



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

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The 21st Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Corinth, Greece, 24-26 June 2025

Agenda Item 6: Specific Issues

Report on specific issues

Note by the Secretariat

The present document provides an overview on the following specific issues the 21st MCSD Meetings is invited to comment, while detailed information is provided in the Annexes:

- a) Partially renewed MCSD Membership for the Biennium 2027-2028 and proposal for extension of the Membership
- b) Sustainability Considerations in UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027
- c) Inputs for the 21st MCSD Meeting to COP 24
- d) Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF)

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Report on Specific Issues

I. Updated Membership of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

1. Based on the COP19 Decision IG.22/17 on the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents¹, the Contracting Parties, MCSD Members and the Secretariat (in consultation with UNEP/MAP Components, as appropriate) may nominate Members of the Commission, other than those representing the Contracting Parties, based on written expressions of interest, criteria and modalities provided for in Decision IG.19/6 on “MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership”. The Decision equally defines the general selection criteria that will apply.
2. While the 22 Contracting Parties are permanent MCSD Members, based on paragraph 9. II. of the Composition of the MCSD of Decision IG.22/17 the mandate of the Members representing six groups of stakeholders, namely Local Authorities, Socio-economic Stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organizations, Scientific Community Group, Intergovernmental Organizations and Parliamentarians covers two biennia and is renewable for one additional term.
3. Eleven MCSD Members will have completed three consecutive mandates by COP 24 (Cairo, Egypt, 2-5 December 2025), therefore they have to be considered for replacement for the MCSD composition of the Biennium 2026/2027, as presented in the following table.

The Local Authorities Group:	
AVITEM: Agence des Villes et Territoires Méditerranéens Durables	to be replaced
FAIC: Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities	to be replaced
Med Cities	
The Socio-economic Stakeholders Group:	
Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement	
ASCAME: The Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry	to be replaced
ESCG: The Economic and Social Council of Greece	to be replaced
The Non-Governmental Organizations Group:	
ECO UNION	to be replaced
ESDF: The Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum	to be replaced
MedPAN: Mediterranean Protected Areas Network	to be replaced
The Scientific Community Group	
MedECC: Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change	
CIDCE: Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement	
Dr. Fatima Driouech (IPCC Working Group I, University Polytechnic Mohammed VI, Morocco)	
The Intergovernmental Organizations Group:	
AFED: Arab Forum on the Environment and Development	to be replaced
GWP-Med: Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean	to be replaced
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature	
Parliamentarians:	
Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)	to be replaced
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	to be replaced
PA OSCE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe	

¹ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/6079/16ig22_28_22_17_eng.pdf

4. The 96th meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols of 19-20 November 2024 (Cairo, Egypt) recommended that the process of updating the MCSD membership supports the active participation of MAP Partners and equally promotes the outreach towards new partners that can substantially contribute to the objectives and activities of the MSSD.

5. In line with this recommendation, in February 2025 the Secretariat sent a letter to (a) MAP Partners that are not current MCSD Members, to submit their Expression of Interest to become MCSD Members, under the six groups of stakeholders, as well as (b) to the MCSD Members, kindly requesting indications and support in mobilizing new stakeholders at regional and national level from own networks and areas of work, that could join the MCSD as new Members.

6. In the period February-May 2025 the Secretariat has received 22 Expressions of Interest (EoIs). Out of 22 EoI, 15 are from MAP Partners/Formers MAP Partners and 7 are from new stakeholders, as summarised by the following table that lists the received EoIs by applicants' name in alphabetical order, while Annex I provides a short presentation of each stakeholder.

To be replaced	Received EoIs	
	Local Authorities	
2	MAP Partners	New Stakeholders
		Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) Inter-Mediterranean Commission, Based in Barcelona, Spain
	Socio-economic Stakeholders	
2	MAP Partners	New Stakeholders
	Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Based in Cairo, Egypt	Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS), Based in Turin, Italy
	EnerGeo Alliance, Based in Houston, USA	Sumus Italia S.r.l., Based in Milan and Padua, Italy
	Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Based in Barcelona, Spain	
	UniVerde Foundation, Based in Rome, Italy	
	Non-Governmental Organizations	
	MAP Partners	New Stakeholders
3	Association of Continuity of Generations (ACG), Based in Sfax, Tunisia	Cultural Center Saint Martin, Apulia Region, Based in Lecce, Italy
	Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation (AREBI), Based in Sfax, Tunisia	Lady Lawyer Foundation, Based in Bologna, Italy
	Fispmed Network, Sustainable development and the fight against poverty in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (FISPMED), Based in Venice, Italy	Oceanographic Institute Monaco, Based in Monaco
	Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), Based in Athens, Greece	Traverso Project, Based in Italy
	Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD), Based in Beirut, Lebanon	
	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), Based in Athens, Greece	

	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) , Based in Athens, Greece	
	Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) , Based in Istanbul, Türkiye	
	Worldwide Fund for Nature Mediterranean (WWF MED) , Based in Rome, Italy	
	Youth Love Egypt Foundation (YLE) , Based in Cairo, Egypt	
Intergovernmental Organizations		
2	MAP Partners	New Stakeholders
	Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) , Based in Cairo, Egypt (former MAP Partner)	
Parliamentarians		
2	MAP Partners	New Stakeholders
	None	None

7. Based on the general selection criteria of MAP Partners as per COP 19 Decision IG.22/17 on the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents ², COP 23 Decision IG.26/2 on Governance³, summarized in Annex II, as well as the recommendations of the 96th Bureau Meeting, the proposal by the Secretariat regarding the partially renewed MCSD membership for the biennium 2026-2027, is to identify the new MCSD Members based on the following priority criteria:

- a) MAP Partners
- b) Former MAP Partners
- c) New stakeholders that will be presented as new MAP Partners to the 97th Bureau Meeting
- d) New stakeholders, and after finalization of the eligibility process

8. With reference to the group of Parliamentarians, based on the COP22 Decision IG.25/3 that decided to “Endorse the MCSD’s recommendation to adjust paragraph 9.II. of the MCSD Composition in the MCSD Constitutive Documents (Decision IG.22/17), so that the mandate of the MCSD Members under the group of parliamentarians may be renewable for more than one additional term taking into consideration the need for rotation and for geographical balance to the extent possible, and request the Secretariat to reflect this amendment in the MCSD Constitutive Documents (Decision IG.22/17)”, it is proposed that the mandate of Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) is extended also to the biennium 2026/2027.

² [16ig22_28_22_17_eng.pdf](#)

³ [23ig26_22_2602_eng.pdf](#)

9. The Members of the MCSD are invited to provide their comments and guidance to the Secretariat in view of the subsequent submission of the partially renewed MCSD membership to the MAP Focal Points meeting and for endorsement by the COP24.

