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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Almeria (Spain), 15-18 January 2008

MCSD PROGRAMME OF WORK

(as adopted by the Contracting Parties (8-11 November 2005, Portoroz, Slovenia))

MCSD programme of work

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During the last 10 years, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) covered the following priority issues built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region:

- Sustainable management of coastal zones
- Management of water demand
- Sustainable development indicators
- Sustainable tourism
- Information, public awareness, environmental education and public participation
- Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Context
- Industry and sustainable development
- Management of urban development

For each one of these priorities issues, Working Groups were established with mostly the support of MAP Components, respective sets of recommendations and proposals for action were prepared and submitted to the Contracting Parties meetings that generally adopted them with minor amendments in some cases.

Then, considering the importance of the issue, it was agreed to work on "Financing and cooperation for sustainable development" for which a Working Group was established, resulting in an in-depth analysis with a series of proposals.

Moreover, while following the implementation of some of the recommendations by concerned MAP components, such as "water", "coastal management", "industry" and "indicators", the MCSD members agreed that, until a new programme of work is defined, the following issues could be considered without necessarily establishing at this stage specific Working Groups; These concern:

- Local management and governance
- Agriculture and rural development
- Waste management
- Management and prevention of natural risks

Actually, some progress was made with regard to the first two issues, respectively by PAP/RAC and BP/RAC. These would need to be considered in the framework of the new MCSD programme of work.

Following the proposals of the MCSD and in conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, a Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) has been prepared. The strategy outlines the main needs and challenges in the region and identifies four major objectives and sets of actions to be carried out in seven priority fields of action as follows:

- Better management of water resources and demand
- Better management of energy demand and the mitigation of the effects of climate change
- Sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management
- Sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector
- High quality agriculture and sustainable rural development
- Sustainable urban development
- Sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources.

The multi-year programme of work for the MCSD gives due consideration to the objectives/orientations and actions for the seven interdependent priority areas of action of the MSSD, the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the UNCSD Programme of work, and their adaptation to the Mediterranean context.

The UNCSD's multi-year programme of work is as follows:

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>
2004/2005	Water; Sanitation; Human Settlements
2006/2007	Energy; Industrial Development; Climate change
2008/2009	Agriculture; Rural Development; Desertification
2010/2011	Transport; Waste Management; Consumption and Production
2012/2013	Biodiversity; Biotechnology; Tourism; Mountains
2014/2015	Marine Resources
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of implementation

The new thematic programme of work for the MCSD will cover the next 6 years, organized on the basis of two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues from the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as set out in the table below.

In each cycle, the thematic clusters of issues will be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account multiple challenges, including those related to environment and culture, but also demographic, economic and social concerns and finally globalization, regional cooperation and governance.

As for the UNCSD programme of work, the MCSD will function on the basis of two-year "Implementation Cycles", including Review and Policy Years. The "Review" year of the cycle will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying constraints, obstacles and barriers. The second year, the "Policy" one, will define policy measures to speed up implementation and mobilize necessary means for action to overcome these constraints, obstacles and barriers.

However, for issues for which MAP and its partners have already cumulated enough analytical knowledge, such as for water, marine pollution and coastal management, the first year of the cycle could be devoted immediately to Policy issues and the second year would concentrate on pilot actions.

The purpose is to consider each issue in the overall framework of the MSSD and in an integrated manner, fully addressing cross-cutting issues as well. These cross-cutting issues, as presented in the last column of the tables, concern mainly governance, implementation mechanisms and means, as well as information, communications, education and participatory processes.

It is proposed to have about 4 thematic issues per biennium (up to 6 in 2006/2007 so as to allow for the preparation of the overall review in 2010/11) that could be dealt with in the following manner. Concerned MAP Components would be leading centres, with interested members of the MCSD partner groups (national governments, local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors) and other regional programmes/centres. Ad hoc working groups could be set up, where necessary, with clear mandates and limited time frames, upon consultation with the MCSD Steering Committee. ERS/RAC will be fully involved in the cross-cutting issues related to information and communication, in line with the new tasks to be approved by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Finally, it is important to note that the work of the MCSD does not only consist in its thematic programme. Actually, besides coordinating and providing support to the activities of the thematic

working groups and respective Support Centers, the Secretariat has induced the countries and NGOs to prepare brochures in various languages on sustainable development policies and institutions, through a participatory approach, providing to that end guidance, technical and financial support.

