of human activities becomes fundamental for the fulfillment of the MTS vision.

### 3.2 The MTS concept

28. The MTS has put emphasis on consistency, interlinkages and integration of substantive issues, particularly taking into account the holistic concept of ICZM, the transversal character of SCP, and Climate Change to all strategic themes of the Mid-Term Strategy.

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

30. The concept of the MTS is reflected in Diagram 1. The **Ultimate Objectives** are the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean and the contribution to sustainable development. The **Strategic Themes** are selected accordingly, and will be promoted under the Overarching Theme of Governance.

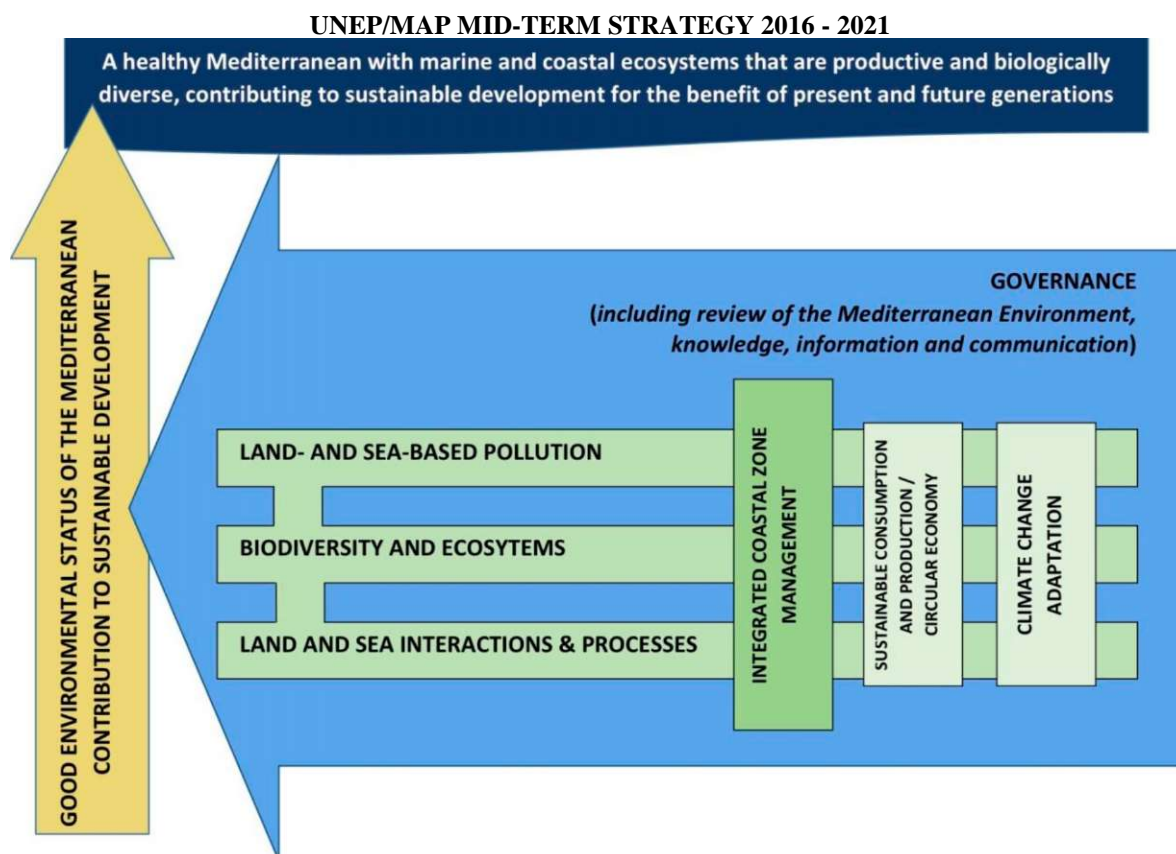
The **Core Themes** are:

- Land and sea-based pollution;
- Biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Land and sea interactions and processes.

The **Cross-cutting Themes** are:

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

31. These themes reflect legal commitments of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and their Decisions and contribute to the objectives of the MSSD, UNEP and the SDG.

**Diagram 1: The Concept of the MTS**

32. In the following pages, the description of each theme starts with an explanatory introduction and sets out a number of **Strategic Objectives, Strategic Outcomes, and Indicative Key Outputs**. For some of the themes, relevant EcAp-based Ecological Objectives are also referred to.

33. The **Strategic Outcomes** for each theme follow a common structure, as they are meant to contribute respectively to:

- implementation of existing regional legal framework and decisions;
- development and approval of new or updated plans/programmes/guidelines;
- assistance to Contracting Parties for implementation at national level;
- monitoring / evaluation;
- technical assistance/capacity building;
- networking;
- regional cooperation; and
- dealing with emerging issues.

#### 4. THE OVERARCHING THEME: GOVERNANCE

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

35. In the context of the MAP system, governance involves an efficient decision making process and a results-based approach, and covers broad management issues. It also includes the review of the Mediterranean environment, knowledge, information and communication.

36. The MTS aims at creating the necessary conditions for the organs and bodies of the MAP system and its Secretariat to efficiently deliver their key mandates as stipulated in Articles 17 and 18



of the Barcelona Convention and the other relevant Articles of the Protocols, as well as to strengthen collaboration with major actors, programmes and initiatives working in and for the Mediterranean region.