10. As foreseen by paragraph B.8 of the MCSD Composition (Decision IG.22/17), the Secretariat will develop a roster with the organizations that have submitted the EoI to become MCSD Members and that will not be finally selected, and to be used for future nominations as Members of the MCSD.

11. Considering the importance of Gender Parity, the important role of Women and Youth involvement in the region the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the MCSD for its consideration the possibility to further breakdown the non-Parties membership categories to the MCSD composition to Women and Youth organizations or increase the MCSD non Party Members number accordingly.

II. Sustainability Considerations in UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027

12. The Sustainability Considerations in UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027 aims at supporting the 21st MCSD Meeting in elaborating its contribution to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) for the Biennium 2026/2027, by integrating relevant sustainability considerations and towards the finalization and submission of the 2026/2027 PoW to the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 24), 2-5 December, Cairo, Egypt.

13. In line with Decision IG.26/14 – ‘Programme of Work and Budget for 2024–2025’, which was adopted by the COP 23 (Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December), the proposed PoW 2026/2027 has been designed to ensure the effective and coherent finalization of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), its strategic outcomes and related targets.

14. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 is built around 27 Outcomes to be delivered through the implementation of 106 main activities, distributed over the MTS Programmes. Its preparation has taken into consideration and integrated to the extent possible the updated framework of Objectives, Strategic Directions, Actions and Flagship Initiatives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), as well as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.

15. After a brief presentation of the rationale and the main envisaged activities of each of the seven Programmes of the proposed PoW 2026/2027, the present document elaborates on the:

- Alignment with the proposed updated MSSD
- Alignment with SDGs

16. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 reflects the implementation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), in particular it has been designed to ensure the effective and coherent finalization of the 2022-2027 MTS, its strategic outcomes and related targets, since this is the last biennium of the current MTS.

Thematic Programme 1: Towards a Pollution and Litter-Free Mediterranean Sea and Coast-Embracing Circular Economy

17. This Programme fully aligns with Objective 2 in the updated MSSD “Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems” that substantially contributes to the healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and GES achievement that sits firmly and historically in the basin approach taken by the MAP and the Barcelona Convention, in particular with the Strategic Directions 2.1 ‘Strengthen implementation, compliance and monitoring with regional requirements of regulatory and policy frameworks of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention for coastal and marine management’.

18. One of the main issues to be addressed under the updated MSSD Objective 2 is the continued environmental degradation and increased risks from marine pollution and marine noise including from

plastic pollution. This is soundly addressed through the proposed PoW 2026/2027 with the provision of a concrete set of activities to reduce and prevent marine and coastal pollution and marine litter, including the assessment of pollution loads from land-based sources and activities, in line with article 15 of the LBS Protocol, , as well as the development of a robust policy framework to reduce and prevent plastic use and engage businesses to prevent plastic use and reduce plastic leakage.

19. This last action of the proposed PoW 2026/2027 that promotes activities on pollution prevention through SCP and circular approaches, sustainable business development and eco-innovation, equally contributes to the updated MSSD Objective 5 ‘Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance’, in particular its Strategic Direction 5.2: ‘Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, to support the shift towards circular economy approaches and sustainable business models’ and Strategic Direction 5.3: Encourage innovation and sustainable business solutions to advance towards the objectives of a just low-carbon, circular, green and blue economy.

20. Under the updated MSSD Objective 3 ‘Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems’ one of the issues addressed include the increased untreated urban wastewater. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 aligns with the planned activity through the development of new regulatory measures in line with article 15 of the LBS Protocol for priority sectors, including national, regional actions and enabling investments, to implement the adopted Regional Plans on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 also promotes sustainable desalination sector in the Mediterranean, in line with dedicated actions of the updated MSSD Objective 3 Strategic direction 3.1: Promote the circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region and Action related to strengthen regional plans on reuse and desalination.

21. One of the issues addressed by the updated MSSD Objective 5 ‘Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance’ is the lack of criteria that take due consideration of environmental, climate and in general sustainability objectives in the selection of public and private investments (green taxonomy). In fact, the MSSD Objective 5 introduces the specific activity 5.5 ‘Lay the groundwork for a Mediterranean Taxonomy of Green and Sustainable Activities to ensure communities and infrastructures adjust to environmental risks, by first setting a common regional framework for classifying public and private financial flows’. The proposed 2026/2027 PoW under MTS Programme 1 is aligned to this priority through the planned enhancement and scale up of the Sustainable Finance MED Observatory.

Alignment with SDGs

22. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 under MTS Programme 1 is aligned with targets under a number of relevant SDGs, especially the SDG 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), and SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). Its proposed activities can contribute in particular to targets 6.a, 6.3, 12.4, 12.5 and 14.1. In addition, gender considerations are integrated into the proposed PoW 2026/2027 activities under Programme 1 thus contributing also to SDG 5 on gender equality.

Thematic Programme 2: Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

23. As for PoW 2026/2027 Programme 1, also Programme 2 fully aligns with Objective 2 in the updated MSSD “Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems”, in particular with the Strategic Directions 2.1 ‘Strengthen implementation, compliance and monitoring with regional requirements of regulatory and policy frameworks of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention for coastal and marine management’.

24. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 also aligns with the updated MSSD and its Objective 2 priorities related to developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approach and framework, recognizing it as an

essential component of integrated coastal zone management. In the last decade the Barcelona Convention has actively worked on developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approach and framework, recognizing it as an essential component of integrated coastal zone management and sustainable development of the region. This is well integrated and upscaled in the framework of the updated MSSD and its Objective 2, specifically under the Strategic Direction 2.2. 'Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources' that will support the implementation of the COP 23 MSP Decision IG.26/10.

25. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 is in line also with the Objective 3 of the updated MSSD "Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems", Strategic direction 3.1 'Promote the circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region', including the flagship initiatives Strategy for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE Nexus) in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum and Mediterranean Forest Initiative.

Alignment with SDGs

26. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 under MTS Programme 2 is aligned with most of the targets under SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), in namely targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, and 14.5, while there are also links with SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss), especially its target 15.1 for activities related to coastal protected areas. SDG 5 on gender equality is also addressed through gender considerations streamlined into this Programme activities.

Thematic Programme 3: Towards a Climate-Resilient Mediterranean

27. The proposed 2026/2027 PoW is fully and perfectly aligned with the updated MSSD Objective 1, and in particular with the following Strategic Directions: 1.1: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognizing and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems; 1.2: Accelerate the uptake of climate smart and climate resilient responses; 1.3: Leverage existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms, including international and domestic instruments, and enhance the engagement of the private and finance sectors; 1.4: Encourage institutional, policy and legal reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks, all sectors; 1.6 Strengthen national and local capacities on the application of nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

28. The proposed 2026/2027 PoW is aligned with the key MSSD flagship initiative 'Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC) that will prepare the Summary for policy makers Second Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR2).

