



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.600/Inf.7



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

Distr.: General

21 January 2025
Original: English

Thematic Ad-Hoc Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-13 February 2025

Agenda item 5: Elements for the updated 2016 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF)

Elements for the updated Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF)

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2025

Note by the Secretariat

COP19 (Athens, Greece, 2016) adopted, with Decision IG.22/6, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF), which has a timeline of 10 years, aligned with the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

The 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP23, 5-8 December 2023 Portorož, Slovenia) recommended to review the Framework for next period, also considering new challenges, tools and nature-based solutions.

In line with the Programme of Work and Budget for 2024–2025 adopted through COP23 Decision IG. 26/14, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat has mobilized an independent consultant to review the implementation of the current RCCAF and develop the updated Framework taking into consideration new nature-based solutions, including for adaptation and mitigation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development and green economy, and based on the findings of MedECC report and other key UNEP/MAP assessments and reports.

The initial phase of the RCCAF update foresees a desk review, complemented by a consultation with the Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), MAP Components and MAP Partners, and through a questionnaire.

The elements for the updated RCCAF presented in this information document are based on the desk review of the MAP-relevant assessments, reports and findings from recent global and regional climate change developments and frameworks, as well as the state of progress on the implementation of the Strategic Objectives and Directions of the RCCAF.

In parallel a specific questionnaire on RCCAF implementation progress has been shared with the MCSD Members, MAP Components and MAP partners. During the Thematic Ad-Hoc Meeting of the MCSD, the main outcomes of the questionnaire are expected to be summarized and presented, complementing this information document.

The updated RCCAF will be submitted for discussion of the 26th MCSD Steering Committee meeting (Athens, Greece, April 2025) and to the MCSD meeting of June 2025, before submission to the 24th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP24, 2-5 December 2025 Cairo, Egypt) for endorsement.

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1. Introduction

Background

1. This paper presents initial draft elements for the updated RCCAF. This will be further updated based on the feedback provided through the recently disseminated RCCAF Implementation Questionnaire and consultations with MAP components and partners.
2. Specifically, the paper reviews:
 - (a) MAP-relevant outcomes and findings from recent global and regional climate change developments and frameworks,
 - (b) the state of progress and tentative findings from the implementation of the Strategic Objectives and Directions of the RCCAF as revealed by desk research,
 - (c) preliminary suggestions for the updating of the RCAAf for the period 2026-2035.
3. In parallel with the preparation of this report, a Questionnaire on the implementation progress of the RCCAF, has been elaborated by the international consultant. This has been launched to take advantage of the experiences of MAP RACs and Partners and Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in this context.
4. The desk research and questionnaire findings will be presented during the ad thematic hoc meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul, Türkiye on 12-13 February 2025, and both will feed into the elaboration of the updated RCCAF.
5. The resultant updated RCCAF will be submitted to relevant meetings of the MAP System before the submission for endorsement by the 24th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, COP24, on 2-5 December 2025 in Cairo, Egypt.

The Context

6. The Vision for the current RCAAf 2016-2025 is:

“By 2025 the Marine and Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean countries and their communities have increased their resilience to the adverse impacts of climate variability and change, in the context of Sustainable Development. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance”.

7. The Main Objective of the Framework 2016-2025 is to:

“...set a regional strategic approach to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal natural and socioeconomic systems to the impacts of climate change, assisting policy makers and stakeholders at all levels across the Mediterranean in the development and implementation of coherent and effective policies and measures by identifying strategic objectives, strategic directions and priorities that:

- promote the right enabling environment for mainstreaming adaptation in national and local planning;
- promote and exchange best practices and low-regret measures;
- promote leveraging of necessary funding; and
- exchange and access best available data, knowledge, assessments and tools on adaptation.”

8. The Framework is structured around four Strategic Objectives, each of them underpinned with several Strategic Directions. The Strategic Objectives and Strategic Directions are:

Strategic Objective 1. Appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, increased awareness and stakeholder engagement, and enhanced capacity building and cooperation:

Strategic Direction 1.1. Enhancing awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on climate adaptation

Strategic Direction 1.2. Promoting adequate institutional and policy frameworks

Strategic Direction 1.3. Promoting a regional approach on Disaster Risk Management

Strategic Direction 1.4. Improving implementation and effectiveness of adaptation policies through monitoring and reviewing progress

Strategic Direction 1.5. Integrating climate adaptation into local plans for the protection and management of areas of special interest

Strategic Objective 2. Development of best practices (including low regret measures) for effective and sustainable adaptation to climate change impacts:

Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices

Strategic Direction 2.2. Mainstreaming, exchanging and adopting best practices

Strategic Objective 3. Access to existing and emerging finance mechanisms relevant to climate change adaptation, including international and domestic instruments:

Strategic Direction 3.1. Prioritizing public spending relative to climate adaptation and mobilizing national sources of climate finance

Strategic Direction 3.2. Accessing international financing

Strategic Direction 3.3. Building alliances with the banking and insurance sectors

Strategic Objective 4. Better informed decision-making through research and scientific cooperation and availability and use of reliable data, information and tools:

Strategic Direction 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts

Strategic Direction 4.2. Building capacities for and promoting the use of vulnerability and risk assessment at regional to local levels

Strategic Direction 4.3. Strengthening Science-policy interface and accessibility of related knowledge

Strategic Direction 4.4. Developing Regional climate information at a resolution suitable for adaptation planning

2. MAP-relevant outcomes from recent global and regional climate change developments and frameworks

9. The consultant has reviewed twenty documents, as listed at Table 1, to track outcomes of global and regional climate processes which potentially have strategic and/or policy implications for MAP.

10. the **UNFCCC Paris Agreement 2016 (COP 21)**, signed in 2016 and adopted by 196 Parties, provided the global platform for MAP to prioritise climate change as a “top priority”. Consequently, the MCSDD presented climate change as a “top priority” for the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which was coordinated with the parallel production of the RCAAf.

11. Since 2020, there have been a number of global and regional climate processes with outcomes and/or commitments which the MAP system needs to take into account when developing the regional framework for the next ten years.

12. The milestone regional **MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1 2020)** was prepared by a team of 600 scientists from 35 countries, including 19 countries registered as Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. This milestone document for climate change adaptation for the Mediterranean:

- provides spatial and intensity hazard and future risk analysis, outlines management and adaptation approaches and prevalent governance frameworks for coping with risks,
- reviews a wide range of adaptation and mitigation sectoral approaches while considering case studies from Mediterranean-type environments,
- identifies innovative and successful adaptation practices across a range of climate challenges for achieving sound and sustainable development in countries of the Mediterranean Basin,
- notes that successful adaptation case studies involve stakeholder participation, structural political and economic change, gender considerations and weather-indexed insurance schemes,
- includes proposals to improve synergies between adaptation and mitigation practices
- and suggests promoting Mediterranean cooperation and networking for building resilience, while also focusing on education and capacity-building.

13. The report drew on scientific evidence from a range of sources including the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and provides sub-regional forecasts of future climate change. Key issues identified by the report were the need to integrate socio-economic as well as technical considerations into climate diagnostics and prognostics; the importance of co-operation and networking for resilience. The associated **IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter Paper 4 on the Mediterranean** emphasised the sharing and co-production of knowledge on climate adaptation practices.

14. **The State of the Environment and Development (SoED 2020)** identified the north / south and east Mediterranean dichotomy in terms of climate hazards and risks, state of climate knowledge, policy and economic readiness, human and financial capacities to deal with climate change etc. Importantly, it supported the integration of Nature based Solutions (NbS) into national climate change adaptation planning which was emphasised in the **Post-2020 SAPBIO** report.

15. **The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration 2021** reinforced the intent for mainstreaming climate action across all sectoral policies, and for the engagement of women and youth in those processes.

16. **The UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-25 “For People and Planet”** emphasised the need to Increase capacity and finance for mitigation and adaptation plus the adoption of a performance transparency framework. The **UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027** focussed on strengthening the resilience for natural and socio-economic systems through its programmes for enhanced regional and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks; better knowledge of climate change; and use of NbS.

17. **The MAP Progress Report 2022-2023** reported on activities for:

- the better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impacts on environment and development through the MedECC work on three Special Reports: 1) Climate and environmental coastal risks, 2) Climate-water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, and 3) Environmental change, conflicts and human migration;
- strengthening the legal, policy and institutional framework at the regional and national levels for coastal adaptation under the GEF MedProgramme in Montenegro and Morocco;
- the preparation of draft guidelines for accessing domestic and international adaptation finance;
- Nature-based, technical solutions to reduce climate impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and increasing their resilience to climatic variability resulting in a guidance document based on Morocco and Montenegro experience.

18. **The 2023 MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks** in the Mediterranean is a recent and important source of priorities for future adaptation action:

- Strengthen climate and environment knowledge through reinforcing existing mechanisms such as scientists engaging with policy makers etc.
- Strengthen coastal flooding and erosion planning and management.
- For water climate adaptation, increase water supply and improve water quality, supporting governance arrangements, and reduce water demand.
- Turn stakeholders into partners to increase the possibility of successful implementation of adaptation measures.

19. **The Portoroz Ministerial Declaration 2023** further committed to support the strengthening of scientific knowledge, the resilience of Marine Spatial Planning, and of the involvement of young people and inter-generational cooperation.

20. **The 2023 UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR)** mentioned climate change indicators for IMAP and giving priority to low-lying zones in adaptation planning.

21. Most recently, **the MAP Plan of Work for 2024/2025** reflects the current concerns to strengthen several priority adaptation thematic areas:

- Support MedECC and its work on climate change knowledge and providing the scientific interface with stakeholders especially policy makers;
- Understand and disseminate NbS for adaptation including for coastal plans;
- Monitor and analyse emerging issues for marine biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Support and mainstream ICZM planning for climate change.

22. An extended analysis of key outcomes for all twenty documents is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key Global and Regional Processes RCCAF-related Outcomes

Source	Key Outcomes
Paris Agreement 2016, UNFCCC COPS and the Global Goal on Adaptation Framework	Overarching agreement for promoting mitigation and adaptation. UNFCCC Cop 28 places adaptation as a top priority plus target and indicator setting.
Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025	Climate change a top priority.
Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin, The First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1), MedECC, 2020	Integrate socio-economic as well as technical considerations into climate diagnostics and prognostics. Involve stakeholder participation, structural political and economic change, gender considerations. Promote Mediterranean cooperation and networking for building resilience, while also focusing on education and capacity-building. Reviews a wide range of adaptation sectoral approaches.
IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter Paper 4 on the Mediterranean Region	Sharing and co-production of knowledge can support climate adaptation practices and enhance sustainability in the Mediterranean region (medium to high confidence). Cooperative policies across various sectors, involving all user groups and considering all regional and sectorial differences may enhance sustainable resource use in the region.
State of the Environment and Development (SoED) UNEP/ MAP/Plan Bleu, 2020	Identifies the north/south and east Mediterranean dichotomy. Integrate NbS into national climate change adaptation plans.
Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)	Adress mitigation and adaptation through NbS and EbA.
Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration 2021	Mainstream climate action across all sectoral policies. Engage women and youth.
EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2021	Step up international action on climate change adaptation and international climate financing.
UN General Assembly 2022 Resolution 76/296: Our ocean, our future, our responsibility.	Enhance shipping emissions mitigation and resilience through NbS and EbA.
UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-25 “For People and Planet”	Increase capacity and finance for mitigation and adaptation. Adopt transparency framework
UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027	Strengthen resilience for natural and socio-economic systems through - enhanced regional and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks; -better knowledge of climate change; -use of NbS; -circular economy.

Source	Key Outcomes
The MAP Progress Report 2022-2023	Presented activities on: - the better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impacts on environment and development through the MedECC work on three Special Reports: 1) Climate and environmental coastal risks, 2) Climate-water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, and 3) Environmental change, conflicts and human migration; -the Legal, policy and institutional framework strengthening at the regional and national level related to coastal adaptation activities of the GEF MedProgramme in Montenegro and Morocco; -the preparation of draft guidelines for accessing domestic and international adaptation finance; -Nature-based, technical solutions to reduce climate impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and increasing their resilience to climatic variability resulting in a guidance document based on Morocco and Montenegro experience.
SPM of the MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean 2023	-Strengthen climate and environment knowledge through reinforcing existing mechanisms such as scientists engaging with policy makers etc. --Strengthen coastal flooding and erosion planning and management. -Water adaptation includes increasing water supply and improving water quality, supporting governance, and reducing water demand. -Turn stakeholders into partners to increase the possibility of successful implementation of adaptation measures.
Barcelona Convention COP 23 Portoroz Ministerial Declaration 2023	-Switch to Green. -Strengthen scientific knowledge. -Advance decarbonisation. -Strengthen resilience of MSP. -Involve young people and inter-generational cooperation.
UNFCCC COP 28 High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action 2023	Enhance cooperation with sub-national governments.
The UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023	Climate Change indicators for IMAP. Priority to low-lying zones in adaptation planning.
UNEP Adaptation and Emissions Gap Report 2023	Transnational and community-oriented approaches.
MAP Plan of Work 2024/2025	-Understand and disseminate NbS for adaptation including for coastal plans. -Monitor and analyse emerging issues for marine biodiversity and ecosystems. -Support and mainstream ICZM planning for climate change -Innovate for reducing shipping emissions through energy efficiency and decarbonisation. -Support MedECC and its work. -Mitigation through circular economy.
UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) 2024	Invest in sustainable, resilient water and sanitation.
Med 2050	Youth engagement.

23. **The incidence of thematic references** from the twenty documents is presented in Table 2.
24. The most referenced theme in the documentation is **the search for practical climate change adaptation solutions**. The need for the RCCAF to work and exchange experiences on developing the MAP climate adaptation system and practices is widely recognised in the MAP community.
25. Similarly, the **need to develop policy and institutional frameworks is a key challenge** partly reflecting the concern for southern shore countries to have dedicated adaptation plans such as the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). At the moment, adaptation seems to be subsumed into the Nationally Determined Contribution documents which historically have had a mitigation orientation and tend to suffer from lack of prioritisation.
26. **Strengthening climate adaptation awareness and engagement features prominently** in the reports. The need to expand climate knowledge and use it for **awareness raising among stakeholders** including the general public are important considerations, as is improving the science/policy interface led by MedECC.
27. **Integrating climate adaptation into local planning processes** has been introduced into the climate discourse along with the need to **expand vulnerability and risk analysis at all planning levels**. Concern to develop **performance transparency via reporting and monitoring** has also been given more prominence over time.
28. Accessing **domestic and international finance** is given **surprisingly little attention** in the literature given its role as a key potential driver of adaptation. However, a lead has recently been taken on addressing the challenge by the production of the SCCF sponsored Guidelines on accessing climate finance¹.
29. **Disaster risk management** and **Interacting with the banking and insurance sectors** have received little attention in the literature.
30. PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC and SPA/RAC have built a substantial body of guidelines on coastal adaptation including support topics for legislation alignment, accessing adaptation finance, and resilient city development.

Table 2 presents the number of references to RCAAF thematic aspects showing the most to the least referenced.

¹ Methodological Guidelines on Preparing a Financial Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas with a focus on Albania, Algeria, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme, SCCF Project, 2024.

Table 2: Thematic References from Desk Research

RCAAF Topic Area	Number of References
Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices Strategic Direction 2.2. Mainstreaming, exchanging and adopting best practices	11 (Paris, MedECC MAR1, SoED, COPs, SAPBIO, EU Climate Strategy, UNEP MTS, MAP MTS, MedECC Special Report, Portoroz, PoW)
Strategic Direction 1.2 Promoting adequate institutional and policy frameworks	10 (Paris, MSSD, SoED, UfM, MAP MTS, MedECC Special Report, PoW)
Strategic Direction 1.1. Enhancing awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on climate adaptation	5 (UfM, MedECC MAR1, EU Climate Strategy, MedECC Special Report, Med 2050.
Strategic Direction 4.3. Strengthening Science-Policy interface and accessibility of related knowledge	4 (MedECC MAR1, MedECC Special Report, Portoroz, PoW)
Strategic Direction 1.5. Integrating climate adaptation into local plans for the protection and management of areas of special interest	4 (MedECC MAR1, SoED, Portoroz, PoW)
Strategic Direction: 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts Strategic Direction 4.2. Building capacities for and promoting the use of vulnerability and risk assessment at regional to local levels	3 (MAR1, IPCC, MAPMTS)
Strategic Direction 1.4. Improving implementation and effectiveness of adaptation policies through monitoring and reviewing progress	3 (MedECC Special Report, CHAMP, PoW)
Strategic Direction 3.1. Prioritizing public spending relative to climate adaptation and mobilizing national sources of climate finance Strategic Direction 3.2. Accessing international financing	3 (MSSD, EU Climate Strategy, PlanBleu)
Strategic Direction 3.3. Building alliances with the banking and insurance sectors	1 (MedECC MAR1)
Strategic Direction 1.3. Promoting a regional approach on Disaster Risk Management	1 (MAP MTS)
Strategic Direction 4.4. Developing Regional climate information at a resolution suitable for adaptation planning	0

3. Tentative findings on RCCAF 2016-2025 Implementation

31. This section presents tentative findings on RCCAF implementation obtained from the literature.

32. There has not been routine reporting on the implementation progress of the RCCAF during its life span. This paper provides some progress analysis based on the literature (in Appendix 1), and provides indications of where performance gaps have been found over time.

33. The following section presents a brief assessment of the RCCAF architecture.

- **The Vision and Main Objective statements and the further shaping of the Framework via the Strategic Objectives and Strategic Directions of the current RCCAF** provide a solid set of overall aspiration and guidance for facing the future.²
- The architecture of the current RCCAF of the Vision and Main and the Strategic Objectives appear to continue to provide a sound set of building blocks going forward. **Strategic Objective 1** provides for the national and local level institutional planning architecture and the performance monitoring with targets and indicators for the IMAP system. These will enable performance tracking, carrying out internal annual and external three-yearly reviews, to allow the adjusting and oversight for key adaptation activities delivered under **Strategic Objective 2**. **Strategic Objective 3** deals with climate finance, a key and currently lacking enabler for financing adaptation. While **Strategic Objective 4** provides for the climate scientific and socioeconomic knowledge collection and dissemination around climate risk and vulnerability, plus the science/policy interface and capacity for policy and public learning, which together underpin the work and delivery of the other three Objectives.
- While inevitably there will be room for improving the RCCAF as circumstances change, it is important to acknowledge the capacity and implementation progress that has been made under the RCCAF particularly by the MAP RACs and MedECC. And then to build on this going forward. MedECC (2020 MAR1 and the 2023 Special Report) and PB/RAC (SoED) have produced significant regional climate change studies and proposals. PAP/RAC, PB/RAC and SPA/RAC have built a substantial body of guidelines on coastal adaptation including topics for legislation alignment, catalysing coastal adaptation finance, guidelines on coastal and city resilience, NbS coastal adaptation. Integrating climate risk and vulnerability into local planning processes and production of adaptation solutions has been developed by the RACs most recently under the GEF sponsored Medprogramme. And a lead has recently been taken on addressing the finance challenge by the production of the SCCF sponsored Guidelines on accessing climate finance.
- However, no formal assessment of the implementation of the RCCAF has been carried out during its life span so far. While progress has been made across the strategic pillars, the current RCCAF appears to be still work in progress. Crucially for example, there are signs that not all Contracting Parties are fully and equally involved in RCCAF implementation. Fine tuning of the existing Framework architecture will be needed, and this will benefit from the results of the Questionnaire and consultation processes still to be carried out.

34. **The MSSD 2016-2025** provides a 2015 base line of key issues which would be addressed by the RCCAF. The MSSD judged that “progress towards a green, low-carbon and climate-resilient Mediterranean region remains limited and constrained by a number of issues and barriers :

- Scientific knowledge, data and information from research and monitoring systems remain insufficiently developed and shared.
- When such information resources have been developed, they are often not easily utilisable in decision-making processes.
- Moreover, even when information is utilisable, it is often not used.
- Regional cooperation efforts are scattered and would benefit from better coordination.
- Persistent market distortions and substantial financing and technology gaps across the region limit the shift towards more climate-friendly development models.

² The April 2024 Summary of contributions from the RACs and MEDPOL had no proposals for change of the Vision and 4 Strategic Objectives.

- In addition, public participation, the involvement of the private and finance sectors, and the capacity to benefit from international funding mechanisms need to be fostered”.

35. By 2020, **the IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter Paper 4 on the Mediterranean Region** authored by an international IPCC team found that³:

- “currently **incomplete knowledge of climate impacts and risks in the southern and eastern part of the basin** hinders the implementation of adaptation measures, creating a need for implementable plans with enhanced and cooperative research and monitoring capacities between the north, south and southeast countries”.

36. Its suggested treatment was “sharing and co-production of knowledge (to) support climate adaptation practices and enhance sustainability in the Mediterranean region”.

37. The **2020 UNEP/MAP/Plan Bleu State of the Environment and Development (SoED)** found that for the Mediterranean marine and coastal zone, short-term and reactive local emergency measures were insufficient and costly. Building environmental and socio-economic resilience at the regional level required proactive, long term and integrated planning, and needed to address existing aspects of unsustainable development as drivers of vulnerability.

38. Like the IPCC Cross Chapter, **it also distinguished between the climate change needs of northern and southern and eastern Mediterranean countries**. All northern countries had a national adaptation strategy or plan and a broad range of adaptation funding instruments. While adaptation in the southern and eastern countries was presented through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which contain both mitigation and adaptation actions. Southern shore countries faced particular vulnerabilities due to their high exposure to climate change and lower adaptation capacities than in the north.

39. The SoED noted that Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, and Tunisia had communicated sector resilient policies and measures (e.g. for agriculture, water, forestry, health, fisheries and aquaculture). While Algeria and Israel indicated that NAPs were under preparation.

40. **The Post-2020 SAPBIO** reported that despite progress, the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea was in 2020 far from expected; countries were not on track to achieve and fully implement the agreed upon goals, including the SDGs and the Ecological Objectives for Good Environment Status (GES). In particular, there was a strong need to improve **knowledge on the impacts and consequences of climate change over coastal and marine ecosystems**.

41. **The UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027** recognised the need to fill **knowledge gaps** about the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems, especially the impacts of acidification. In particular, it proposed to strengthen resilience for natural and socio-economic systems through:

- enhanced regional and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks
- better knowledge of climate change
- use of NbS
- and the application of the circular economy.

42. **The UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023** promoted the development of the **performance transparency framework** by the inclusion of climate change indicators into the IMAP system. And suggested that adaptation planning and management in coastal areas should give priority to low-lying zones.

43. **The 2023 MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean** is the most recent comprehensive assessment of the state of play of Mediterranean policy and institutional climate change. Its foreword acknowledges that “the available knowledge concerning the risks studied by MedECC has significant gaps, often due to limited monitoring systems

³ Ali, E. et al: Cross-Chapter Paper 4: Mediterranean Region. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

or scientific research capacity”. It recognises that there are knowledge gaps in the state of the environment and in risks related to climate and environmental change in Mediterranean coastal zones. It urged the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to make all possible efforts to overcome the knowledge gaps that are identified in the Special Report.

44. The report emphasised the importance of the **engagement of scientists with policymakers, stakeholders, and citizens** to removing barriers such as lack of understanding and trust during planning processes. “Turning stakeholders into partners increases the possibility of successful implementation of solutions and adaptation measures”.

45. It judged that “Without transformative actions across all sectors, systems, and scales climate change risks will be exacerbated and the UN Sustainable Development Goals will not be met. A mix of legal, policy and economic instruments, and behavioural nudges, are available for local, national, and regional authorities to promote effective climate resilient sustainable development pathways in the Mediterranean coastal zone. Properly identifying vulnerabilities related to human activities and climate change impacts, assessing opportunities to reduce risks to the affected communities and ecosystems, and adopting actions consistent with the SDGs are fundamental for pursuing these goals”.

46. And finally, it picks up on socio-economic aspects where social inequalities, access to basic services, gender-based inequalities are issues of concern in the Mediterranean region and in its highly urbanised coastal zone as they act as a barrier to the implementation of sustainable development pathways.

4. Initial Draft elements for updating the RCAAF for the 2026-2035 period Climate Context

47. Addressing climate change will continue to be an ever more pressing priority for the Mediterranean. As confirmed in the **IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter Paper on the Mediterranean Region**, the Mediterranean region continues to be one of the world's major climate change hotspots with climate models projecting temperature increases at rates 20% above global means and reduced rainfall –12% below global means. The Mediterranean faces a heightened risk of desertification and soil degradation, sea level rise, lengthier and more intense droughts, changes in species composition, habitat losses, and agricultural and forests losses, resulting in increased coastal erosion, infrastructure damage and threats to water and food security.

48. **The 2023 MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean** provides a latest overall assessment of the regional climate change situation as follows:

“Climate change is affecting the Mediterranean coastal zone, both its terrestrial and marine components. Projections shows increase of near surface air temperature, frequency and intensity of hot extremes, sea level, evapotranspiration and a reduction of precipitation, depending on the level of future greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is expected to pose serious risks on ecosystems and important economic sectors such as summer beach tourism, agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries.

The Mediterranean coastlines have experienced an accelerating relative sea level rise, which is expected to continue during the coming decades and centuries. The increase of sea level will exacerbate the risks of coastal floods, permanent inundation of some areas, and coastal erosion, with consequences on ecosystems and efficiency of present defences. Coastal structures, such as airports, transport networks, ports, and cultural heritage sites will be at risks. Both protection against coastal flooding and management of coastal erosion generally do not adequately consider future sea level rise, with risks of limited future efficiency. Climate change and growing urbanisation will further increase the risk posed by flash floods in some coastal areas.”

Tentative Recommendations

49. The Region accordingly faces a climate situation more extreme than that facing the first RCCAF. Based on desk review and the consultant's judgement, the following may be considered for including in the updating of the RCCAF:

- **Fill the Strategy Gap.** The RCCAF outlines a structured conceptual approach and a planning frame for climate adaptation actions i.e. it provides the “what” needs to be done in terms of Strategic Objectives and Directions. However, by its nature, its contribution to the “how” and the “by whom” is limited so that maximum coverage per Objective is two pages. Consideration could be given to providing follow-on strategy documents which provide much more detailed situation and predictive analytics and action planning for different thematic areas such as for addressing adaptation and knowledge and capacity gaps.
- **Strengthen Climate Scientific Knowledge, Data and Information sharing across the Region (Strategic Objective 4)** from research and monitoring as noted by the MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027, the SPM MedECC Special Report (2023) and the Post-2020 SAP BIO. The SPM MedECC Special Report (2023) acknowledges that “the available knowledge concerning the risks (and vulnerabilities) studied by MedECC has significant gaps”. Reviewing governmentally created market distortions which impact climate and environment, as well as financing and technology gaps would also come under this purview.
- **Performance Monitoring and Review.** A RCCAF performance monitoring and review system with relevant targets and indicators has not yet been put in place. Concern was raised by the 2023 UNEP/MAP Quality Status report for the inclusion of targets and indicators into the IMAP system. These will enable performance tracking, internal annual and external three-yearly reviews to allow learning, adjusting and oversight of RCCAF key adaptation. Interoperability of different regional and national information systems and platforms will need to be considered to allow effective integration of information at different levels, avoiding duplication and improving data availability for regional climate modelling. The role and activation of the new CC/RAC (often in collaboration with INFO/RAC) will be instrumental for these aspects.
- **Combining Enhanced Data Analysis with the Search for Adaptation Solutions and Their Scaling Up.** Useful work on adaptation and resilience has taken place particularly as part of the MedProgramme work in Montenegro and Morocco. However, this particular work is limited to two countries and the outreach and intensity of adaptation work appears to be still quite limited. There is a general feeling found across the MAP RACs of a need for more emphasis identifying concrete and practical adaptation solutions. This is not straightforward. Adaptation solutions generally are location, time and sector specific. While grey adaptation such as engineering solutions for sea defences may be applied across different climatic zones in the region, adaptation dissemination especially for livelihood sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, nature and wildlife conservation and tourism is more complicated being more dependent on locality-specific conditions. This is an area where a guiding regional Strategy would be worthwhile.
- **Reinforcing RCCAF Pilot Actions at National and Regional Level.** Testing and piloting potential adaptation solutions will be an important part of the scaling up adaptation cycle. The updated RCCAF can build on the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) of MedProgramme which has been executed by PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu and has supported stakeholder engagement, capacity-building and cooperation in the two SCCF pilot sites in Morocco and Montenegro. This work has included gender-sensitive climate risk assessments of the pilot areas, highlighting the main climate change risks, impacts and vulnerabilities. This approach shall be integral to the updated RCCAF.
- **Increase North-South Exchanges of Knowledge, Human and Financial Resources (Strategic Objective 1).** The SoED, MAR1 and the 2023 UNEP Gap Report all note divergencies which indicate a dichotomy within the MAP region. Strategically, the priority for

northern countries is to reduce GHG emissions whereas for the south shore countries, climate adaptation is the priority. Where northern countries' climates involve variable and more extreme precipitation, the south and east experience more frequent and lengthier dry periods. The IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter found that "currently incomplete knowledge of the climate impacts and risks in the southern and eastern part of the basin hinders the implementation of adaptation measures ...". The SoED found that while all northern countries had a NAP, adaptation in southern countries was dependent on NDCs. Economically, incomes, trade and livelihoods are stronger in the north while countries in the south and east are living with limited public and private climate knowledge, plus limited human and financial resources available for adaptation. Horizontal two-way exchanges of knowledge and expertise could be strengthened, while stronger climate finance flows from north to south could provide regional development benefits e.g. in relation to migration. An imperative will be for MAP and its CC/RAC to coordinate with UNEP Climate Change Division to actively pursue additional external funding avenues (**Strategic Objective 3**). Country-led approaches will be essential for a strategic allocation of funds to key areas, especially taking into account that national sources are expected to cover most of the costs of adaptation measures.

- **Intensify MedECC's Role in North-South-East Exchanges (Strategic Objective 2).** MedECC is an active body, well hosted by Plan Bleu, dedicated to supporting policy responses to climate change by providing the scientific interface to relevant stakeholder bodies. MedECC has played a strong role in preparing climate thinking for the MAP region through the MAR1 and the follow-up SPM/MedECC Report (2023). However, knowledge and expertise gaps exist across the region. If resources are available, a study could be commissioned (e.g. for MedECC) to carry out a regional climate change knowledge and capacity gap study, to develop a responsive capacity and knowledge building strategy for the region."
- **Further Engage Contracting Parties in Regional Activities (Strategic Objective 1).** There are signs which point to the need to strengthen contracting parties regional awareness, engagement and cooperation in MAP climate activities. For, example, the ICZM MedProgramme work was originally intended to have participation from six countries but only two (Montenegro and Tunisia) are actively engaged. Support can be provided by the CC/RAC in helping Contracting Parties to better integrate adaptation into national and local planning systems.
- **Deepen Engagement with Stakeholders including civil society, local organisation, women and youth networks and academia to support the sustained momentum for change (Strategic Objective 1).** The SPM/MedECC Special Report emphasised the importance of the engagement of scientists with policy makers, stakeholders and citizens to address lack of understanding and trust during planning processes. It also noted that that turning stakeholders into partners results in better solutions and measures.
- **Ensure that Socio-economic Considerations are actively integrated into climate change analytics and planning frameworks (Strategic Objective 1).** MAR1 introduces socio-economic considerations relating to poverty, inequalities and gender imbalances which hamper the achievement of sustainable development. SPM MedECC Special Report picks up on "socio-economic aspects where social inequalities, access to basic service, gender-based inequalities are issues of concern in the Mediterranean region and in the cities of its highly urbanised coastal zone as they act as a barrier to the implementation of sustainable development pathways". This will be important for the staffing composition for the CC/RAC.
- **Promote Funding Mobilization for effective RCCAF implementation.** The challenges of accessing climate finance has been a consistent constraint for driving adaptation. Working with the main climate fund, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has been difficult with its demanding compliance and review requirements. However, this has now been recognised and a fundamental re-engineering of its modus operandi is reported to be underway. Funding should also be readily available as a result of the COP29 agreement of climate financing. Internally, progress has been made with the SCCF sponsored Guidelines on accessing

domestic and international climate finance. It will be important to coordinate with the UNEP Climate Change Division on this.

- **The Updated RCCAF should also include opportunities for institutional synergies** which can help ensure its effective implementation. These could include synergies with other regional climate adaptation programmes, organisations and initiatives. Some of these links for joint learning exist already such as with the IUCN Centre for Cooperation, WWF and most importantly with the new UNEP Climate Change Division and its Climate Change Adaptation Unit.
- **Clearly, the activation of the CC/RAC** will play an important role in supporting the priority planning, implementation and management processes outlined above which are integral to the effective implementation of the RCCAF. An explanation of the procedures, resources and organisation of the Framework into actions at the national level will be needed since the passage from the regional strategic framework into national policies is not straightforward.

Appendix 1: Global and Regional Processes RCCAF-Related Climate Outcomes and Baseline Gaps

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
Paris Agreement 2016, UNFCCC COPS and the Global Goal on Adaptation Framework	The Paris Agreement provides the overarching framework for climate change action globally. Article 7 provides the global goal on adaptation (GGA) for enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to ensuring an adequate adaptation response (to) the temperature goal referred to in its Article 2. COP 28 UAE in 2023 adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. The framework uniquely positions adaptation – the process of building resilience to global warming’s current and future impacts – as a top priority for all nations. It also includes a range of thematic and dimensional targets for climate adaptation and resilience and a two-year programme for the development of indicators for measuring progress towards the framework targets. COP 29 in Baku in November 2024 a) reached agreement on a new climate finance goal of at least \$300 billion per year from the developed world by 2035, b) finalised a carbon market agreement, c) made progress on forming state and private sector coalitions for breakthrough technologies, energy storage methane reduction and forests, but d) made limited progress on wider mitigation and adaptation	Aligned to Paris and COPS	Overarching agreement for promoting mitigation and adaptation. Cop 28 places adaptation as a top priority plus target and indicator setting.
Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025	Introduced climate change as a MAP strategic priority. At the time (2015), The MSSD noted that “progress towards a green, low-carbon and climate-resilient Mediterranean region remains limited and constrained by a number of issues and barriers that still need to be addressed”: • Scientific knowledge, data and information from research and monitoring systems remain insufficiently developed and shared. • When such information resources have been developed, they are often not easily utilisable in decision-making processes. • Moreover, even when information is utilisable, it is often not used. • Awareness of the co-benefit of climate change policies for economic development is low, which hampers their implementation. • Regional cooperation efforts are scattered and would benefit from better coordination.	Aligned with MSSD	Climate change a top priority.

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
	• Persistent market distortions and substantial financing and technology gaps across the region limit the shift towards more climate-friendly development models, especially in the area of renewable energies and energy efficiency. • In addition, public participation, the involvement of the private and finance sectors, and the capacity to benefit from international funding mechanisms need to be fostered”.		
Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin, The First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1), MedECC, 2020	This milestone report presents a synthesis of available scientific knowledge, covering most relevant disciplines, sectors and sub-regions aimed at supporting local and vulnerable communities via resilience policies for climate adaptation and environmental which take into account poverty, inequalities gender imbalances, social inclusion and redistribution. The report: • provides spatial and intensity hazard and future risk analysis, outlines management and adaptation approaches and prevalent governance frameworks for coping with risks, • reviews a range of adaptation and mitigation examples for sectoral approaches while considering case studies from Mediterranean-type environments, • identifies innovative and successful practices for achieving sound and sustainable development in countries of the Mediterranean Basin, • notes that successful adaptation case studies involve stakeholder participation, structural political and economic change, gender considerations and weather-indexed insurance schemes, • discusses potential interactions between hazards and sectors, which may lead to increased impacts. • includes proposals to improve synergies between adaptation and mitigation practices • and suggestions to promote Mediterranean cooperation and networking for building resilience, while also focusing on education and capacity-building.	The report ranges broadly across the three of the four Strategic Objectives. Strategic Objective 1: “Appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, increased awareness and stakeholder engagement, and enhanced capacity building and cooperation” is covered except for Strategic Direction 1.3 on Disaster Risk Management. Strategic Objective 2: “Development of best practices (including low regret measures) for effective and sustainable adaptation to climate change impacts” is covered. Strategic Objective 3: “Access to existing and emerging finance mechanisms relevant to climate change adaptation, including international and domestic instruments” is not covered. Strategic Objective 4. “Better informed decision-making through research and scientific	Integrate socio-economic as well as technical considerations into climate diagnostics.

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
		cooperation and availability and use of reliable data, information and tools” is covered.	
IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter Paper 4 on the Mediterranean Region	Identified regional key risks include increased water scarcity (notably in the south and east) and droughts (in the north), coastal risks due to flooding, erosion and saltwater intrusions, wildfire, terrestrial and marine ecosystem losses, as well as risks to food production and security, human health, well-being and cultural heritage. The Mediterranean region is a hotspot for highly interconnected climate risks. The main economic sectors in the region (agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism) are highly vulnerable to climatic hazards, while socioeconomic vulnerability is also considerable. The low-lying areas are the most vulnerable areas for coastal climate-related risks Found that “currently incomplete knowledge of the climate impacts and risks in the southern and eastern part of the basin hinders the implementation of adaptation measures ...”.	Strategic Direction 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts. Strategic Direction 1.2 Promoting adequate institutional and policy frameworks.	Sharing and co-production of knowledge can support climate adaptation practices and enhance sustainability in the Mediterranean region (medium to high confidence)”. Cooperative policies across various sectors, involving all user groups and considering all regional and sectorial differences may enhance sustainable resource use in the region.
State of the Environment and Development (SoED) UNEP/ MAP/Plan Bleu, 2020	The report provides an analysis of the dichotomous MAP region policy and institutional landscape. SoED followed the IPCC 2020 AR6 Cross Chapter paper on the Mediterranean Region which found that “currently incomplete knowledge of the climate impacts and risks in the southern and eastern part of the basin hinders the implementation of adaptation measures ...”. The SoED found that while all northern countries had a dedicated national adaptation strategy or plan (usually NAPs) and a broad range of adaptation funding instruments, adaptation in southern and eastern countries was dependent on the mitigation and adaptation combined NDCs, (the orientation of which historically was to mitigation). Economically, incomes, trade and livelihoods are stronger in the north while countries in the south and east are living with limited public and private climate knowledge, plus limited human and financial resources available for adaptation The SoED noted the importance of the integration of Nature based Solutions (NbS) into national climate change adaptation plans	Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices. Strategic Direction 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts.	Integrate NbS into national climate change adaptation plans.

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
	as a cross-cutting objective across Mediterranean countries.		
Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)	“By 2030, all countries (will) have adopted and started implementing short- and medium-term measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation..... through reducing emissions, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and restoration.... ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity”. However, at the time of writing, the Post-2020 SAPBIO reported that despite progress, the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea was in 2020 far from expected; countries were not on track to achieve and fully implement the agreed upon goals, including the SDGs and the Ecological Objectives for GES. In particular, there was a strong need to improve knowledge on the impacts and consequences of climate change over coastal and marine ecosystems.	Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices. Strategic Direction 2.2. Mainstreaming, exchanging and adopting best practices.	Mitigation and adaptation through NbS and EbA.
Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration 2021	Ministers stressed the importance of mainstreaming environment and climate action across all sectoral policies, including energy, industry, agriculture and transport, while intending to mobilize and scale up resources to support the green transition. Ministers reaffirmed the need to progressively reduce the use of fossil fuels, ensure a just transition and engage all stakeholders in environmental and climate policy-making as well as ...supporting women and youth engagement in building resilience and driving the green transition.	Strategic Direction 1.1 Enhancing awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on climate adaptation. Strategic Direction 1.2 Promoting adequate institutional and policy frameworks.	Mainstream climate action across all sectoral policies. Engage women and youth.
EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2021	The new strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050. The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. The EU will increase support for international climate resilience and preparedness through the provision of resources, by prioritising action and increasing effectiveness, through the scaling up of international finance and through stronger global engagement and exchanges on adaptation.	Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices. Strategic Direction 2.2. Mainstreaming, exchanging and adopting best practices. Strategic Direction 3.2 Accessing international financing.	Step up international action on climate change adaptation and international climate financing.
UN General Assembly 2022 Resolution 76/296: Our ocean, our future,	Enhancing resilience and reducing emissions from maritime transportation, including shipping .and implementing nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches for,	Mainly Mitigation.	Enhance shipping emissions mitigation and carbon sequestration and

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
our responsibility.	inter alia, carbon sequestration and the prevention of coastal erosion.		resilience through NbS and EbA.
UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-25 “For People and Planet”	Aspired that by 2025: Outcome 1: Decision makers at all levels adopt decarbonization, dematerialization and resilience pathways. Outcome 2: Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals. Outcome 3: State and non-state actors adopt the enhanced transparency framework arrangements under the Paris Agreement.	Supports RCCAF Strategic Objectives across the board but not in any depth.	Decarbonisation, and increase capacity and finance for mitigation and adaptation.
UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027	The MAP MTS recognises the need to fill knowledge gaps about the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems, especially the impacts of acidification. Programme 3 presents two strategic objectives linked to the ICZM Protocol and the RCCAF for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas endorsed by COP 19: 1. Strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socio-economic systems to climate change by promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts; and 2. Reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems to maintain their contribution to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change Its anticipated results over its 5 year life time are: Outcome 3.1. Legal, policy and institutional framework strengthened at the regional and national level to efficiently address climate change related challenges (flooding, erosion, land degradation, pollution, disasters etc.) Outcome 3.2. Nature-based, technical solutions promoting prevention or reduction of the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and increase resilience to climatic variability and change. Outcome 3.3. Better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impact on environment and development. Outcome 3.4. Mitigation of Climate Change progressed through Circular Economy, increased resource efficiency and carbon neutrality business strategies.	Strategic Direction 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts. Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices. Strategic Direction 1.2 Promoting adequate institutional and policy frameworks. Strategic Direction 2.2. Mainstreaming, exchanging and adopting best practices Strategic Direction 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts. Strategic Direction 4.3. Strengthening Science-policy interface and accessibility of related knowledge.	Strengthen resilience for natural and socio-economic systems through - enhanced regional and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks; -better knowledge of climate change; -use of NbS; -circular economy.
SPM of the MedECC Special Report on	Its foreword acknowledges that “the available knowledge concerning the risks studied by MedECC has significant gaps,	Strategic Direction: 1.1. Enhancing awareness and	-Strengthen climate and environment

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean 2023	often due to limited monitoring systems or scientific research capacity”. It specifically recognises that there are knowledge gaps risks related to climate and environmental change in Mediterranean coastal zones and that there is an urgent need to continue to strengthen efforts to bridge gaps through building and reinforcing existing mechanisms. Contracting parties are urged to make all efforts to overcome the knowledge gaps.... It emphasised the importance of the engagement of scientists with policymakers, stakeholders, and citizens to removing barriers such as lack of understanding and trust during planning processes. Turning stakeholders into partners increases the chances of successful implementation of solutions and adaptative measures. It judged the present actions towards solutions to environmental problems, adaptation to climate change and mitigation to be insufficient to attain the SDGs ensuring the wellbeing of people and the sustainability of resources in the Mediterranean coastal zone. “Without transformative actions across all sectors, systems, and scales climate change risks will be exacerbated and the UN SDG will not be met. A mix of legal, policy and economic instruments, and behavioural nudges, are available for local, national, and regional authorities to promote effective climate resilient sustainable development pathways in the Mediterranean coastal zone. Properly identifying vulnerabilities related to human activities and climate change impacts, assessing opportunities to reduce risks to the affected communities and ecosystems, and adopting actions consistent with the SDGs are fundamental for pursuing these goals.” And finally, it picks up on socio-economic aspects where social inequalities, access to basic service, gender-based inequalities are issues of concern in the Mediterranean region and in its high urbanised coastal zone as they act as a barrier to the implementation of sustainable development pathways. Past risk reduction against climate hazards has focussed on protection against coastal flooding, prevention of coastal erosion and conservation measures for coastal ecosystems. Both protection against coastal flooding and management of coastal erosion generally lack considering the values of	engagement of key stakeholders on climate adaptation. Strategic Direction 1.2 Promoting adequate institutional and policy frameworks Strategic Direction 1.4. Improving implementation and effectiveness of adaptation policies through monitoring and reviewing progress. Strategic Direction 2.1. Identifying adaptation needs and best practices. Strategic Direction 4.1. Understanding of the vulnerability of natural and socioeconomic systems and sectors and of possible impacts. Strategic Direction 4.3. Strengthening Science-policy interface and accessibility of related knowledge.	knowledge through reinforcing existing mechanisms. --Strengthen coastal flooding and erosion planning and management. -Water adaptation includes increasing water supply and improving water quality, supporting governance, and reducing water demand. -Turn stakeholders into partners to increase the possibility of successful implementation of adaptation measures.

Source	Aspirations/Outcomes	RCCAF 2016/2025 Links	Key Outcomes
	future sea level rise, with risks of limited future efficiency (high confidence). Also noted are the adaptation needs for water shortages across sub-regions, which depend on the hydrogeological and coastal water management context. Adaptation to reduced water availability is taking place in the Mediterranean coastal areas (high confidence).		