37. The MTS is compliant with the MAP legal system, i.e. the Barcelona Convention, Protocols and legally binding Regional Plans, and Action Plans that have entered or are about to enter into force. Ensuring an integrated and efficiently coordinated support to the Contracting Parties for their implementation and for achieving compliance remains a high priority of the MTS.

38. The overarching theme "Governance" is based on five Principles: representativeness, accountability, effectiveness, higher level of participation, and transparency.

39. The **Expected** Accomplishments are structured around:

- Enhanced capacity of Contracting Parties to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve agreed environmental objectives and goals; and comply with related obligations;
- Coherence and synergy of actions on environmental issues between components, respecting their mandates;
- Environmental sustainability increasingly mainstreamed in national and regional development policies and plans.

40. To achieve these accomplishments, the following seven **Objectives** are set out for governance:

1. To strengthen the regional and national governance mechanisms;
2. To mobilize resources;
3. To strengthen capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans;
4. To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among international and regional partners and organizations active in the Mediterranean region;
5. To enhance stakeholders' participation and outreach;
6. To deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development for informed decision-making and stakeholder work; and
7. To ensure the visibility of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its role and achievements.

41. These Objectives correspond to the MSSD and its orientation to improve governance in support of sustainable development.

42. They correspond also to the related recommendations of the Outcome Evaluation Study of the PoW 2010-2015.

43. For the period 2016-2021, six **Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on implementation, compliance, participation/ synergies, knowledge of the environment, MAP information and awareness raising. Among the **Indicative Key Outputs**, one can point out the expected ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties, mobilization of financial and human resources, increase of knowledge on and understanding of the marine environment, focused technical assistance to Contracting Parties, interface between science and decision-making, increase of visibility and further awareness raising.

44. In order to reach the Objectives and deliver the Strategic Outcomes under this theme, the MAP System will continue providing technical support for the implementation of measures and commitments. Strengthening science-policy interface will be a priority, as well as facilitating the increased participation of stakeholders in environmental decision-making processes. This will be realized through regular update of the MAP Partners list, establishing new cooperation with competent institutions and effectively operationalizing the existing cooperation agreements. Emphasis is given to capacity building initiatives to further enable human resources in the region on environmental governance.

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

46. A key output under this strategic theme is the efficiently and effectively functioning compliance mechanism of the Barcelona Convention. The strategic role of the Compliance Committee finds its place in the MTS to ensure provision of advice and assistance to Contracting Parties, further assisting them to comply with their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to generally facilitate, promote, monitor and secure such compliance.

47. In the mid-term, UNEP/MAP will be playing in the H2020 governance system an important co-chairing role with regard to two important sub-groups on capacity building and on review and monitoring respectively with UfM presidencies and the EEA. This would contribute to a better and more efficient use of resources in the implementation of the 6-year UNEP/MAP strategy in synergy with the H2020 Work Programme 2015-2020.

**TABLE 1. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Governance**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
1.1 Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	1.1.1 Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported.
	1.1.2 Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings.
	1.1.3 Strengthen interlinkages between Core and Cross-cutting themes and facilitate Coordination at national level across the relevant sectors. In this context, examine the impacts of a transition to Thematic Focal Points within UNEP/MAP system for consideration at the COP 20.
	1.1.4 Funding opportunities for regional and national priorities identified, donors/partners informed and engaged, through the implementation of the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, and Contracting Parties assisted in mobilizing resources.
1.2 Contracting Parties supported in compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	1.2.1 Compliance mechanisms effectively functioning and technical and legal advice provided to Contracting Parties, including technical assistance to enhance implementation of the Convention and its Protocols including reporting.
1.3 Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions.	1.3.1 Regional cooperation activities promoting dialogue and active engagement of global and regional organizations and partners, including on SAP BIO, Marine Litter, SCP, ICZM, MSP and Climate Change (e.g. regional conference, donor meetings).
	1.3.2 Participation in relevant existing or new international initiatives and dialogue (e.g. ABNJ, MPAs, Offshore, Sustainable Development) to highlight the Mediterranean regional specificities and increase synergies.
	1.3.3 MSSD implementation set in motion through actions on visibility, capacity building and the preparation of guidelines to assist countries adapt the Strategy to their national contexts.
1.4 Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making.	1.4.1 Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach and published addressing inter alia status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run. These assessments include climate change-related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine and coastal zone in their analysis, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production.

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
	1.4.2 MSSD implementation monitored, as appropriate and evaluated, as appropriate on periodic basis through the agreed set of indicators in line with SDG and the sustainability dashboard.
	1.4.3 Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp-based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including GES common indicators fact sheets, and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into Info/MAP platform.
	1.4.4 Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific institutions, knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications.
	1.4.5 Educational programmes, including e-learning platforms and college level degrees, on governance and thematic topics of MAP relevance organized in cooperation with competent institutions.
1.5 MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding.	1.5.1 Info/MAP platform and platform for the implementation of IMAP fully operative and further developed, connected to MAP components' information systems and other relevant regional knowledge platforms, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public.
	1.5.2 Barcelona Convention online Reporting System (BCRS) updated and operational, improved and maintained, and complemented and streamlined with other reporting requirements.
1.6 Raised awareness and outreach.	1.6.1 The UNEP/MAP communication strategy updated and implemented.

48. The indicative list of potential Partners for the implementation of the above Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs could include: Black Sea Convention, CIESM, CIHEAM, EEA, FAO/GFCM, FAO/Silva Mediterranean, HELCOM, Horizon 2020 initiative, IMO, IOC, UNESO, IPBES, IPCC, JRC, MAP Partners, MonGoos, MISTRALS (MERMEX, HYMEX, BIODIVMEX), OSPAR, UfM, UN World Ocean Assessment, UNCDB, UNEP Live, UNEP Regional Seas, UNFCCC.

## 5. CORE THEME 1: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION

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

50. Five out of the seven Protocols aim at ensuring the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and prevent pollution due to different types of land and sea-based sources. The core theme "Land and Sea-Based Pollution" is designed in a manner that will provide effective support to the Contracting Parties to implement the five pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention with a particular focus on legally binding commitments arising from Articles 5 and 15 of the LBS Protocol. In this respect, the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) has been incorporated in the MTS and a comprehensive programme for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol is also integrated.

51. The core theme "Land and Sea-Based Pollution" aims to:

- Focus on priority basis on the work to support Contracting Parties to implement the programmes of measures as envisaged in the Updated National Action Plans/National Action Plans to achieve GES for the pollution-related Mediterranean ecological objectives based on the ecosystem approach. Developing and delivering a package of key technical implementation tools/guidelines and provide technical assistance and capacity building for their implementation remains a high priority;
- Support the updating and strengthening of national pollution monitoring programme to monitor good/poor environmental status, emerging pollutants as well as the effectiveness of programmes of measures/NAPs in line with Art. 26 of the Barcelona Convention, Art. 13 of the LBS Protocol and Art. 5 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol;
- Further develop assessment methodologies to support setting where appropriate national, sub- regional and regional GES targets, environmental targets, assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values and links and integration with all Mediterranean ecological objectives;
- Enhance access to marine pollution information and data including hot spots and sensitive areas at regional, global and national levels based on SEIS principles;
- Take into account the need to benefit from the important relevant global and regional highlights, thus avoiding overlapping and ensuring where appropriate harmonization with inter alia:
  - ✓ the Minamata, Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the sustainable financial mechanism for chemicals established in the framework of UNEP;
  - ✓ Rio+20 and the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (2012 and 2011), which identify plastics and nutrient over-enrichment as emerging issues deserving global attention;
  - ✓ UNEA decision on Marine Litter, GPML, GP WW and GPSW;
  - ✓ IMO conventions (MARPOL, OPRC, Dumping);
  - ✓ LRTAP Convention (UNECE) with regards to air pollutant inventories, related tools and modelling to assess impacts on marine environment.
- Establish strong and complementary synergies with the work of other Regional Seas, Agreements and relevant EU bodies for the implementation of the pollution related Regional Plans and Strategies in a coordinated manner;
- Strengthen and contribute to the Partnership with H2020, and related programmes/projects and governing institutions.

52. This theme is designed in an integrated manner with all the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy. It will be implemented with MED POL and REMPEC leadership in close collaboration with SCP/RAC and in partnership with regional and global partners including NGOs. Efforts are ongoing to ensure the mobilization of the required external resources to complement the MTF funding as appropriate (GEF, EU, H2020, UNEP/GPA, IMO, private sector).

53. The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following five **Ecological Objectives** for this core theme:

1. Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters;
2. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;
3. Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments;
4. Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems;
5. New and emerging land-based pollution related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

54. The above Ecological Objectives are linked to the following **Strategic Objectives** of pollution related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention:

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

55. They are also linked to the following **Strategic Objectives of the cross cutting themes** addressing pollution related aspects:

1. To promote planning mechanisms that will contribute to reducing the generation of pollution in coastal zones. (ICZM);
2. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources, in particular water, in order to prevent their pollution and degradation.(ICZM);
3. To promote SCP in key economic sectors and lifestyles which are upstream drivers of chemicals and marine litter (SCP);
4. To strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations to implement SCP solutions reducing toxic chemicals and marine litter (SCP).

56. For the period 2016-2021, seven **Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on implementation, new action plans, marine pollution monitoring, capacity building, regional cooperation, and identification of emerging issues. Among the **Indicative Key Outputs**, one can point out the targeted measures, common standards and criteria per priority pollutant, regional programmes, guidelines, adopted NAPs, inventories of pollutant loads, marine pollution assessment tools, training programmes, networking, awareness raising and policy briefs.

**TABLE 2. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Land and Sea-Based Pollution**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
2.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and 4 pollution -related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	2.1.1 Targeted measures of the regional plans/strategies facilitated and implemented.
2.2 Development or update of new/existing action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	2.2.1 Guidelines, decision-support tools, common standards and criteria provided for in the Protocols and the Regional Plans, developed and/or updated for key priority substances or sectors.
	2.2.2 Regional programmes of measures identified and negotiated for pollutants/ categories (sectors) showing increasing trends, including the revision of existing regional plans and areas of consumption and production.
2.3 Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement and integration into sectorial processes.	2.3.1 Adopted NAPs (Art. 15, LBS Protocol) implemented and targeted outputs timely delivered
	2.3.2 NAPs developed to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.
	2.3.3 SCP Regional Action Plan (pollution- related activities) mainstreamed into and implemented through NAPs and national processes, such as SCP National Action Plans and NSSDs.
2.4 Marine Pollution Monitoring and assessment.	2.4.1 National pollution and litter monitoring programs updated to include the relevant pollution and litter Imap indicators,