A strategic Review for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region was undertaken in 1999-2000, ending up with the Mediterranean Declaration for the WSSD. Soon after the World Summit, the Secretariat has launched the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; this process has included several working sessions and workshops that resulted in the preparation of the "Vision", the "Framework Orientations", the Strategic Thematic Notes for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region and finally the report of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. Throughout this process, the Secretariat has been encouraging and, as appropriate, providing support for multi-stakeholders national consultations as well as for the NGOs. Moreover, a regional Review of National Strategies was undertaken and technical and financial assistance were extended to several countries for the preparation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, the Secretariat will keep on undertaking a series of specific tasks besides those of the Secretariat and the coordination of the thematic programme of work. These would encompass:

- ✓ Organizing and servicing the meetings of the MCSD and its Steering Committee, as well as major regional workshops;
- ✓ Communicating about MCSD activities and outputs, at global, regional and national levels;
- ✓ Informing about Partnership initiatives relevant to MSSD and the Mediterranean;
- ✓ Undertaking regional reviews and assessments on sustainable development progress and achievements;
- ✓ Following the implementation of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action;
- ✓ Inducing and providing technical and financial support to countries and major groups for, as appropriate, awareness raising, consultations between stakeholders, publications and preparation of NSSDs;
- ✓ Mobilization of additional funds for MCSD activities.

MCSD PROGRAMME OF WORK – GENERAL/COORDINATION					
Cycle	Secretariat Activities	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2005/ 2006	• Coordination • Information and Communication • Regional reviews and assessments • Support to Countries and partners • Follow-up of MCSD recommendations	• Organize and service MCSD meetings and workshops • Regional reviews and assessments of NSSDs • Induce and provide support to countries and partners • Follow support to and implementation of MSSD • Improve visibility	• Organize and service 11th MCSD meeting and meeting of Steering Committee • Finalize and publish Regional Review • Provide technical and financial assistance for preparation of NSSDs to at least 2 countries • Organize regional workshop on NSSDs • Follow and induce consultation process for MSSD support and commitments by Parties and Partners • Undertake cost/benefit analysis of selected policies • Publish MSSD report and off-prints	• Secretariat (MEDU) • Concerned MAP Components • Metap • Other Partners	• Approach and Partnership: - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
2006/ 2007	• Coordination • Information and Communication • Support to Countries and partners • Follow-up of MCSD recommendations	• Organize and service MCSD meetings and workshops • Induce and provide support to countries and partners • Follow support to and implementation of MSSD • Improve visibility	• Organize and service 12th MCSD meeting and meeting of Steering Committee • Provide technical and financial assistance for preparation of NSSDs to at least 2 countries • Follow implementation of MSSD at regional and national levels • Undertake cost/benefit analysis of selected policies • Organize information and awareness-raising campaigns on MCSD activities in general and implementation/follow-up of MSSD in particular	• Secretariat (MEDU) • Concerned MAP Components • Metap • Other Partners	

MCSD PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2005/ 2006	• Water Resources	• Stabilize water demand management • Integrated water resources management • Access to water and sanitation • Promote water management governance	• Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Implement water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry & tourism • Establish appropriate fiscal/pricing systems • Reduce unnecessary losses	• BP/RAC • MEDU • MEDPOL • IME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified	• Approach and Partnership: - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	• Energy & Climate Change	• Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change	• Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in NSSD • Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies • Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the Mediterranean areas to climate change	• BP/RAC • MEDU • MEDREP • OME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified	
	• Marine Pollution from ships	• Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships • Eliminate operational pollution from ships	• Implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships, according to the related agreed timetable. • Increase of EU aid and support for its implementation	• REMPEC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified	
	• Integrated Coastal Area Management	• Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks	• Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Strengthen systems and capacities for their implementation • Promote laws, mechanisms and tools for ICZM in countries which do not yet have them • Assess the vulnerability of coastal zones to natural and technological risks, prohibit construction in high-risk areas and integrate risk prevention into urban development plans	• PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • MEDU • Other Partners to be identified	

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2006/ 2007	• Water Resources	• Stabilize water demand management • Integrated water resources management • Access to water and sanitation • Promote water management governance	• Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Implement water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry & tourism • Establish appropriate fiscal/pricing systems • Reduce unnecessary losses	• BP/RAC • IME • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC Other Partners to be identified?	• Approach and Partnership: - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	• Energy & Climate Change	• Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change	• Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in NSSD • Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies • Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the Mediterranean areas to climate change	• BP/RAC • MEDREP • MEDU • OME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC Other Partners to be identified	
	• Marine Pollution from ships	• Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships • Eliminate operational pollution from ships	• Implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships, according to the related agreed timetable. • Request an increase of EU aid and support for its implementation	• REMPEC • MEDU • ERS/RAC Other Partners to be identified	
	• Integrated Coastal Area Management	• Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks	• Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Strengthen systems and capacities for their implementation • Promote laws, mechanisms and tools for ICZM in countries which do not yet have them • Assess the vulnerability of coastal zones to natural and technological risks, prohibit construction in high-risk areas and integrate risk prevention into urban development plans	• PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • MEDU Other Partners to be identified	

2006/ 2007	• Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development	• Controlled liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products • Promote productive and rational agriculture • Improve rural development and local governance • Promote sustainable management of rural areas & the Mediterranean natural environment	• Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products • Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures • Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors • Reduce the impacts of desertification	• BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • CIHEAM • FAO • Other Partners to be identified	
	• Sustainable Tourism	• Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism • Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities • Improve governance for sustainable tourism	• Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Promote a more balanced distribution of tourists between destinations and throughout the year • Develop "tourism pay-back" formula • Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport (sea and air)	• BP/RAC • MEDU • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2007/ 2008	• Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development	• Controlled liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products • Promote productive and rational agriculture • Improve rural development and local governance • Promote sustainable management of rural areas & the Mediterranean natural environment	• Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products • Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures • Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors • Reduce the impacts of desertification	• BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • CIHEAM • FAO • Other Partners to be identified	• Approach and Partnership: - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	• Sustainable Tourism	• Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism • Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities • Improve governance for sustainable tourism	• Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Promote a more balanced distribution of tourists between destinations and throughout the year • Develop "tourism pay-back" formula • Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport (sea and air)	• BP/RAC • MEDU • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified	
	▪ Marine Pollution : LBS Protocol	• Prevent and reduce land-based pollution by achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Action Programme to address Land-based Sources of Pollution, adopted in 1997	• Implement the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources • Reduce pollutants from industrial sources • Equip all coastal cities with systems for the environmental management of solid waste	• MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified	
	• Biodiversity	• Reduce the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region • Bring Mediterranean fisheries under a comprehensive ecosystem-based management system • Restore depleted Mediterranean fish stocks • Regulate the development of aquaculture so as to minimize its impacts on the environment and marine and coastal biological diversity and conflicts with other uses of coastal areas	• Promote and complete the network of protected maritime and coastal areas • Promote the creation of new generations of protected areas • Establish at least 30 SPAMI at the end of 2012 • Ensure the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by international organizations and networks • Encourage fishery and aquaculture good practices respectful of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.	• SPA/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • IUCN • Other Partners to be identified	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Compon-ents & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2008/ 2009	Sustainable Urban Development	- Anticipate and plan expected urban growth - Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities - Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities - Improve urban governance	- Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations - Promote urban spatial planning which articulates transport planning policies - Promote the identity of Mediterranean cities internationally - Promote sustainable urban transport - Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level	- PAP/RAC - MEDU - MEDCITIES - BP/RAC - ERS/RAC - Other Partners to be identified	Approach and Partnership: - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector Means: - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building Implementation and Follow-up: - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	Sustainable Transports	- Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems - Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport - Decoupling transport growth & GDP growth	- Develop a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework - Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote alternative transport systems - Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution	- BP/RAC - MEDU - ERS/RAC - REMPEC - Other Partners to be identified	
	Marine Pollution : LBS Protocol	Prevent and reduce land-based pollution by achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Action Programme to address Land-based Sources of Pollution, adopted in 1997	- Implement the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources - Reduce pollutants from industrial sources - Equip all coastal cities with systems for the environmental management of solid waste	- MEDPOL - MEDU - CP/RAC - ERS/RAC - Other Partners to be identified	
	Biodiversity	- Reduce the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region - Bring Mediterranean fisheries under a comprehensive ecosystem-based management system - Restore depleted Mediterranean fish stocks - Regulate the development of aquaculture so as to minimize its impacts on the environment and marine and coastal biological diversity and conflicts with other uses of coastal areas	- Promote and complete the network of protected maritime and coastal areas - Promote the creation of new generations of protected areas - Establish at least 30 SPAMI at the end of 2012 - Ensure the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by international organizations and networks - Encourage fishery and aquaculture good practices respectful of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.	- SPA/RAC - MEDU - ERS/RAC - IUCN - Other Partners to be identified	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Compon-ents & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2009/ 2010	Sustainable Urban Development	- Anticipate and plan expected urban growth - Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities - Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities - Improve urban governance	- Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations - Promote urban spatial planning which articulates transport planning policies - Promote the identity of Mediterranean cities internationally - Promote sustainable urban transport - Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level	- PAP/RAC - MEDU - MEDCITIES - BP/RAC - ERS/RAC - Other Partners to be identified	Approach and Partnership: - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector Means: - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building Implementation and Follow-up: - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	Sustainable Transports	- Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems - Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport - Decoupling transport growth & GDP growth	- Develop a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework - Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote alternative transport systems - Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution	- BP/RAC - MEDU - REMPEC - ERS/RAC - Other Partners to be identified	
	Energy & Climate Change	- Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies - Access to electricity - Support Kyoto Protocol implementation - Adapt to climate change	- Encourage economic actors and domestic consumers to adopt sustainable energy-saving habits and approaches - Encourage economic mechanisms/regulations designed to promote renewable energies - Support investment to improve access to electricity	- MEDREP - MEDU - OME - BP/RAC - CP/RAC - ERS/RAC - Other Partners to be identified	
	Integrated Coastal Area Management	- Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones - Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone - Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage - Avoid linear and continuous urbanization - Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks	- Promote integrated management approaches & projects for coastal zones & catchments areas - Implement specific plans for the sustainable management and development of islands - Prevent continuous and linear urbanization of coastal areas - Enhance the heritage of coastal areas, including traditional productive activities which form part of its identity, maintain agricultural and wooded green belts and establish ecological corridors	- PAP/RAC - MEDU - ERS/RAC - Other Partners to be identified	

MCSD PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2010/2011	OVERALL REVIEW OF MSSD				