29. In addition, the activities on mainstream adaptation to climate change into local ICZM plans included in the proposed 2026/2027 PoW is aligned with the updated MSSD Objective 2 'Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems', specifically with the Strategic Direction 2.2 'Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources' and related actions tackling the development of national guidelines for auditing and planning of green and blue infrastructure, with reference to natural and human-induced risks, including climate change. the support the coexistence in using marine space, as promoted by COP 23 MSP Decision IG.26/10, the promotion of MSP implementation, including capacity building and sharing of best practices at regional and sub-regional level and the setup of coastal resilience platform, including regional compendium of adaptation measures for coastal and marine sectors.

30. The proposed 2026/2027 PoW is also aligned with the updated MSSD Objective 4 'Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities' and its Strategic direction 4.7 'Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards including

climate change’ and related actions on the utilization of spatial planning systems and land management instruments for sustainable urban/coastal planning and balanced development in urban areas that incorporate measures for infrastructure provision, relevant for climate change adaptation.

31. Finally, the proposed 2026/2027 PoW actions related to circular economy business models to support climate change adaptation and mitigation innovative solutions is well aligned both with the updated MSSD Objective 1 ‘Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Transition as a priority’ and the Strategic Direction 1.5 ‘Promote economy decarbonization energy transition and deployment of renewable energies’ as well as with the updated MSSD Objective 5 ‘Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance’ and Strategic Directions 5.2 ‘Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, to support the shift towards circular economy approaches and sustainable business models’; 5.3 ‘Encourage innovation and sustainable business solutions to advance towards the objectives of a just low-carbon, circular, green and blue economy’ and 5.4 ‘Promote the integration of sustainability, circularity and climate change principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment’.

Alignment with SDGs

32. The proposed 2026/2027 PoW under MTS Programme 3 is aligned with most of the targets under SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), especially targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, as well as targets under SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), especially targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6. Also, SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) is addressed, especially targets 12.3. Gender considerations are also mainstreamed into this Programme thus aligning with relevant targets under SDG 5 on gender equality.

Thematic Programme 4: Towards the Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources Including Circular and Blue Economy

33. Under this programme, relevant MAP Components, mainly PAP/RAC MedWaves, Plan Blue/RAC, and REMPEC will join efforts under the coordination of the CU to ensure the use of Sustainable Blue and Green Economy tools and approaches in the context of Sustainable Development and MSSD implementation and synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches, including the adequate consideration of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI) including innovative environmental management and economic instruments and application of defined measures within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, and facilitating the science-policy dialogue.

34. The proposed 2026/2027 PoW under MTS Programme 4 is directly aiming at supporting sustainable use of resources and promoting sustainable blue economy, including through the effective use of economic instruments and other tools for nature conservation and sustainable development. It is therefore fully aligned with the updated MSSD, in particular its Objective 5 which focuses on the transition towards a green and blue economy, based on the principle that socio-economic development needs to be harmonized with the environment and protection of natural resources to achieve the vision of the MSSD.

35. The proposed 2026-2027 PoW under Programme 4 complements the Programme 1 and the planned enhancement and scale up the Sustainable Finance MED Observatory, and with reference to the contribution to the updated MSSD Objective 5, specifically on the activities related to Strategic Directions 5.5 that aims at laying the groundwork for a Mediterranean Taxonomy of Green and Sustainable Activities. Main actions will address the development of a national Framework for Green and Sustainable Investments integrating diverse financial instruments; national green and sustainable finance networks bringing together financial institutions, governments, private sector, academia, and NGOs; a regional Framework for Green and Sustainable Investments that incorporates Mediterranean-specific challenges; and regional guidelines for green and sustainable budgeting practices to integrate environmental and climate objectives.

36. The proposed PoW 2026/2027 Programme 4 also complements the Programme 2 and 3 on the updated MSSD priorities related to developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and ICZM, in particular the Strategic Direction 2.2 ‘Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources’, including the implementation of COP 23 MSP Decision IG.26/10 on the MSP and the development of the MSP regional work group initially set up in July 2024 in the framework of the MSSD update. Main actions of Programme 4 include implementation of CAMP projects, support to CPs in preparing National ICZM Strategies and coastal plans, support to CPs in implementing MSP, update of the methodological guidance for ICZM / MSP/ CCA in the Mediterranean, Strengthening of the MSP governance in the Mediterranean.

Alignment with SDGs:

37. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the proposed PoW activities relating to sustainable blue and green economy, these are aligned with a number of SDG targets, in particular those under SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

Foundational Programme 5: Governance

38. The proposed 2026-2027 PoW under Programme 5, especially through its activities on the delivery of MCSD and its Steering Committee meetings as well as resource mobilization activities, is also aligned with the MSSD Strategic Directions relating to the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD, in particular the Strategic Direction 7.1 on the establishment and strengthening of structures for sustainable development implementation at national and regional scale and the Strategic Direction 7.2 on the establishment of regional processes for the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD.

39. With reference to the Strategic Direction 7.3. on the MSSD financing the proposed 2026-2027 PoW will contribute by promoting outreach and regional synergies, funding opportunities and enhanced partnership of MSSD flagship initiatives through 2 online regional workshops to maximize funding opportunities, as well as targeted actions under MSSD Flagship initiatives implemented in collaboration with the leading partners.

Alignment with SDGs

40. The proposed 2026/2027 under Programme 5 is aligned with a number of SDGs across the board, in particular targets under the SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) especially its targets 17.1, 17.14, 17.16 and 17.17. Promotion of gender mainstreaming into UNEP/MAP operations and activities is among the main objectives of the proposed PoW under this Programme and it is therefore also aligned with relevant targets under SDG 5 on gender equality.

Enabling Programme 6: Towards Monitoring, Assessment, Knowledge and Vision of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast for Informed Decision-Making

41. Under this programme, key activities will be implemented to strengthen the science-policy interface and decision-making by implementing science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessment tools and thematic indicators, including data-driven national IMAP-based monitoring programmes and building the national and institutional capacity for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and forecasting.

Alignment with SDGs

42. Considering that the Programme 6 is an enabling and therefore cross-cutting Programme of the MAP MTS 2022-2027, the respective activities of the proposed 2026-2027 PoW are also horizontally aligned with SDGs and targets across the board, but they are especially aligned with targets under the SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Enabling Programme 7: For Informed and Consistent Advocacy, Awareness, Education and Communication

43. The proposed 2026-2027 PoW will continue to be a key tool to promote and ensure the implementation of the flagship initiatives WeMed Sustainability Award and the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, supporting respectively circular economy of businesses under Objective 5 and best practices towards sustainable cities under Objective 4.

Alignment with SDGs

44. Similarly to the previous Programme 6, considering that the Programme 7 is also an enabling cross-cutting Programme of the MAP MTS 2022-2027, the respective activities are also horizontally aligned with SDGs and targets across the board, especially with targets under SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) but also with SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) for thematic communication and awareness raising activities, in particular its targets 12.4, 12.5 and 12.8.

III. Inputs for the 21st MCSD Meeting to COP 24

45. The Inputs for the 21st MCSD Meeting to COP 24 present a proposal for undertaking a consultation for the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration of the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 24) (Cairo, Egypt, 2-5 December 2025), and include sustainable development considerations.

46. In addition, COP 24, as customary in the MAP system, will have its Ministerial-level discussions which will lead to the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

47. Discussions are ongoing on the selection of the main theme of COP 24 and on the format of its high-level segment. A relevant proposal will be submitted to the 97th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Greece, 1-2 July 2025) which is expected to provide advice on the way forward.

48. Based on the provisional agenda of the 21st Meeting of the MCSD and its outcome, the MCSD is expected to bring issues of relevance to the attention of COP 24 and its Ministerial Session and Declaration, including the way forward in terms of possible commitments and outreach.

49. Initial elements for reflection could tackle the importance to highlighting in the COP24 theme of the Ministerial Session also the pivotal role of sustainable circular economy in providing solutions for a climate resilient and healthy Mediterranean, thus reflecting one of the key aspects of the updated MSSD.

50. The 21st Meeting of the MCSD is invited to reflect on the above considerations and provide initial feedback on priority issues and key areas for taking into account sustainability considerations in the preparation of the COP24 Ministerial Declaration.

51. Further to this initial feedback to be provided during the MCSD meeting, it is also important for the MCSD to agree on a consultation process to provide further input during the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration.

52. For example, the meeting may wish to consider giving the mandate to the MCSD Steering Committee to coordinate the process of providing the inputs by MCSD to the Ministerial Declaration, based also on the inputs provided during the 21st MCSD meeting. As for the COP 23, a second option could be to agree to establish an extended committee, with participation of the MCSD Steering Committee Members and some further Members of the MCSD in a voluntary basis, which will work together to draft a number of elements that would be presented to the MAP Focal Points meeting by the chair of the MCSD, for consideration and possible inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration

IV. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF)

53. 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).

54. 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.

55. 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.

56. The initial phase of the RCCAF update included desk review of MAP and other relevant assessments, complemented by a consultation with the Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), MAP Components and MAP Partners, and through a specially designed questionnaire and interviews.

57. The elements for the updated RCCAF were presented as information document at the Thematic Ad Hoc MCSD meeting took place in Istanbul, Türkiye on 12-13 February 2025, that provided substantial feedback.

58. The update process of the 2016 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) is being coordinated with the MSSD update, mutually feeding each other on climate change priorities, and responding to the mandate of COP23 and to be submitted for endorsement at the 24th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP24, Cairo, Egypt, 2-5 December 2025).

59. The RCCAF is still considered a relevant framework, and the main updates concern the alignment with the most recent global and regional policy framework, the appropriate streamlined reference to nature-based solutions, linkages to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), further integrating climate adaptation into local planning processes, national fiscal resilience and factoring to range plausible climate scenarios into economic policies and an understanding of disaster risk management, accessing domestic/international and private financing, the identification of practical climate change adaptation solutions, best practices and pilots, strengthening climate adaptation awareness and engagement, incorporating gender aspects and vulnerable groups, monitoring and evaluation framework of the RCCAF implementation.

60. A regional workshop on Climate Change is planned to take place on 8-9 July 2025 in Türkiye and to review the RCCAF and recommend its submission to the MAP Focal Points in September 2025.

Annex I

Partially renewed MCSD Membership for the Biennium 2027/2028

Presentation of the received Stakeholders' EoIs by applicants' name and alphabetical order

Local Authorities			
MAP Partners	New Stakeholders		
	Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) Inter-Mediterranean Commission https://cpmr-intermed.org Based in Barcelona, Spain	Overall Presentation The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together more than 150 regional authorities from 24 countries across the European Union and beyond, representing around 200 million people. Since its creation in 1973. Organised into geographical commissions, the CPMR operates as both a think tank and a lobby, promoting a more balanced territorial development. It focuses on key areas such as cohesion policy, maritime affairs and blue growth, transport and accessibility, energy and climate change, migration, neighborhood and development. The CPMR produces policy positions based on input from its members and supports its advocacy with studies, analyses, and technical papers and implements projects. The Atlantic Arc, the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Intermediterranean, the Balkan and Black Sea and the Islands are the six Geographical Commissions of the CPMR. Each Geographical Commission has its own organisational structure, so that it can promote its specific identity and cooperate on subjects of common interest.	Relevance to Sustainable Development The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission work focuses on the development of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and territorial cooperation, concentrating its efforts on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy, Green and Blue Economy, Economic and Social Cohesion, Water and Energy. CPMR Intermediterranean Commission has a long track list of regional/sub-regional projects implemented in the region, and cooperates in a number of regional initiatives led by UfM and European Commission and covering the cooperation with North, South, East shores.

Socio-economic Stakeholders			
MAP Partners	New Stakeholders		
Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) https://raednetwork.org/en/home/ Based in Cairo, Egypt <u>RAED is a MAP Partner since COP19 and has been renewed by COP 22</u>		Overall Presentation RAED is an Arab network, registered in Egypt as an international non-governmental organization (68/2007), with more than 300 NGOs members from Arab Countries, in North Africa and West Asia. It was established in 1990 during the preparations for the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro, and since then has been following up on the progress of the three UN Conventions; UNCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD. RAED is also accredited in all three conventions. Throughout the years, RAED has partnered with national entities such as line ministries, local authorities, academia and research centers, media, CSOs, among other stakeholders. As well as, with many regional and international organizations and entities, such as EU, UNEP, UNEP/MAP, UFM, LAS, GNDR, GIZ, UNDP, UNESCO, UNESCWA, UNESCO, UNDRR, IUCN/MED, IUCN/ROWA, Global Water Partnership, Mediterranean Water Partnership, GEF/Small Grants Programme, European Climate Foundation, among many others..	Relevance to Sustainable Development RAED's main mandate is to enhance the role of Arab Civil Society Organizations to become key partners among all relevant stakeholders. RAED leads effective networking among member NGOs to ensure their active involvement in national, regional and global events and activities. RAED is active in the fields of climate change, biodiversity conservation, integrated water management, disaster risk reduction, education for sustainable development, circular economy, combating and desertification. Throughout its programs, projects and activities, RAED follows a participatory and inclusive approach, taking gender, youth and people with disabilities into full consideration. RAED is also contributing to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development, through partnering with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports in Cyprus in transferring the Cypriot experience on Green Schools, and currently working on more than 30 schools in Greater Cairo in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education.

EnerGeo Alliance (Previously named IAGC) https://energeoalliance.org Based in Houston, USA <u>EnerGeo Alliance is a MAP Partner since COP21</u>		Overall Presentation Founded in 1971, EnerGeo Alliance is a global trade association for the energy geoscience industry. The Alliance represents the geoscience companies, innovators, and energy developers that use earth science to discover, develop, and deliver energy. Member companies unify to open the gateway to the safe discovery, development, and delivery of energy solutions. Representing members including extensive operations within the Mediterranean, the Alliance strives to support responsible operations at sea, complying with or exceeding all relevant requirements related to minimising the potential impact of operations on the environment. The Alliance has been engaging in setting best practice, participating in research and raising standards across industry.	Relevance to Sustainable Development EnerGeo Alliance has established sustainability initiatives related to marine debris removal (Sustainable Seas Initiative), recently launched a dedicated research program related to the potential impacts of underwater sound (Sound, Environment and Aquatic Species, or ‘SEAS’ Research Program) and developed best practice emissions reporting guidance related specifically to geophysical survey operations. Since 2023 EnerGeo Alliance engaged in Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon.
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) https://www.euromed-economists.org Based in Barcelona, Spain <u>EMEA is a MAP Partner since COP23</u>		Overall Presentation Founded in 2012, EMEA is a leading regional innovative think and act tank, that aims at contributing to the changing realities in the Euro-Mediterranean and Africa, EMEA brings together leading economists and high-level international and local experts to think for the future of the Euro-Mediterranean and Africa in a multi-polar world. It serves as a leading independent and innovative research institution and forum for debate on the political and socio-economic reforms in the Mediterranean and Africa with the aim of promoting sustainability, inclusiveness, and regional economic integration and prosperity. It strives to	Relevance to Sustainable Development EMEA’s mission is to bridge science, policy, and action, promoting evidence-based solutions for sustainable development across the Mediterranean. EMEA actively advances environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and inclusive growth. To this end EMEA also promotes innovative initiatives in the fields of economics, management and finance for the Euro- Mediterranean and Africa and to take stock of best international practices; promotes activities and actions for a transparent, responsible, inclusive and sustainable economic development and provides targeted expertise on areas relevant to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean.

		contribute to the rethinking of the Euro-Mediterranean and African partnerships in view of the changing dynamics in an emerging multi-polar world.	
	Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS) https://reterus.it Based in Turin, Italy Suggested by Italy	Overall Presentation Promoted by the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) since July 2016, the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS) mark the first experience of information sharing and coordination among all Italian Universities committed to the topic of environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The main goal of RUS is to spread the culture of sustainability, both within and outside Universities, by sharing skills and experiences. The aim is to increase the positive impact in terms of environmental, ethical, social and economic actions, which are currently implemented by each university, in order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and to strengthen the value of the Italian experience on an International level. RUS's Goals include creating a community able to develop, transfer/adapt national and International best practices, with particular attention to sustainability and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal; Promoting projects within the network, which have already been successfully tested;	Relevance to Sustainable Development The RUS working group on climate change raises awareness and supports climate action within academic institutions, while the resource working group management promote research and disseminate best practices for the sustainable use and preservation of marine and coastal resources. Through its "Food" working group, RUS leads initiatives to position universities as models of sustainable food systems, addressing aspects such as responsible sourcing, consumption practices, food education, waste management, and partnerships with local actors. RUS fosters sustainable urban practices through its regional subnetworks and active collaboration with local authorities. RUS encourages the shift toward sustainable economic models through collaboration with public and private stakeholders, contributing to green and blue economic transitions. As a national coordination platform, RUS engages multiple stakeholders and supports the development of sustainable policies through participatory and inclusive approaches.

		developing joint initiatives in areas such as knowledge and skills transmission and with a focus on learning and on a multi-stakeholders; developing a multidisciplinary approach in university programs; Training and updating the staff of Italian universities on the topics of sustainable development.	
	Sumus Italia S.r.l. https://sumusitalia.it/en/ Based in Milan and Padua, Italy Suggested by Italy	Overall Presentation Sumus Italia Srl is a private company founded in 2013, designs and manufactures paper bags for separate waste collection, using 100% recycled paper and natural inks and glues. The patented solutions for biowaste management promote aerobic degradation, reduce odors, and support efficient, hygienic in-home waste practices. The paper biowaste bags ensure weight reduction, high-quality resistance properties and improve biogas production. The paperbags from 7 to 20 liters for organic are covered by world patent. Sumus Italia Srl, has developed and recently patented worldwide the first sheet of recycled paper for active mulching.	Relevance to Sustainable Development Sumus Italia Srl, promotes sustainable waste management in coastal areas, fostering circular practices and reducing environmental pressure and improve natural resource management. It promotes high-quality separate collection of organic waste to maximize biogas and biomethane production from the organic fraction of municipal solid waste. Sumus Italia Srl has collaborates with Mediterranean municipalities to enhance separate waste collection and community composting and has been actively involved in the "60 years of circular economy" conference, discussing recycling and sustainable resource management. Sumus Italia Srl presence at COP28 reinforced its role in promoting circular solutions such as composting and biowaste valorization to reduce environmental impacts. Sumus Srl actively collaborates with the relevant Ministry in the development of Green Public Procurement criteria, supporting transparent and responsible governance.
UniVerde Foundation https://www.fondazioneunivverde.it		Overall Presentation UniVerde is a non-profit Foundation founded in 2008 that promotes the dissemination of ecological knowledge and culture for a change	Relevance to Sustainable Development The UniVerde Foundation produces and supports publications, web, TV and radio information, training courses also for administrators, managers, public and

Based in Rome, Italy <u>UniVerde Foundation is a MAP Partner since COP21</u>		in lifestyles in harmony with the natural environment and a sustainable future. It organizes and supports meetings, conferences, conferences, seminars, workshops, competitions, publications, exhibitions, opinion polls, awareness and information campaigns and any other initiative useful for the dissemination of ecological thought and practice, also in collaboration with institutions, associations, bodies, universities, businesses and civil society.	private officials; projects and any other initiatives related to the ecological transition of society and the economy, in collaboration with relevant associations, universities and institutions. UniVerde supports the development of ecologically-oriented schools/universities, international cooperation and solidarity initiatives; environment laws, regulations and any other measures relevant at local, national and international level.
Non-Governmental Organizations			
MAP Partners	New Stakeholders		
Association of Continuity of Generations (ACG) https://acg-generations.org Based in Sfax, Tunisia <u>ACG is a MAP Partner since COP21 and renewed COP 22</u>		Overall Presentation Founded in 2009, the ACG was born out of the desire of young people, women and the local community of Sfax to develop their region. ACG works to promote sustainable development goals, preserve the environment, empower women and young people, and raise awareness among young people of the importance of good citizenship. The missions include protecting the environment, exchanging knowledge between generations, building the capacities of vulnerable young people and women, and promoting human rights and social peace.	Relevance to Sustainable Development ACG actions focus on preserving biodiversity, combating climate change, managing waste and reducing plastic pollution. ACG also works on ecotourism and sustainable tourism, promoting responsible management of natural resources while supporting local development. ACG is also involved in the co-management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and campaigns for integrated and sustainable coastal zone management, contributing to the preservation of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities through nature-based solutions. ACG has a sound experience in managing sustainable development projects carried out in close collaboration with national and international partners (government, public institutions, professional organisations and donors such as the Med Fund, FAO, GEF, UNDP, EU, WB, etc.). ACG is also a member of several networks and committees, including UNEP MAP since 2020,

			GPML, GEF, and MED PAN, ECOSOC, RONACED as network president, route culinaire de la tunisie as network president, FTED, Island innovation as ambassador. The ACG was awarded in 2023 by the Ministry of the Environment as part of the 'Clean up year' programme and in 2024 as champion of plastic pollution prevention in the Mediterranean.
Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation (AREBI) www.arebi.tn Based in Sfax, Tunisa <u>AREBI is a MAP Partner since COP 22</u>		Overall Presentation The activities of AREB and its experts brings together the research activities undertaken in various fields relating to the SDGs. activities within the association and at academic level encompass 8 Sustainable Development Goals.	Relevance to Sustainable Development AREBI implements projects focusing the following SGD's: - 2, Zero Hunger - 3, Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages - 4, Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all - 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - 6, E availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all - 8, Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all - 9, Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation - 14, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
	Cultural Center Saint Martin, Apulia Region https://www.sanmartinopuglia.com Based in Lecce, Italy	Overall Presentation Cultural Center Saint Martin promotes sustainable development as a member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),	Relevance to Sustainable Development Cultural Center Saint Martin is promoting sustainable development as a member of the National Forum for Sustainable Development. Towards a new Open

	Suggested by Italy	thanks to the consultative status obtained in 2023. Cultural Center Saint Martin is member of Italian network of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and member of Anna Llinth Foundation, the European Federation of Saint Martin cultural itinerary, recognized by the European Council; the Open government; ICESP Italian Circular Economy stakeholder platform.	Government model for the national strategy for sustainable development.
Fispmed Network, Sustainable development and the fight against poverty in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (FISPMED) https://www.fispmed.org Based in Venice, Italy <u>FISPMED is a MAP Partner since COP 20 and it has been renewed at COP23</u>		Overall Presentation FISPMED was established in 2004, building on the positive experience gained through the SEAM project, supported by the European Commission (DG Enlargement and DG Regional Policies) and the Italian Minister of the Environment. This led to the creation of a network consisting of 188 partners from 38 different countries, including cultural institutions, NGOs, non-governmental agencies, study centres, research institutes, and universities. In 2008, the Veneto Region became a founding member. Today, the association has 239 partners in 39 different countries across the Euro-Mediterranean and Black Sea area, representing over 1.8 million citizens. The coordination office is staffed by four full-time employees. FISPMED prioritizes environmental issues and sustainable development in accordance with numerous international documents	Relevance to Sustainable Development FISPMED works to strengthen the contribution of the civil society it represents, giving it the opportunity to express its views on community and international policies in which it is directly involved. FISPMED focuses on actions aimed at: - Improving water management and related demand - Promoting rational energy use, increasing the use of renewable energy resources, and additionally, mitigating climate changes and initiating adaptation processes - Supporting sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management; Ensuring sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector - Ensuring sustainable agricultural and rural development; Promoting sustainable urban development - Fostering the sustainable development of the sea, coastal areas, and marine resources.

Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA) https://www.helmepa.gr/en Based in Athens, Greece <u>HELMEPA is a MAP Partner since COP18 and it has been renewed at COP21</u>		Overall Presentation HELMEPA is an Association of Greek seafarers and ship owners to safeguard the seas from ship-generated pollution funded in 1982. HELMEPA encourage Greek ship companies, operators, managers and agents wherever located, as well as masters, deck and engineer officers and seafarer members of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation to enlist in the Association as Members; Cooperates with and assist the government of Greece on issues related to international laws and regulations designed for the protection of the marine environment and life at sea; Promotes nurture a high level of environmental consciousness within the ranks of the Greek maritime community with the means of education, information, motivation and publicity.	Relevance to Sustainable Development HELMEPA implements activities related to the protection of the marine environment. Key activities are the "Network of Volunteer Teachers for the Marine Environment" with seminars on "Sea and Man: Ensuring a Sustainable Future"; extensive information campaigns 'No Garbage, No plastic in Seas and Beaches'; Since 1991, HELMEPA coordinates in Greece the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign, which takes place during the third weekend of every September. In cooperation with the MED POL Program of UNEP/MAP, HELMEPA together with the NGOs MIO-ECSDE and CLEANUP GREECE are implementing a Public Awareness Campaign on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean. HELMEPA coordinates in Greece the digital recording of litter collected by volunteers during beach cleanups using EEA's <i>MarineLitterWatch</i>. Since 2014, following an invitation by the European Environment Agency (EEA), HELMEPA participates in the annual meetings of European experts on the monitoring of marine litter in European seas.
Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD) https://www.headngo.org Based in Beirut, Lebanon <u>HEAD is a MAP Partner since COP21</u>		Overall Presentation HEAD is a non-governmental organization officially registered under the Ministerial Decree of 2009. HEAD is committed to the protection and preservation of the environment, focusing on safeguarding the essential elements of life: earth, air, water, and biodiversity. The mission is to promote sustainable solutions that ensure the health and well-being. To this end the main	Relevance to Sustainable Development On Marine Conservation and Biodiversity Protection HEAD has implemented several projects aimed at preserving marine biodiversity and combating the degradation of marine ecosystems. On Beach and Coastal Cleanups HEAD has organized numerous beach and coastal cleanup activities in

		actions concern environmental awareness, enhance technical skills, and foster environmental citizenship within communities, with a particular focus on women, children, and youth.	Lebanon, engaging local communities, schools, and volunteers. On Plastic Pollution Reduction HEAD has been involved in initiatives focused on minimizing plastic waste. On Sustainable Fisheries and Ecosystem Management HEAD works closely with local fishermen and communities to promote sustainable fishing practices that preserve marine ecosystems while providing sustainable livelihoods. On Research and Monitoring of Marine Ecosystems HEAD collaborates with universities, research institutions, and other environmental organizations to monitor the health of Lebanon's marine and coastal ecosystems. On Climate Change and Ocean Health HEAD also addresses the intersection of climate change and marine ecosystems, advocating for policies that protect vulnerable coastal areas from the effects of sea-level rise
	Lady Lawyer Foundation https://ladylawyervillageposts.wordpress.com Based in Bologna, Italy Suggested by Italy	Overall Presentation Lady Lawyer Foundation (LLF) is a non-governmental organization established in 2014 with the aim to put human rights standards at the heart of global governance and policy-making and to ensure that the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable are addressed on the global stage; to provide a trusted, impartial space for dialogue and independent analysis to deepen understanding of human rights challenges; to raise corporate standards and strengthen public policy to ensure that the activities of companies do not contribute to human rights abuses, and in fact lead to positive.	Relevance to Sustainable Development Participation to the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Partnership, the Investor Alliance for the Human Rights, the Forum for sustainable Developed of the Italian Ministry for energy Security, the climate heritage network, the business collation for a Global Plastic Treaty.

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) https://medasset.org Based in Athens, Greece <u>MEDASSET is a MAP Partner since COP19 and it has been renewed at COP22</u>		Overall Presentation MEDASSET is an international environmental NGO working to protect sea turtles in their natural habitats throughout the Mediterranean Sea. MEDASSET was founded in 1988 in England and in 1993 in Greece. The mission of MEDASSET is to win a place for sea turtles in the hearts of the public and to establish them as a flagship species for the conservation needs of marine and coastal habitats throughout the Mediterranean region. To ensure these needs are central to national and international policy and to support the creation of future measures for the protection and conservation of sea turtles, their habitats and the marine environment in general.	Relevance to Sustainable Development MEDASSET's work is supported by key international intergovernmental organisations. MEDASSET is an official partner status for the implementation of UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles. MEDASSET is also a Permanent Observer-Member to the Bern Convention (Council of Europe). MEDASSET regularly attend the annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, in order to exchange information and experiences with the international community. MEDASSET works under the main themes of: Sea turtles, coastal & marine habitats, Marine Protected Areas, Fisheries interaction, Sustainable and responsible tourism, Litter & pollution, Sustainable coastal & offshore development, Climate change and Maritime traffic impact mitigation. MEDASSET has completed 68 programmes and campaigns, 121 publications and articles, 143 technical & research reports and contributed to 84 international meetings.
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) https://mio-ecsde.org Based in Athens, Greece <u>MIO-ECSDE is a MAP Partner since COP18 and it has been renewed at COP21</u>		Overall Presentation MIO-ECSDE is a non-profit Federation of 136 Mediterranean NGOs for Environment and Sustainable Development. MIO-ECSDE mission is to protect the Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage and promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean, in co-operation with governments, international organisations, other socio-economic partners and networks.	Relevance to Sustainable Development MIO-ECSDE implements a number of MSSD flagship initiatives: 1. The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development; 2. Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; 3. Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions. Since June 2024, MIO-ECSDE has been contributing to the Working Group on Circular Economy (WGCE) for

		MIO-ECSDE acts as technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Euro-Mediterranean scene on resources and waste, nature, biodiversity, cultural diversity, climate change, health and environment as well as on horizontal and cross-cutting issues. <u>MIO-ECSDE has been a MCSD in the biennium 2018-2019.</u>	the MSSD update 2026-2035 period. In terms of the new proposed Flagships, MIO-ECSDE is an active partner in the following the Strategy for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE Nexus); Mediterranean Forest Initiative; Youth involvement in the MSSD.
	Oceanographic Institute Monaco https://www.oceano.org/en/ Based in Monaco	Overall Presentation The Oceanographic Institute was founded in 1906 and it implements a wide range of outreach activities: the Oceanographic Institute has been actively involved for over a century in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea, through its mission to promote ocean knowledge, conservation, and sustainable governance. The Mediterranean programme positions the Institute as a science-based platform for dialogue and action, mobilising scientists, policymakers, civil society, and the private sector around a shared ambition: to make the Mediterranean a model of sustainable ocean management.	Relevance to Sustainable Development Organization of yearly appointment on Monaco blue initiative, supporting the development of sustainable blue economy and supporting Mediterranean stakeholders' engagement. The Monaco Ocean Week Initiative supports a week of meetings, debates and actions dedicated to the Ocean and Sea specifically focusing on the analysis of the major issues of marine conservation and mobilise to preserve the oceans. The Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge is an international competition aimed at students and young entrepreneurs which aims to provide concrete support for the creation and development of start-ups capable of demonstrating a positive impact on ocean preservation in the short to medium term. The Med Visioning Initiative, in collaboration with civil society, academia and the private sector, aims to develop a collective action-oriented foresight on the future of the Mediterranean marine environment, looking beyond 2030. This participatory process will provide a bottom-up contribution from non-state actors to UNOC3 (Nice 2025).

			The exhibition Méditerranée 2050, launched in March 2025 raises public awareness on Mediterranean futures, inviting millions of visitors to reflect on scientific foresight, regional challenges, and the urgent need for coordinated action.
	Traverso Project https://www.instagram.com/traverso_project/ Based in Italy Suggested by Italy	Overall Presentation The Traverso Project is a civil society initiative dedicated to fostering regenerative port systems and sustainable coastal development in the Mediterranean, grounded in the principles of UNESCO's Ocean Literacy Framework and fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Traverso actively promotes a transformative vision of ports as hubs of ecological innovation, social equity, and cultural revitalization, emphasizing inclusive dialogue between maritime stakeholders, institutions, youth, and local communities.	Relevance to Sustainable Development In 2024, Traverso launched a 10-point Position Paper outlining key priorities for transitioning toward regenerative ports, which include: decarbonization, circular economies in port areas, community engagement, nature-based solutions, and digital transparency for coastal monitoring. This document, co-drafted with a network of civil society actors, is now being promoted as a common platform among Mediterranean NGOs and port communities.
Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) https://tudav.org/en/ Based in Istanbul, Türkiye <u>TUDAV is a MAP Partner since COP18 and it has been renewed at COP21</u>		Overall Presentation TUDAV was established in 1997 by a group of scientists, seafarers, and nature experts and is dedicated to marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries, and marine policy development in Türkiye and the broader Mediterranean region. Through scientific research, capacity-building initiatives, and stakeholder engagement, TUDAV actively contributes to the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources. TUDAV supports various studies, especially studies on	Relevance to Sustainable Development TUDAV has extensive experience in EU-funded projects that align with the MSSD, as - SHORE Project (2023 – ongoing): Funded by the EU Horizon program, the project aims to enhance ocean literacy by engaging students, teachers, and schools - Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas and Coasts of Antalya/Mediterranean Sea (2017/2019) - Ölüdeniz Conservation Action Plan / LIFE Project (2003-2004): conservation action plan for the

		biodiversity, creates a data bank for the purpose of information exchange, develops research studies, organizes seminars and conservation guidelines, especially for fishermen and other members of society. TUDAV invests efforts also on the establishment of Special Protected Areas, thus researches and practices are conducted.	Ölüdeniz Lagoon on the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye, which face significant tourism pressure - MARLISCO FP7 Project (2012-2015): Aimed at reducing marine litter in European seas by fostering social awareness and co-responsibility. - Gökçeada Marine Park Underwater Trail - EU Project (2016-2017) on Civil Society Dialogue.
Worldwide Fund for Nature Mediterranean (WWF MED) https://www.wwfmmi.org Based in Rome, Italy <u>WWF MED is a MAP Partner since COP18 and it has been renewed at COP21</u>		Overall Presentation WWF Mediterranean's strategy is the regional translation of WWF International's global strategy, which embeds targets and goals from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.	Relevance to Sustainable Development WWF Mediterranean coordinates Mediterranean offices and is at the helm of projects that range from transforming the fisheries sector to address its environmental, social and economic sustainability (SDGs 1, 2, 12, 14) to the conservation and management of Posidonia oceanica and its contribution to carbon sequestration (SDGs 13 and 14), to achieving plastic smart (plastic free) cities (SDGs 11, 14, 15), to developing the capacity of MPA Managers to address pressures and impacts from blue economy sectors. In implementing its strategy and projects, WWF Mediterranean involves a vast array of stakeholders, including the solar and wind power industry, the shipping industry, the fishing sector (both small and large scale) and local communities (SDGs 9, 17). Other crucial activities in which WWF Mediterranean engages include fundraising for specific regional priorities such as data collection and capacity building and providing policy makers with science-based recommendations and tools to improve Mediterranean ecosystems' status.
Youth Love Egypt Foundation (YLE)		Overall Presentation The Youth Loves Egypt Foundation is a civil organization registered in 2012 and works in	Relevance to Sustainable Development The YLE has a key role in providing insights and expertise in the following SDGs areas:

https://yle-foundation.com/en/ Based in Cairo, Egypt <u>WWF MED is a MAP Partner since COP18 and it has been renewed at COP21</u>		the field of protecting the environment, youth and sustainable development and in order to achieve sustainable development goals. Youth Love Egypt Foundation has an extensive experience in sustainable development, both at the national and regional levels. Its commitment to advancing environmental and socio-economic sustainability is evident through its leadership role within YLE, where it successfully led projects addressing climate change, youth engagement, and environmental justice in the Mediterranean region.	- Quality Education: YLE works on raising the awareness and empower youth to join climate action through offering quality education - Clean Water and Sanitation: YLE Foundation leads clean-up efforts to protect water bodies, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable sanitation practices. - Climate Action: YLE works on raising awareness and empower youth to join climate action through offering quality education we work to implement projects to adapt or mitigate the climate change in vulnerable communities - Reduce Inequalities: YLE is dedicated to empowering youth, women, and vulnerable communities to actively participate in environmental, educational, and socio-economic development. - Our focus is going towards the preservation of Nile River, Mediterranean Sea and Red sea, we implement so many cleanup activities on it.
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Intergovernmental Organizations

MAP Partners	New Stakeholders		
Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Based in Cairo, Egypt (former MAP Partner) https://new.cedare.org/new.cedare.org/ Based in Cairo, Egypt		Overall Presentation CEDARE was established in 1992 as an international inter-governmental Organization with diplomatic status. This was in response to the convention adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible For the Environment in 1991, and upon the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).	Relevance to Sustainable Development CEDARE's Sustainable Growth Programme (SGP) addresses new and emerging concepts related to environment and development for human well-being, with a focus on issues related to Sustainable Consumption and Production, Green economy, and Green ICT. The Programme collaborates with global, regional and national efforts, addressing poverty alleviation, health, waste reduction (e-waste), green jobs, green ICT, pollution reduction, greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable consumption and production,

		CEDARE experience has been varied covering several initiatives, projects and activities in the various branches of natural resources, whether water, land, or coastal and marine; environmental management in urban areas, with a special emphasis on solid waste management; and the utilization of environmental information systems, especially in integrated environmental assessment; in addition to several activities related to the socioeconomic aspects of development, training, media, and public awareness.	and energy security. Together with its wide partner base from the international, regional and national community, the SGP implements projects, conducts research and studies, and provides training and knowledge dissemination. In addition CEDARE focuses on: - Striving for the implementation of the principle of Integrated Management of Water Resources, as one of the pillars of achieving the SDG's - Preserving scarce land resources in danger of deterioration and rehabilitating and developing them - Supporting environmental decision making by analyzing and disseminating environmental information - Participating in the maximization of the principle of self-compliance, and strengthening social responsibility at business enterprises for the improvement of environmental performance.
Parliamentarians			
MAP Partners	New Stakeholders		
None	None		

Annex II

Summary of the general selection criteria of MAP Partners as per COP 19 Decision IG.22/17 on the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents and COP 23 Decision IG.26/2 on Governance

COP 19 Decision IG.22/17 on the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents
Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development Composition, Section B 7

The following general selection criteria will apply

- I. The criteria established in Decision 19/6 on “MAP/ Civil society cooperation and partnership” shall be used as a reference text for selection of members representing NGOs
- II. Priority for selection shall be given to Mediterranean local authorities, NGOs, socio-economic stakeholders, the scientific community, and intergovernmental organizations that are concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
- III. The principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected (north/south and east/west).
- IV. Fragile and island ecosystems will be given due consideration
- V. With reference to the six specific categories, the following are the selection criteria, giving priority to the groups or networks concerned:
 - (i) Local Authorities Local authorities to be selected should be concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues
 - (ii) Socio-economic Actors Selection within this group should take into consideration the major problems and decisive factors in the Mediterranean as well as the following factors:
 - north/south representation
 - developed/developing countries
 - rural/urban
 - past and current activities at the Mediterranean levelPriority of selection shall be given to socio-economic networks active in the Mediterranean.
 - (iii) NGOs

The members representing NGOs should be selected from the list of MAP/NGO partners.

The members should be selected from among three NGO categories, with priority being afforded in the following order:

 - NGOs with regional or sub-regional Mediterranean scope
 - NGOs with global scope
 - NGOs with national or local scope

The NGOs to be selected should have a concrete and action-oriented approach towards the Mediterranean
 - (iv) IGOs

The members representing IGOs should be selected from organizations with global and/or regional scope, with mandates and activities of direct relevance to the work of the MCSD and the implementation of the MSSD.

(v) Scientific Community

The members representing the scientific community should be selected from among academic/research institutions and individuals with a proven track of relevant work and interest in fields of environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean

(vi) Parliamentarians

The members representing Parliamentary Associations should have a Mediterranean regional or sub-regional scope and include individuals with experience in the field of sustainable development.

COP 23 Decision IG.26/2 on Governance, Annex V, B, II

Criteria for MAP Partners Accreditation

- to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols
- to have existed for at least four years
- to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years
- to operate democratically
- to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country and/or to have activities in the Mediterranean and actively contribute to the objectives of UNEP/MAP
- to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
- to demonstrate what contributions the MAP Partner could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols