



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 277/4
Annex I
27 June 2005



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Tenth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission
on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
20-22 June 2005, Athens, Greece

MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT *A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Shared Prosperity*



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 277/4
Annex I
27 June 2005



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Tenth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission
on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
20-22 June 2005, Athens, Greece

MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT *A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Shared Prosperity*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: WHY A MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY?	1
1. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: THE NEED AND THE WAY FORWARD	3
1.1. Sustainable development, a vital necessity to meet developmental challenges in the Mediterranean	3
1.2 Underlying principles and a long-term perspective	5
1.3 Four major objectives.....	7
1.4 Seven priority fields of action and synergy	9
2. ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN THE SEVEN PRIORITY FIELDS OF ACTION.....	10
2.1 Improving integrated water resource and water demand management.....	10
2.2. Ensuring sustainable management of energy and mitigating of and adapting to the effects of climate change.....	12
2.3. Ensuring sustainable mobility through the appropriate management of transport.....	13
2.4 Promote sustainable tourism	14
2.5. Promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development	15
2.6. Promoting sustainable urban development.....	18
2.7. Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones	20
3. IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY, ASSOCIATING ALL THE PARTNERS AND MONITORING PROGRESS	24
3.1. A regional space of solidarity and commitment	24
3.2. Strengthen capacities, involve actors and mobilize financial resources	25
3.4 The Mediterranean Strategy as a model for the regional follow-up of progress and the promotion of sustainable development	29
Annex 1: Synergies between objectives and priority fields of action	30
SEVEN ESSENTIAL ISSUES.....	30
IMPLEMENTATION.....	30
Annex 2: Indicators for MSSD follow-up	32
III- Additional* indicators for MSSD follow-up	34
Annex 3: Acronyms and abbreviations	35

**MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
*A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Shared Prosperity***

INTRODUCTION: WHY A MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY?

Sustainable development is a global objective that aims to respond to the needs of current generations without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs. The Millennium Development Goals, approved by 189 countries in September 2000, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted in 2002 by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, emphasize the urgent need for greater commitment to reduce inequalities and assist in the development of poor countries. They also emphasize the need to change unsustainable production and consumption patterns, as confirmed by the Marrakech process, to protect and manage natural resources sustainably for economic and social development, to safeguard health and integrate the objective of sustainable development more effectively into the process of globalization. The WSSD also calls for regional and national strategies in recognition that sustainable development cannot be achieved in isolation and that international prescriptions have to be adapted to local circumstances and to the conditions of the eco-region.

The 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Community decided, at the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Monaco, November 2001), in line with the WSSD process, to prepare a "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development" (MSSD). They requested the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to develop a draft of the Strategy. The 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Athens, July 2002) endorsed this initiative.

Despite the progress made, there is a latent but growing awareness throughout the Mediterranean that current development trends are unsustainable. Mediterranean people are becoming increasingly aware that it is just not possible to keep using resources, building up coastal areas and developing industries, especially tourism, without an adequate integrated planning framework, a reduction of North-South disparities and the necessary policy reforms. The Mediterranean partners have already made much progress in this respect through the Barcelona Convention and the MCSD. The Strategy offers an excellent opportunity for these partners to make substantial advances towards sustainable development, based on genuine partnership and co-development.

The Mediterranean Strategy is a *framework strategy*. Its purpose is to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies and to initiate a dynamic partnership between countries at different levels of development. By making a public and high profile commitment to sustainable development and to reporting on the progress achieved, countries as well as donors and the other partners concerned will help to produce and sustain a common dynamic in which much greater attention is paid to achieving harmonious growth throughout the region. The Strategy calls for action to pursue sustainable development goals with a view to strengthening peace, stability and prosperity, taking into account the threats and weaknesses in the region as well as its strengths and opportunities. It also takes into consideration the need to reduce the gap between developed and developing countries in the region.

The MSSD is based on the *Vision and Framework Orientations*, which have already been endorsed by the MCSD and the Contracting Parties. In the development of the Strategy, valuable inputs were provided by the assessment and prospective documents prepared by various MAP components, as well as by other Mediterranean cooperation networks. The

Strategy takes into account recent developments in regional cooperation, with particular reference to the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The EU Strategy directly concerns Mediterranean EU Member States and countries likely to become EU members. It also indirectly affects the EU's Mediterranean neighbours in setting the requirement that all Community policies must place sustainable development as their priority.

The EU and developed countries on the northern shore will have an important role to play, through vigorous aid policies, in promoting the co-development of the North and the South. The EU and its Mediterranean partners will also have to work together to develop democratic processes, strengthen institutional capacities, improve governance and enhance the peace process in regions of conflict. The implementation of the Strategy through a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the new EU Neighbourhood Policy focussing on sustainable development will help Mediterranean countries to achieve these aspirations much sooner. The Strategy could, in particular, facilitate the goal launched by the EU commitments to "depollute" the Mediterranean Sea.

The challenge for all Mediterranean countries is to use the Strategy as an opportunity to make coordinated and joint progress in the fields of human and economic development, environmental protection and cultural advancement.

1. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: THE NEED AND THE WAY FORWARD

The environment in the Mediterranean forms the basis for the development of the region, and it is crucial to put an end to the environmental degradation that is already giving rise to very high economic and social costs. The region also needs to redirect its development to meet the economic and social needs, which are considerable in the South and East, without increasing the process of environmental degradation.

The Strategy therefore focuses mainly on the integration of environmental concerns into key economic development sectors, while giving due consideration to social and cultural dimensions

As a basis for building up a dynamic regional process of sustainable development, the Strategy outlines the main needs and challenges in the region, before going on to identify four major objectives and sets of actions to be carried out in seven basic priority fields of action. A set of indicators, annexed to this report, will contribute to the follow-up of the implementation of the MSSD.

1.1. Sustainable development, a vital necessity to meet developmental challenges in the Mediterranean

In general terms, the environmental challenge is one of the most critical. With a degraded environment, the Mediterranean is in grave danger of losing the main assets which make it so unique, especially in agriculture and tourism. Continued poor management of scarce natural resources, with particular reference to water, agricultural land, energy and coastal zones, will compromise economic development, the quality of life and social stability. Population dynamics and unemployment together with the entrepreneurial sluggishness and social concerns will add to these pressures. Moreover, without improved regional cooperation and governance mechanisms, the globalization process might worsen the negative trends.

The environmental challenge

In recent decades, environmental degradation has accelerated, setting in motion irreversible trends, including:

- Valuable agriculture land is being lost to urbanization and salinization. More than 80% of arid and dry areas are affected by desertification and the consequences will be exacerbated by the impact of climatic change.
- Scarce, over-used water resources are threatened with depletion or degradation.
- Urban standards of living and health are being degraded by traffic congestion, noise, poor air quality and the rapid growth of waste generation.
- Coastal areas and the sea are affected by pollution and coastlines are being built up and/or eroded, while fish resources are being depleted.
- The unique landscapes and biodiversity of the region, ranging from densely populated coasts to marginalized inland areas, are being disrupted by over-exploitation in many cases and abandonment in others.

Although it is difficult to assign specific values, the costs of environmental degradation are clearly very significant. In addition, the region is increasingly vulnerable to flooding, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, fires and ecological imbalances, which have a direct and immediate impact on the livelihood and welfare of a large proportion of the population.

The potential increase in environmental pressures on coastal regions over the coming 20 years is considerable, particularly in the areas of tourism with 137 million more visitors, transport which is projected to more than double in volume, urban development (to house 33 million more people) urban sprawl and energy infrastructures. The continued spread of unsustainable production and consumption patterns is likely to increase the costs of environmental degradation dramatically, which already account for between 3 and 5 per cent of GDP, according to the World Bank. The environment should not be considered as an additional constraint, but as a driving force, an asset and an incentive.

The people of the Mediterranean are now much more aware of the threats to their environment and their unique natural and cultural heritage. