



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.600/Inf.5



**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 4: Updated MSSD for 2026-2035 period

Outcomes of the MSSD revision thematic Working Groups

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2025

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Introduction

1. Based on the conclusions of the 20th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) of 14-16 June 2023 (Marseille, France) and of the 25th Steering Committee meeting of the MCSD (MCSD SC) of 18-19 April 2024 (Athens, Greece) related to the process and timeline for the update of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), at the kind invitation of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, the MCSD Members and MAP Focal Points nominated the experts of three MSSD Revision Working Groups (WGs) on Circular Economy, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance. The list of WGs' members is included in the present Info document as Annex I.
2. While an online introductory meeting has been organized by the Secretariat for all WGs' members on 12 July 2024, the first meeting of the WGs took place at the end of October 2024, under the coordination of the respective responsible Regional Activity Center (RAC): SCP/RAC-MedWaves for the WG on Circular Economy, PAP/RAC for the WG on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Plan Blue for the WG on Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance. Related main outcomes are reported in the present Info document as Annex II.
3. The second meeting of the WGs will take place by the end of January/early February 2025. Related outcomes will support the discussion of the MCSD Thematic Ad-Hoc Meeting of 12 and 13 February 2025.

First Working Group on Circular Economy (WGCE)**Revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) – UNEP/MAP****Briefing / Conclusions on 1st WGCE****Attending Members**

- Ms. Maria Papaioannou, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece
- Ms. Konstantina Rempestekou, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece
- Ms. Moran Shaanan, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel
- Ms. Şeyma Uçar Seçgel, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye
- Ms. Anastasia Roniotes, MIO, Greece
- Ms. Mercé Boy Roura, BETA Technological Center
- Mr. Alessandro Miraglia, MedWaves
- Mr. Giorgio Mosangini, MedWaves
- Ms. Luisa Aparicio, MedWaves
- Mr. Jesús Maestro, MedWaves
- Mr. Matías Ibáñez, MedWaves

Agenda

29th October 2024	
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Introduction by the Director, Presentation of the WGCE members Introduction to the MSSD Update & WGCE Objectives
10:00 – 10:45	Agenda item 2. Preparations for MSSD Update – Discussion among WGCE members a) List of new potential Issues & Challenges in the Mediterranean b) New trends and patterns - Global and regional targets relevant for SCP and CE in the Mediterranean
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 11:45	Agenda item 3. Continuation of Preparations for MSSD Review – Discussion among WGCE members a) How to better integrate Circular Economy into MSSD update
11:45 – 12:00	Agenda item 4. Any Other Businesses Agenda item 5. Date and Venue of the 2 nd WGCE Meeting / Calendar

Next Steps / WGCE Planning

WGCE	
1st Working Group – October 2024 (online)	Macro Level – Circular Economy & SCP in the region Introduction to the MSSD Update & WGCE Objectives Key issues, global and regional trends relevant for SCP/CE in the Mediterranean
2nd Working Group – December 2024 (online)	Meso Level – Strategic Directions, Regional Actions & Flagship Initiatives Overview of Strategic Directions related to SCP: Objective 5 & Beyond Analysis of Regional Actions – Indicators Discussion on Flagship Initiatives
3rd Working Group – March 2025 (in-presence)	Micro level – National Actions, Time-frame and Indicators Continuation of the analysis of Strategic Directions related to SCP Overview of National Actions – Indicators & Targets Discussion on Timeframe and Implementing organizations

Key Aspects from the meeting

- **Circularity as an evolving concept**
 - Members brainstormed about the **concept of circular economy, its aim, its challenges**. It was agreed circularity is a cross-cutting issue and it will feed not only Objective 5 but Objective 2, 3, 4 and 6.
 - New definition of CE in the description of Objective 5 should be given. Members asked to refer to UNEP definition of circular economy.
 - The title of Objective 5 “*Transition towards a green and blue economy*” should be updated according to all members, and the word sustainable should appear in the new title. For some members (MedWaves, Greece) the word sustainable would already encompass circularity, for the rest (IMO, BETA), it would be better to mention both sustainable and circular. A draft title proposal would be: “*Transition towards a sustainable circular green and blue economy and sustainable finance*”.
 - References to green and blue economy were made, and all members agreed that both economies are not always sustainable, so this reference should be very clear along the text for revision.
 - It was agreed by all the need to update the introduction to Objective 5 where circular economy is treated/approached as a new paradigm, yet this text is now old-fashioned. Also, references to circularity within the definition of green economy were asked to be modified by all members.
 - A member of MedWaves referred to the Triple Axis (social, economic and environmental) that circularity should tackle at the macro level, yet it was discussed by the group that contracting parties cannot always translate these principles into the meso and micro level, that is why concrete actions and financial aid would be needed to make this transition work.
 - Moreover, a member of MedWaves mentioned that degrowth theories are never mentioned as a new paradigm/strategy for contracting parties to follow, and it would be valuable to add any reference to the text. Greece and IMO members responded that these references are very much political, and contracting parties would never accept them in a new text proposal.

- References to the 2030 Agenda were raised by Greek member and IMO, and enquired how to proceed with new action proposals given the SDGs Agenda will be revised in 20230.
- **New topics, sectors, and working lines**
 Members revised new **SCP trends and patterns, new industrial, agricultural and service sectors** to be included in further revisions and assessed the *“Box 1. List of issues addressed by the six objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025”* by proposing some recommendations to be added:
 - References to the **Bio-economy sector** should be included in the new text as proposed by Beta representative. Linking bio-waste with bio-food production is key to advance circular practices in agricultural field. Objectives 2 and 5 should refer to this challenge.
 - **Open Innovation and Eco-Innovation** should be guiding principles in the new MSSD. MedWaves member proposed to strengthen references to Innovative technologies and Science applied to the service of Circularity. BETA representative proposed to further revise the Science-Policy nexus based on circularity principles and how it can benefit both green and blue economy sectors.
 - **Irrigation and applied circular agricultural practices** was raised by the Hellenic representative, as it is a national priority for Greece. It should be added in Objective 2.
 - **The benefits of circularity practices to foster low-carbon economies** was addressed by Greek representative and IMO, and it was agreed by BETA that more references to new studies on the potential of circular economy to reduce green house emissions should be added in Objectives 5 and 4.
 - **The WEFE Nexus** is a key field for the majority of contracting parties nowadays, and it was raised by IMO and Greek representative that some references should be also included in Objective 5. A proposal by Greek member raised the possibility to include the new flagship initiative on WEFE nexus under the framework of Objective 5.
 - **Education** was brought into the discussion by IMO and Greek representative as a key priority in both broadly raising awareness about circularity and mobilizing consumer’s awareness in market cities.
 - **Youth and women** should be further strengthened as proposed by Greek member, and more concrete actions should be considered. Also, **Just Transition mechanisms** should be added to the text as referred by MedWaves member, even some references to other vulnerable groups such as migrants.
 - **Development of new sustainable business models for start-ups** is a key point to be further strengthened as proposed by MedWaves representative, as well as the need to further develop public-private synergies to foster circularity at the industry level
 - **Water scarcity, food waste/security and circularity** references were agreed to be included by all members in both Objectives 2, 3 and 5.
 - **Digitalization** is slightly mentioned in the MSSD; and it was agreed by all members to be further revised, including references to the Science-Policy Nexus and the role of innovative technologies to foster circularity.
 - **Investment flows and financial incentives** towards private sector was agreed by all to be mentioned, however, some enquiries were raised on the level of detail this WGCE can enter as it is a topic raised by WG on Sustainable Finance.

General Questions raised on Evaluation Mechanisms

- How the 3 WGs would feed the Strategy and how they will be connected with the other parallel revision/evaluation mechanisms?
- Would the 3 WGs have access to the External Evaluation undertaken by the Consultant?
- How coordination among WGs would work?
- It is possible to add new Flagship Initiatives?
- What's the process for the adoption of a new MSSD 2025-2035?
- How specific new actions can be if Agenda 2030 will be finished by 2030?

Conclusions

The discussions that took place in the first WGCE were very fruitful as many trends, challenges and proposals for new sectors to be included were brought by the members, who identified on a macro level the missing gaps in the MSSD at the level of the introductory text and list of challenges (Box 1).

For the 2nd WGCE it was agreed that the meso level of the strategy would be addressed, and more detail and concrete revisions at the level of Strategic Directions and Regional and National Actions would be provided.

Two dates were agreed for the next WGCE, 4th December or 12th December 2024. It was agreed that a new save the date would be sent with the final date depending on the availability of UNEP/MAP to be present at the next meeting.

It was mentioned the idea and possibility that the third meeting could be held in Brussels with the support of Plan Bleu.

Last but not least, one of the challenges encountered was the lack of representation of Southern Mediterranean representatives. For next WGCE, this is a key issue to be taken into account, and further efforts could be proposed in collaboration with UNEP/MAP on how to address more representatives from Southern Mediterranean institutions, organizations or ministries.

Moreover, some members of the WGCE did not even respond to the 1st WGCE invitation. Further efforts, mitigation measures and more detailed communications should be made to these members. If they do not respond again, UNEP/MAP could help redirect this situation.

First Working Group for Marine Spatial Planning (WG-MSP)
on updating the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

Marseille, 23 October 2024

Meeting report

The first meeting of the Working Group for MSP on updating the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was held on 23 October 2024 at the Plan Bleu premises in Tour la Marseillaise. The meeting gathered 15 participants from France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Türkiye, AFED, DG MARE European Commission and the Maritime Spatial Planning Assistance Mechanism, MedCities, and UNEP/MAP (CU, PAP/RAC, and Plan Bleu).

Plan Bleu, as the host, welcomed the participants, and recalled its role on the MSSD revision mainly around the quantitative evaluation through the MSSD indicators dashboard that highlight the evolution of the state of the environment over the period 2016-2024. Plan Bleu also leads the working group on ocean economy/sustainable finance, one of the three working groups within the frame of the MSSD revision. Participants then briefly introduced their roles and highlighted the importance of MSP for their respective countries or organizations. The MSP process varied across the represented countries: some are currently focused on preparing ICZM strategies and legislation, while others are advancing through MSP preparatory stages or developing new-generation MSPs.

Following an overview of the MSSD's current status, key evaluation indicators, and the update process, participants shared their initial insights on integrating MSP into the updated Strategy. Key general comments included:

- **Incorporating Lessons Learned and Policy Developments:** The updated Strategy should reflect relevant lessons learned and recent global and regional policy and legislative frameworks, such as the MSP Directive and EU's MSP experiences from its implementation across Mediterranean countries supported by various EU funding mechanisms, and recent legislative progress in the EU, particularly concerning the EU Restoration Law, the review of the MSFD, and the forthcoming Oceans Pact. In addition, synergies among regional initiatives should be also foreseen and taken into consideration (e.g. with the Union for Mediterranean-UfM, WestMed Initiative, Maritime Spatial Planning Mediterranean Community of Practice-MSP MED CoP).
- **Leveraging Spatial Management Tools:** The new MSSD could promote a comprehensive set of spatial management tools under the Barcelona Convention to enhance conservation and sustainable resource use in the Mediterranean. The Strategy should encourage the adoption and integrated use of these tools to maximize synergies and harmonize their implementation at all levels.
- **Focus on Ecosystem Approach and Good Environmental Status (GES):** The Strategy should prioritize implementing the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean, aiming to achieve and maintain GES through the coordinated and adaptive application of ICZM and MSP at both national and transboundary levels.
- **Importance of Fisheries:** Fisheries are essential to the Mediterranean region, necessitating specific reference to spawning grounds, vulnerable areas, and small-scale fisheries as vital economic drivers. The relevance of protected areas for fisheries management should also be emphasized, with explicit mention of the role of GFCM.
- **Clarity through Definitions:** Including definitions, such as those for coastal and marine areas, would be beneficial to ensure shared understanding.
- **Streamlining Indicators:** The Strategy should avoid excessive indicators. It is crucial that selected indicators are compatible with existing regional and national monitoring processes to prevent duplicative efforts.
- **Accessibility of Coastal Zones:** The Strategy could acknowledge that many coastal areas are

inaccessible to the general public due to specific use regimes, and consider how MSP might address these accessibility issues.

- **MSP as a Protective Tool for Cities:** MSP can be presented as a protective tool for cities by addressing barriers in vertical planning and cooperation due to the jurisdiction over different parts of the sea and coast being dispersed across various levels of governance. The goal is to achieve integrated planning, aligning coastal and marine areas under a unified framework.

For the issues listed in Box 1 of the MSSD, participants emphasized the need to include:

- **Increasing Spatial Conflicts between Marine Activities:** Over recent decades, the use of maritime space has grown substantially, with further increases expected in coming years. While conflicts between maritime activities and biodiversity are addressed, conflicts among the activities themselves—such as those between offshore wind energy (OWE) and fisheries, or between cables and anchoring/OWE—are not. These conflicts present challenges to achieving truly sustainable development.
- **Land-Sea (and Sea-Land) Interactions (LSI):** Some LSI consequences, like marine pollution originating from inland sources or the linear urbanization of coastlines, are already partially covered in Box 1. However, many other important LSI issues are not yet included, such as
 - Changes in sediment dynamics due to water retention in river basins
 - Disruption of natural coastal conditions due to climate change impacts on the sea
 - Increased demand for inland infrastructure driven by certain maritime activities
 - Impacts of the sea landscape on residential or tourist uses of coastal areas
 - Coastal cultural heritage areas requiring enhanced protection of adjacent sea landscapes
 - Increased atmospheric pollution in coastal urban zones due to maritime activities

Including these LSI aspects is essential to create a more comprehensive approach to managing the interconnections between land and sea and addressing the full spectrum of spatial and environmental conflicts.

Comments on Objective 1:

- **Reflect the Ecosystem Approach in Introductory Text:** The introduction to Objective 1 could briefly but clearly articulate the interconnections among EcAp, ICZM, and MSP, encouraging Parties to develop management plans that enhance synergies among these frameworks.
- **Update the Conservation Target:** Amend the first target to state: *"By 2030, conserve at least 30 percent of coastal and marine areas, with 10 percent of these areas under strict protection, in line with national and international laws and based on the best available scientific knowledge."*
- **Incorporate a Nature Restoration Target:** Consider including an additional target focused on ecological restoration, beyond just fish stocks, to encompass broader ecosystem restoration efforts.
- **Expand MSP's Role in Objective 1:** Currently, MSP is referenced in a limited way; it should more fully emphasize MSP's purpose in promoting balanced and sustainable use of marine resources.
- **Broaden Focus Beyond Environment:** Objective 1 is primarily environmentally focused but should also address enablers of the blue economy, possibly expanding on these in other objectives. MSP should be framed as a tool to foster synergy between environmental and economic goals.

- Revise Strategic Direction 1.1: Update Strategic Direction 1.1 to include not only "implementation and compliance" but also the development of synergies among Barcelona Convention Protocols and other regional policies. Specifically, an action could be added for the adoption of national maritime spatial plans.
- Reframe Strategic Direction 1.2: Strategic Direction 1.2 should address broader uses of marine space, not limited to resource exploitation. This includes activities that utilize marine space without directly exploiting resources, such as navigation.
- Address Coexistence of Maritime Uses: Within Strategic Direction 1.2, include an action promoting coexistence of maritime sectors and uses, addressing the increasing spatial conflicts among maritime activities.
- Foster Exchange of Good Practices: Include an action to encourage sharing good practices around coexistence, conflict resolution, synergies, and multi-use, with suggested criteria for coexistence that could inform national MSPs or serve as guidance for countries developing their own criteria.
- Align Strategic Direction 1.2 with EcAp Goals: Shape Strategic Direction 1.2 and its actions to focus on achieving EcAp goals, incorporating relevant policies, frameworks, and management tools.
- Consider Cumulative Impact Assessment: Add activities that address cumulative impact assessments to evaluate and manage the combined effects of maritime activities.
- Promote Data Integration and Sharing: Develop activities exploring ways to establish common approaches for data integration and sharing, leveraging informal platforms for collaboration and information exchange. The Mediterranean Community of Practice could be instrumental for this purpose.
- Support Ocean Literacy Initiatives: Include activities to improve ocean literacy, from integrating ocean studies into formal school curricula to developing other educational and outreach programs.

Due to the cross-cutting nature of MSP, there is a valuable opportunity to mainstream it across all MSSD Objectives and relevant Strategic Directions. Objectives and Strategic Directions addressing areas like biodiversity conservation, fisheries, climate change, and renewable energy should emphasize the importance of considering these themes in the development of maritime spatial plans. This integrated approach could be strongly advocated in the explanatory text for each Objective or incorporated as specific actions within their Strategic Directions.

Comments on other Objectives:

- Objective 5: In Objective 5, MSP could focus on its social and economic benefits rather than environmental impacts. Consider adding actions to strengthen the connection between MSP and the blue economy, identifying specific synergies that promote sustainable economic growth.
- Objective 4: Emphasize "climate-smart MSP" by highlighting how the ocean offers significant opportunities for climate change mitigation, particularly through renewable energy exploitation. This concept could reinforce the role of MSP in supporting climate resilience and sustainability.
- Strategic Direction 6.2: Include an action to strengthen the role of regional and local governments in MSP, aligning with the objectives of the REGINA MSP project. MSP can create additional forums to address cross-cutting issues at multiple governance levels (local, subnational, national, regional, and international), fostering greater collaboration and coordinated action.

Meeting agenda

9.30 – 10.00	Opening, Welcome and Tour the Table
10.00 – 10.30	Introduction to the meeting: MSP and current Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD) Discussion
10.30 – 11.00	Key issues, global and regional targets relevant for MSP in the Mediterranean Discussion
11.00 – 11.20	Café break
11.20 – 12.30	Objective 1 of the MSSD: Gaps and needs for Strategic directions, targets and related actions on regional and national level Discussion
12.30 – 13.00	Conclusions and next steps
13.00	Lunch

List of participants

COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	NAME
EU	DG MARE European Commission	Ms Eleni Hatziyanni
	Maritime Spatial Planning Assistance Mechanism	Mr Athanasios Smanis
France	Ministry in charge of the Sea and Fisheries	Mr Pierre-Maxime Giora
		Mr Olivier DUFOURNEAUD
Greece	Ministry of Environment and Energy	Ms Elena Lalou
		Ms Anna Spyropoulou
Italy	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	Mr Riccardo Piraccini
Spain	Ministry of ecological transition and demographic challenge	Ms Aurora Victoria Mesa Fraile
Türkiye	Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change	Ms. Tutku Karadoğan
		Ms. Özlem Örne
	MedCITIES (Municipality of Genoa)	Ms Stefania Manca
	University of Balamand (Lebanon)	Mr Manal Nader
	UNEP/MAP CU	Ms Patrizia Busolini
	UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC	Ms Marina Markovic
	UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu	Mr Antoine Laffite

First Working Group on “Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance” (WG-OE/SF)

**Online Workshop (October 22nd 2024), organized and moderated by Plan Bleu/RAC
Report by Plan Bleu/RAC experts: Eloïse Leguérinel, Antoine Lafitte, Constantin Tsakas**

Context:

Nowadays, the Mediterranean faces critical environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity, compounded by economic and development pressures. To better address these issues and support a green and blue transition, UNEP/MAP is revising the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) by 2025. The revision process involves a series of technical and expert meetings organized by three technical working groups on Circular Economy, Marine Spatial Planning, and Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance. On October 22, 2024, Plan Bleu, leveraging its extensive expertise in sustainable finance, led the online workshop for the "Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance" working group.

This group, which includes experts from Contracting Parties (Italy, Türkiye, EU, Egypt, Tunisia), as well as Plan Bleu and regional/thematic specialists from academia, focuses on assessing how sustainable (private and public) finance and economic instruments can secure resources for green and blue transitions at regional and national scales. This initiative supports the broader objectives of both the MSSD and the Barcelona Convention, ensuring that sustainable finance plays a pivotal role in addressing environmental challenges in the region, mainly on climate change adaptation.

Objectives of the workshop:

- Emphasize the critical need for sustainable (private and public) finance and economic instruments in the Mediterranean, considering the region’s unique environmental and socio-economic challenges, and identify key barriers and opportunities for promoting sustainable finance.
- Define the working group’s mission within the broader revision of the MSSD, with a focus on aligning sustainable finance with the MSSD’s goals and initial “List of Issues” (from 2015).
- Promote the adoption of economic tools/instruments and policies that drive environmental sustainability across various sectors, reinforcing the role of finance in addressing ecological challenges.
- Lay the groundwork for a “Sustainable Finance Framework”, which will serve as a guide for sustainable finance, with continued efforts planned in collaboration with Contracting Parties.
- Foster collaboration among experts from Contracting Parties and regional experts to enhance cooperation, provide incentives and share successful models for sustainability that could be adapted to the Mediterranean context, countries’ needs and concerns.

Next Steps over the biennium 2024-25:

Following the workshop, several key steps have been outlined to advance the objectives:

- **Physical workshop in Marseille (January 30th 2025):** Scheduled for January 2025, this second Workshop will delve deeper into challenges and opportunities for green finance. It will be held back-to-back with a Plan Bleu academic/research workshop (January 29th) focusing on environmentally friendly economic tools and finances.
- **Follow-up online workshop:** In Q1 2025, another online session will be conducted to work towards developing a Mediterranean framework for green finances.
- **Evaluation of MSSD (2025):** Conduct both quantitative and qualitative evaluations to inform decisions for COP 24.
- **Ongoing research and publications:** Plan Bleu will continue its academic-driven research on green economic tools and finances, with its research report expected to be published by late

2025.

Actions, by order of importance (based on feedback during the workshop):

Below are the proposed actions highlighted during the session, that can be considered by UNEP/MAP within the MSSD revision, to ensure progress towards a sustainable finance mechanism for the Mediterranean:

- **Evaluate current financial requirements** for adapting to economic, environmental, and social challenges in the Mediterranean. This may require to :
 - estimate funds required for transitioning to sustainable industries and retraining workers
 - calculate resources needed for social safety nets (ex. after subsidies reform) and develop strategies to mitigate social inequalities arising from transitions
- Develop strategies to **phase out harmful subsidies** in sectors like fishing and fossil fuels while supporting vulnerable communities. This can include:
 - gradually reducing capacity-enhancing (fishing) subsidies while introducing support for sustainable fishing practices
 - implementing a scheduled reduction of subsidies, redirecting funds to renewable energy and efficiency programs.
 - adopting a positive narrative, explaining the benefits, not only costs, of reforms
- Collaborate with Contracting Parties to **draft a Mediterranean green taxonomy, as one of the tools of “Sustainable Finance Initiatives (SFI)”** that categorizes sustainable activities to guide sustainable investments. Cross-country comparisons of existing green taxonomies may be a useful prerequisite.
- Support countries in updating their **legislation** related to banking and sustainable finance to support economic transformation. This may include to:
 - integrate climate risk assessments and sustainability criteria into lending practices.
 - mandate comprehensive Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting for listed companies
 - create regulatory frameworks for green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and other innovative instruments
- Secure **financial resources** through banks, green capital market instruments, public grants, and international development institutions. This includes developing blended finance mechanisms to attract private capital.
- Provide **grants** or **incentives** for adopting eco-friendly technologies and practices.
- Introduce environmental **taxes** (e.g., carbon taxes) to internalize environmental costs, always adopting a positive narrative, explaining the benefits, not only costs, of introducing such taxes
- Focus on **fostering investor trust** to boost green finance initiatives. This includes:
 - establishing robust reporting and verification mechanisms for green projects
 - developing regional green finance standards aligned with international best practices.
- Propose a **Mediterranean Green Deal, specific to the specificities of the region**, to enhance cooperation and share experiences within the region.
- Foster **collaboration among Mediterranean countries** to address shared environmental challenges and secure necessary financial resources.
- Emphasize **context-specific approaches** tailored to different regional contexts.

List of Participants**Experts designated by Contracting Parties**

- Mehmet Tamer Çobanoglu (Türkiye)
- Heino Nau (EC)
- Hussein Abaza (AFED - Egypt) and Monia Braham (AFED - Tunisia)
- Greta Lucaroni (Italy)

- Manca Stefania (MedCities)
- (Excused) Nadav Pald (Israël)

Regional/thematic academic experts selected by Plan Bleu

- Aldo Ravazzi Douvan : Chief Economist, Italian MoE, Vice-President of Plan Bleu
- Nazli Demirel : Sr researcher, Institute of Marine Sciences & Manag, Istanbul University.
- Valentina Bellesi : Policy Analyst at OECD, Green Finance and Investment
- Merve Ergun : Researcher University of Camerino; tax & renewables law.
- (Excused) Stella Tsani : Assoc. Prof., National & Kapodistrian Un. of Athens.
- (Excused) Theodoros Zachariadis: Professor and Interim Director at the Energy, Environment and Water Research Centre of the Cyprus Institute.

Plan Bleu Experts

- Robin Degron (Director)
- Antoine Lafitte (Head of the observatory and UNEP/MAP relations)
- Constantin Tsakas (Chief Economist)
- Eloise Leguerinel (Transition expert)

	MSP	Circular Economy	Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance
Greece Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy	Ms Elena Lalou Ms Anna Spyropoulou	Ms Maria Papaioannou Ms Konstantina Rempestekou	
Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection	Fred Arzoine Yehudit Mosseri	Moran Shaanan Eran Brokovich	Nadav Paldi
Italy Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security Directorate-general for Natural Heritage and Sea	Piraccini Riccardo		Fanciulli Laura
Spain Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico	Aurora Mesa Fraile	Carmen Duran Vizan	
Türkiye Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change	Tutku KARADOĞAN Özlem ÖRME Branch Manager	Şeyma UÇAR SEÇGEL	Özlem ÖRME Mehmet Tamer ÇOBANOĞLU
Malta Environment & Resources Authority	Michelle Borg	Giovana Pedrol De Freitas giovana.pedrol-	
EC	Celine FRANK Back up: Xavier GUILLOU	Javier VILLAR BURKE	Javier VILLAR BURKE Back up: Heino NAU
Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)	GHALEB FAOUR, Lebanon	ABDULKARIM SADIK, Palestine IBRAHIM ABDEL GELIL, Egypt	HUSSEIN ABAZA, Egypt MONIA BRAHAM, Tunisia
MedCities	Manca Stefania	Josep Canals Molina	Manca Stefania
MIO-ECSDE		Anastasia Roniotes Thomais Vlachogianni	
MedPan	Carole Martinez		
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)	Mercedes Munoz	Mercedes Munoz	Mercedes Munoz