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
	<p>implemented and supported by data quality assurance and control.</p> <p>2.4.2 Inventories of pollutant loads (NBB, PRTR from land-based sources, and from offshore and shipping) regularly updated, reported and assessed.</p> <p>2.4.3 Marine pollution assessment tools (in depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator factsheets) developed and updated for key pollutants and sectors within EcAp.</p>
2.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub- regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	<p>2.5.1 Training programmes and workshops in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies, compliance with national legislation.</p> <p>2.5.2 Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges reduced, including through SCP solutions for alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and the reduction of upstream sources of marine litter for businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.</p> <p>2.5.3 Marine pollution prevention and control measures and assessments integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs and related Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.</p>
2.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution.	<p>2.6.1 Agreements, synergies and exchange of best practices with key relevant global and regional partners and stakeholders with a particular focus on marine litter.</p> <p>2.6.2 Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions contributing to alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and to reduce upstream sources of marine litter supported and coordinated.</p>
2.7 Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate.	2.7.1 Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to Contracting Parties on emerging pollutants, ocean acidification, climate change and linkages with relevant global processes.

57. The indicative list of potential **Partners** for the implementation of the above Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs could include: Black Sea, OSPAR, HELCOM Convention Secretariats, Dumping London Protocol, EEA, EMSA, EU MSFD CIU, IMO, IOC, IOPC Fund, ITOPI, OGP, Stockholm and Basel Convention, SWEEP-NET, UfM&H2020, UNEP GPSW, UNEP GPWW, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, UNEP/GPA GPML, UNIDO, World Bank.

## 6. CORE THEME 2: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

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

59. The overall mission under this theme is to provide assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, and under the "Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" (SPA/BD Protocol), and implementing the "Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region" (SAP BIO), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) (Decision IG.19/5).

60. In order to guide and facilitate the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and of SAP BIO, a number of regional strategies have been developed and adopted, aiming at the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna. The MTS "Biodiversity and Ecosystems" core theme will focus on supporting their implementation, respectively of:

- The "Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea", and the supporting "Roadmap for a Comprehensive, Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean" in close collaboration with competent regional and national organisations as well as NGOs and relevant stakeholders';
- Eight Action Plans for the conservation and/or management of endangered or threatened species and key habitats: Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Marine Vegetation, Marine and Coastal Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans), Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions, and Dark Habitats;
- A Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal;
- An Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea; and
- The Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management Strategy and its Action Plan.

61. Furthermore, support will be provided to Contracting Parties at national level to:

- Develop and implement, as a high priority, in a coordinated manner, and where appropriate jointly, their national monitoring programme to assess progress towards GES with regard to MAP EcAp-based ecological objectives related to biodiversity, non-indigenous species and food webs closely interlinked with the relevant work under the Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention's SPA/BD Protocol; and
- Implement the "Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region" (SAP BIO) regional and national Priority Actions for the period 2014-2020, as well as the SAP BIO related National Action Plans (NAPs).

62. In order to improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, collaboration will be enhanced with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components. Many of the regional partners collaborating in marine conservation issues rely very much on technical tools, strategic documents and other outputs produced within the Barcelona Convention context.

63. The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following six **Ecological Objectives** for this core theme:

1. Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions;
2. Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
3. Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock;
4. Alterations to components of marine food webs caused by resource extraction or human induced environmental changes do not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability;
5. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;
6. New and emerging biodiversity and ecosystems related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

64. The above Ecological Objectives are linked to the following **Strategic Objectives** of the SPA/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention:

1. To protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmentally sound way areas of particular natural or cultural value notably by the establishment of specially protected areas;
2. To protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna.

65. They are also linked to the following **Strategic Objectives of the cross cutting themes**:
1. To promote planning and management mechanisms ensuring that economic, social and cultural development is in harmony with natural environment and landscape (ICZM);
  2. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems in order to prevent or reduce their degradation and to maintain their contribution to climate change adaptation (ICZM and CC);
  3. To provide innovative services and products contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems (SCP);
  4. To strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organizations to implement SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems (SCP).
66. For the period 2016-2021, seven Strategic Outcomes are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, enhanced regional cooperation, and identification of emerging issues. Among the Indicative Key Outputs, one can point out the Roadmap for a coherent network of well managed MPAs, management measures, Regional Action Plans, review of Ships' Ballast Water Management Plan, guidelines, use of Marine Spatial Planning, integration in CAMPs and ICZM actions, inventories, and networking.

**TABLE 3. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
3.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments.	3.1.1 A comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean set up and implemented.
	3.1.2 Most relevant area-based management measures are identified and implemented in cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations, through global and regional tools (SPAMIs, FRAs, PSSAs, etc.), including for the conservation of ABNJ, taking into consideration the information on Mediterranean EBSAs.
3.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems.	3.2.1 Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats, on species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management are updated to achieve GES.
	3.2.2 Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species, key habitats, for non-indigenous species control and prevention as well as the management of marine and coastal protected areas developed/updated and disseminated.
	3.2.3 Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) applied in selected areas at a pilot level linking coastal and open sea areas subject to major pressures. To this end the information on EBSA areas could be used.
3.3 Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures.	3.3.1 NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and on species introductions and invasive species developed/updated.
	3.3.2 National measures developed and implemented to strengthen the protection and the management of relevant marine and coastal sites, especially those containing threatened habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats).



Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
	3.3.3 Biodiversity and ecosystem protection actions integrated in CAMPs, other ICZM Protocol implementation projects and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.
3.4 Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats.	3.4.1 Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts.
	3.4.2 Biodiversity conservation assessment tools (in-depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator fact sheets) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and measure the effectiveness of the SAP BIO NAPs and Regional Action Plans implementation.
	3.4.3 EcAp common indicators on biodiversity and non-indigenous species monitored through IMAP in MPAs and SPAMIs, and relevant data sets established.
	3.4.4 Inventory of vulnerable and fragile coastal and marine ecosystems and assessment of sensitivity and adaptive capacities of coastal and marine ecosystems to changes in sea conditions as well as of the role of services they provide developed.
3.5 Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity-related national legislation.	3.5.1 Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented, including pilots to support efforts aimed at MPA/SPAMI establishment and implementation.
	3.5.2 Training and awareness-raising programmes on SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.
3.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.	3.6.1 Joint strategies and programmes on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation developed, by taking into account NAPs in cooperation with relevant partner organizations at global and regional levels.
	3.6.2 Businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society encouraged to use networks to disseminate SCP solutions contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems conservation coordinated through adequate mechanisms.
3.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate.	3.7.1. Coordination with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an Implementing Agreement on BBNJ (namely concerning marine genetic resources, marine protected areas BBNJ, and SIA).

67. The indicative list of potential Partners for the implementation of the above Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs could include: CBD, FAO, CMS, IMO, UNESCO, CITES, AWEA, ICCAT, Ramsar Convention, WCMC, EU, UfM, ACCOBAMS, GFCM, Bern Convention, OSPAR, HELCOM, EEA, MedWet, Tour du Valat, IUCN, WWF, BirdLife, MedPAN, MEDASSET, MedMarAvis, Global Ocean Forum, ICES, CIESM, Conservatoire du Littoral, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), "Partners" and "Associates" to the Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and key habitats, Research institutes and universities.

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

68. This theme corresponds to the first MSSD objective, and to SDG 14 and 15. Coastal zones are complex natural systems exposed to various natural processes with important interactions between their land and sea parts. Furthermore, they represent the major interface between humans and the environment as coastal ecosystems (terrestrial and marine ones) are those most heavily impacted by human activity.

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

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

71. The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following three **Ecological Objectives** for this core theme:

1. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems;
2. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved;
3. New and emerging land and sea interactions and processes related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

72. The above Ecological Objectives are linked to the following **Strategic Objectives** of ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention:

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

73. They are also linked to the following Strategic Objectives of the cross cutting themes:

1. To facilitate sustainable development of coastal and marine areas by ensuring planning mechanisms that address both natural processes and anthropogenic pressure impacting on them (ICZM);
2. To promote governance mechanisms that ensure coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone (ICZM);
3. To reduce the pressure of human activities in coastal and marine areas through the implementation of SCP tools (SCP);
4. To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change by promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts (CC).

74. For the period 2016-2021, seven **Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned Strategy Objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, enhanced regional cooperation, and identification of emerging issues. Among the **Indicative Key Outputs**, one can point out the reduction of pressures on marine and coastal areas, methodological framework for ICZM (land and sea parts), mapping of pressures and risks of erosion, fact sheets, climate

change adaptation of coastal areas, guidelines, capacity building, inventories, policy briefs and networking.

**TABLE 4. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Land and Sea Interaction and Processes**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
4.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	4.1.1 Contracting Parties assisted in identifying, implementing and evaluating specific measures and tools to reduce pressures on coastal and marine areas (e.g. coastal setback, land policy measures, zoning).
4.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	4.2.1 Tools and guidelines for environmental assessments developed and applied (e.g. EIA, cumulative assessments, SEA).
	4.2.2 Marine Spatial Planning defined in the context of the Barcelona Convention and applied, as appropriate.
4.3 Strengthening national implementation.	4.3.1 New generation of CAMPs prepared to promote land-sea interactions, also addressing trans-boundary aspects, as appropriate.
4.4 Monitoring and assessment.	4.4.1 Mapping of interaction mechanisms on coastal and marine environment at regional and local levels developed, including assessment of the risks of sea level rise and coastal erosion, and their impacts on coastal environment and communities.
	4.4.2 National coast and hydrography monitoring programmes developed and updated to include the relevant IMAP common indicators, interactions and processes.
4.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub- regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	4.5.1 Capacity building for the application of tools for assessing interactions and integrating them in planning/management of coastal and marine environment implemented.
4.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels.	4.6.1 Networks of CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation activities established and cooperation undertaken with other partners to promote the exchange of data, experience and good practices established.
4.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate.	4.7.1 Additional stresses relevant to the Convention on water resources due to climate change assessed in cooperation with other regional interested stakeholders
	4.7.2 Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to Contracting Parties, <i>inter alia</i> impacts from possible tsunami cases explored.

75. The indicative list of **Partners** for the implementation of the above Strategic outcomes and indicative Key outputs could include: National authorities and institutions, Local authorities in coastal and marine areas, Scientific and research institutions, coastal observatories, oceanographic institutes, hydrographic institutes, water agencies, International institutions and organizations: UNESCO, FAO, GFCM, EU, EEA, UNEP/GEF, UfM, IUCN, MedPAN , International conventions: CBD, Habitat, UNFCCC, Ramsar, UNEP/Regional Seas Programme, Sub-regional initiatives: EUSAIR, RAMOGE, NGOs: WWF MedPO, MIO-ECSDE, GWP, UNEP/MAP Components.

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

76. This theme corresponds to the first and partly third MSSD objectives and it is related to SDG 9, 11, 14 and 15. It is meant to assist Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the ICZM Protocol and the respective Action Plan approved by COP 16.

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

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

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

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

81. Integrating ICZM as a transversal approach for the Mid-Term Strategy enables MAP to strengthen its relationship and cooperation with other international and regional organizations such as FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP/DTIE, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, ESCWA, ILO, GFCM, GWP Med, IUCN, WWF Med, and international financial agents like the EBRD, EIB, IFC and WB, also promoting ICZM from diverse perspectives complementing MAP's mandate. In that line, ICZM is included as key theme of collaboration between UNEP/MAP and UfM in the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding.

82. The MTS 2016-2021 sets out the following **Strategic Objectives** for this cross-cutting theme:

1. The sustainable development of coastal zones is facilitated by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development;
2. The sustainable use of natural resources is ensured, particularly with regard to water use;
3. The coherence is achieved between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone.
4. To promote planning mechanisms that will contribute to reducing the generation of pollution in coastal zones.
5. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources, in particular water, in order to prevent their pollution and degradation.
6. To promote planning and management mechanisms ensuring that economic, social and cultural development is in harmony with natural environment and landscape
7. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems in order to prevent or reduce their degradation and to maintain their contribution to climate change adaptation
8. To facilitate sustainable development of coastal and marine areas by ensuring planning mechanisms that address both natural processes and anthropogenic pressure impacting on them.

9. To promote governance mechanisms that ensure coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone.

83. For the period 2016-2021, six **Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, and enhanced regional cooperation. Among the **Indicative Key Outputs**, one can point out the MAP regional strategies, action plan for the implementation of ICZM, methodological tools and guidelines, national ICZM strategies, gap analysis, fact sheets, training programmes, and coordination.

**TABLE 5. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
5.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	5.1.1 The Mediterranean regional framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management is defined and put in effect.
	5.1.2 SAP BIO, SAP MED, Offshore Action Plan and Strategy to combat pollution from ships implemented in an integrated manner, including through the Mediterranean regional framework, as set out in ICZM Protocol to enhance the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.
	5.1.3 Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol further implemented; Status of Implementation reported.
5.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	5.2.1 Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol updated
	5.2.2 Methodological framework for land and sea interactions, considering in particular MSP and ICZM, developed and applied.
5.3 Strengthening national implementation.	5.3.1 National ICZM Strategies including streamlining pollution, biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and SCP, land and sea interaction as well as sustainable cities prepared and applied.
	5.3.2 Countries assisted in carrying out gap analysis on national legal and institutional frameworks for ICZM in order to streamline as need be the ICZM Protocol provisions into national legislations.
	5.3.3 SCP Regional Action Plan activities and climate change adaptation issues mainstreamed into and implemented through ICZM national strategies, as well as CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation projects.
5.4 Monitoring and assessment.	5.4.1 Fact sheets for ICZM indicators developed to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal and marine resources management measures.
5.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub- regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	5.5.1 MedOpen Training Programme on ICZM regularly updated and implemented, in coordination with the relevant NFPs.
5.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels.	5.6.1 ICZM coordination enhanced through: (i) Mediterranean ICZM Platform; (ii) national ICZM coordination bodies.

84. The indicative list of potential **Partners** for the implementation of the above Strategic outcomes and indicative Key outputs could include: National authorities and institutions; Local authorities in coastal areas, Scientific and research institutions: coastal observatories, oceanographic institutes,

economic institutes, urban and planning institutes, chambers of commerce; International institutions and organizations: UNESCO, UNEP/DTIE, UNWTO, UNDP, FAO, GFCM, EU, EEA, UNEP/GEF, UfM, IUCN, MedPAN, International conventions: CBD, Habitat, UNFCCC, Ramsar, HELCOM, OSPAR, Black Sea Commission; Sub-regional initiatives: EUSAIR, RAMOGE, NGOs and networks: WWF MedPO, MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med, CPRM, MedCities.

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

85. This theme corresponds to the 5th MSSD objective and to SDG 12. It also aims at assisting the Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement several Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (LBS, SPA&BD and ICZM Protocols).

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

87. Main pollution and environmental challenges associated to their unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are identified as priorities for action in several Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (e.g. LBS, ICZM and HW Protocols). More specifically, SCP is highlighted in article 4 of the amended Convention, in article 5.4 and Annex IV of the LBS Protocol, in article 5.2 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol and in article 9 of the ICZM Protocol.

88. Based on the importance of SCP as a necessary strategic approach for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols, the Contracting Parties have requested MAP to prepare a specific SCP Regional Action Plan. This Regional Action Plan will define common objectives and actions to implement SCP in the Mediterranean countries. It will also guide the definition of specific activities to provide technical support and capacity building to the countries on SCP and will establish the needed policy and regulatory mechanisms enabling a broad shift to SCP in the region, in order to reduce pressure on the marine and coastal environment.

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

90. SCP is a gate through which MAP will draw the interest and engagement for cooperation from the private sector, including local small, medium and big enterprises, multinationals, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, producers, retailers and sellers, for they are responsible of the production processes and bringing to market products and services, and hence are in a unique position to advance SCP in the region.

91. Integrating SCP as a transversal approach for the MTS enables MAP to strengthen its relationship and cooperation with other international and regional organizations such as FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP/DTIE, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, ESCWA, ILO, GFCM, GWP Med, IUCN, WWF Med, and international financial agents like the EBRD, EIB, IFC and WB, also promoting SCP from diverse perspectives complementing MAP's mandate. In that line, SCP is included as key theme of collaboration between UNEP/MAP and UfM in the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding, in line with the outcome of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (Athens, May 2014).

92. The MTS sets out the following **Strategic Objectives** or this cross-cutting theme:

1. To establish prosperous Mediterranean region, with non-pollutant, circular, socially inclusive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, securing the sustainable management of natural resources and energy, ensuring the well-being of

- societies and contributing to clean environment and healthy ecosystems that provide goods and services for present and future generations;
2. To support the effective implementation of the SCP Action Plan and its roadmap;
  3. To strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society implement SCP solutions;
  4. To promote SCP in key economic sectors and lifestyles which are upstream drivers of chemicals and marine litter;
  5. To strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society implement SCP solutions reducing toxic chemicals and marine litter;
  6. To provide innovative services and products contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;
  7. To strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society to implement SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems;
  8. To reduce the pressure of human activities in coastal and marine areas through the implementation of SCP tools.

93. For the period 2016-2021, four Strategic Outcomes are identified corresponding to the above mentioned strategy objectives. They focus on new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, capacity building, and enhanced cooperation to prevent marine pollution. Among the Indicative Key Outputs, one can point out related methodological tools, action plans, SCP indicators, training programmes, networking, and involvement of stakeholders.

**TABLE 6. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
6.1 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines and implementation of current ones.	6.1.1 Selected actions of the SCP Action Plan directly contributing to prevent, reduce and eliminate marine pollution and protect/enhance biodiversity and ecosystems as well as address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean identified and implemented.
	6.1.2 Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in CC adaptation and mitigation regional strategies and frameworks developed.
	6.1.3 Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in the priority areas of consumption and production of the Regional Action Plan on SCP - tourism, food, housing and goods manufacturing implemented and new ones developed for other sectors.
6.2 Monitoring and assessment.	6.2.1 SCP Action Plan indicators aligned with MSSD relevant work, identified, selected and factsheets developed.
6.3 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub- regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	6.3.1 Training and support programme for green entrepreneurs and civil society as SCP drivers.
6.4 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution	6.4.1 Establishment of networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs, civil society, providing SCP solutions promoted.
	6.4.2 A Mediterranean SCP Hub for knowledge exchange and networking fully operative and performing as connector and lever for new partnerships and initiatives providing SCP solutions.

94. The indicative list of **Partners** for the implementation of the above Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs could include: Ministries (planning, environment, industry, trade, economy, education, labour, social affairs), National, regional and local administrations, Small, medium and big enterprises, multinationals, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, producers, retailers and sellers, Fairtrade organizations, Civil Society, including unions, NGOs, citizens-led initiatives, social economy associations, consumers groups, Schools, Academia, business schools, and Research Institutions, Financial institutions, and Regional and international Organizations: UNIDO, WBCSD, UfM, UNEP/DTIE, UNCTAD, ESCWA, IFOAM, IFAD, FAO, WWF, CIHEAM, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, European Investment Bank, UNESCO, UNCTAD, Fundacion Dieta Mediterranean, EU IPPC, JRC, IRENA - International Renewable Energy Agency, ACR+, ISWA (Recycling & Recovery), SUPSPORT, International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities, UNEP Finance Initiative, Global Footprint Network, Plan Bleu, EU Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), AFED, EEB & BEUC, IUCN, World Tourism Organization, UNWTO, PAP/RAC, ASCAME, UN HABITAT, UNECE, UNECE, ILO, EBRD, GiZ, Funding Programmes: H2020, GEF, H2020 (Europe).

### 10. CROSS-CUTTING THEME 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

95. This theme corresponds to the 4th MSSD objective and partly to SDG 13. It also aims at assisting the Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention (Articles 22 and 23).

96. The Mediterranean has long been identified as a "climate change hotspot" and climate change impacts in the region are becoming increasingly evident: observations over the last decades show that temperatures have risen faster than the global average and that dry spells are becoming frequent. All model projections agree on the region's future warming and drying with potential huge risks and costs to the region's economy, population centers and biodiversity.

97. The Mediterranean Region is considered as "high vulnerable to climate change" and it "will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate changes" (IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, 2014)). The projected impacts (2081-2100 compared to 1986-2005) mentioned in the Report include an increase of 4-7°C in surface mean air temperature in the worst case scenario (RCP 8.5), 10-20% decreases in mean annual precipitation, increased risk of desertification, soil degradation, an increase in duration and intensity of droughts, changes in species composition, increase of alien species, habitat losses, agricultural and forests production losses. The EU funded "Climate Change and Impact Research: the Mediterranean Environment" (CIRCE) project leads to similar conclusions.

98. UNEP/MAP has been working on the issue of climate change impacts on the marine and coastal zone as far back as in the 1990's. Aimed to further work on that, the 'Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region' (SAP BIO) was updated on climate change issues, and a related Synthesis Document giving an overview on priority national needs and urgent actions related to vulnerability and impacts of climate change on biodiversity in marine and coastal areas was issued in 2009. At the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2009, the "Marrakesh Declaration" agreed to *"Implement effective coordination to ensure the integration of climate change issues into development policies with the aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the MSSD, and ensure the strengthening of cooperation for the sharing of experience in the field of surveillance (early-warning systems) and the development and implementation of adaptation and risk-management strategies"*.

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

100. The MTS cross-cutting theme "Climate Change" takes into account the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework

101. The MTS sets out the following two **Strategic Objectives** :



1. To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change by promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts;
2. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine to maintain their contribution to climate change adaptation.

102. For the period 2016-2021, five **Strategic Outcomes** are identified corresponding to the above mentioned Strategic Objectives. They focus on regional implementation, new action plans and programmes, strengthening national implementation, monitoring/assessment, and capacity building. Among the **Indicative Key Outputs**, one can point out related regional strategies, methodological tools, action plans, programmes, awareness raising, and emerging issues.

**TABLE 7. Strategic Outcomes, Indicative Key Outputs for Climate Change Adaptation**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs
7.1. Strengthening the regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	7.1.1 Climate Change Adaptation main activities identified and mainstreamed into the implementation of existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures.
	7.1.2 Selected actions of the SCP Regional Action Plan directly contributing to address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean implemented.
7.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	7.2.1 Climate Change Adaptation, including related vulnerabilities and risks, key activities mainstreamed into the development of new/updated regional strategies, regional action plans and measures addressing biodiversity, pollution and land and sea interaction.
	7.2.2 Climate Change-related vulnerabilities and risks considered in the development and implementation of biodiversity, pollution and land and sea interaction related regional strategies, action plans and measures through the EcAp.
	7.2.3 Promote integration of ecosystem-based responses in National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.
7.3 Strengthening national implementation.	7.3.1 Climate change adaptation priority fields identified and mainstreamed into the relevant MAP policies, as appropriate.
7.4 Monitoring and assessment.	7.4.1 Climate Change vulnerability issues considered in existing monitoring programmes.
7.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub- regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	7.5.1 Awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on climate change adaptation and on its links with the core themes enhanced.

103. The indicative list of potential **Partners** for the implementation of the above Strategic outcomes and indicative outputs could include: BC3, CMCC; EEA, Labex OT-Med, MISTRALS, UfM, UNER/GRID Arendal.

## 11. IMPLEMENTATION: PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

104. The implementation of the MTS is a collective process. The MTS should be used as a common platform for joint actions not only by Contracting Parties and the MAP system, but also for fostering cooperation with other International and Regional Organizations and programmes active in the Mediterranean. Civil society has always been an important group of stakeholders in the MAP system. In the implementation of the MTS, its role remains critical. "Synergies" and "complementarity" are once more the key words when seeking effectiveness, positive impacts and sustainability. To this end, the

private sector could become an important ally and contributor to the implementation of the MTS, in particular given its key role in the transition to the green economy.

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

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

107. The main challenge when trying to achieve the objectives of Strategy is in the availability of financial resources, in particular taking into consideration the global and regional circumstances. The good practice of the last years, of mobilizing additional funding for specific projects in line with the PoW and in consultation with the CP, is encouraged to continue and be further extended to include other donors too. Emerging funding possibilities under the EU, like the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, need to be explored and used.

108. To this end, the MTS and the PoWs will be complemented by the updated, comprehensive Resource Mobilization Strategy.

## **12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGY**

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

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

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

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

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

**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area
AEWA	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
BC	Barcelona Convention
BIODIVMEX	Biodiversity of the Mediterranean Experiment (a MISTRALS programme)
BP/RAC	Blue Plan RAC
CAMPs	Coastal Area Management Programmes
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate change
CIESM	Mediterranean Science Commission (Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée)
CIHEAM	International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes)
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington Convention)
ClimVar& ICZM	Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (GEF Project)
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)
COP	Conference of Parties
CP(s)	Contracting Party (-ies)
CP/RAC	Cleaner Production RAC (now SCP/RAC)
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (UNEP)
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas
EC	European Commission
EcAp	Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean (EU Project)
ECP	Executive Coordination Panel (MAP)
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FFEM	French Global Environment Facility (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)
FP(s)	Focal Points
FRAAs	Fisheries Restricted Areas
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO)
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter (UNEP)
GPWW	Global Partnership on Waste Water (UNEP)
GPSW	Global Partnership on Solid Waste (UNEP)
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
H2020	Horizon 2020 Programme (EU)
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission
HW	Hazardous Wastes
HYMEX	Hydrological Cycle in the Mediterranean Experiment (a MISTRALS programme)
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICZM	Integrated coastal zone management
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IHP	International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO)

IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (EcAp)
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
Info/MAP	UN Mediterranean knowledge platform
INFO/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
IOC	International Oceanographic Committee (UNESCO)
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JRC	Joint Research Centre (EU) LBS Land Based Sources
LRTAP	Long Range Transfer of Air Pollution
MAP	Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Basin (Mediterranean Action Plan)
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MedPAN	Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean
MedPartnership	Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF Project also referred to as Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership)
MedWet	Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
MERMEX	Marine Ecosystems Response in the Mediterranean Experiment (a MISTRALS programme)
MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
MISTRALS	Mediterranean Integrated Studies at Regional And Local Scales
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MAP)
MTS	Mid Term Strategy
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
OPRC	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Conventions (Full name not in common use)
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme RAC
PEGASO	People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast (Project)
PoW	Programme of Work
PSSAs	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
ReGoKo	Regional Governance & Knowledge Generation Project (World Bank)
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SAP-BIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region
SAP-MED	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SCP/RAC	Sustainable Consumption and Production RAC (formerly CP/RAC)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals (UN)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System (EU)

SFFA	Small scale funding agreement
SMART	Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound
SPAs	Specially Protected Areas
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas RAC
SPAMIs	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
SWITCH-Med	Switching to more sustainable consumption and production in the Mediterranean (EU Project)
SWIM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management (EU Project)
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TEST	Transfer of environmentally sound technologies
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP)
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF-MedPO	World Wide Fund for Nature - Mediterranean Programme Office

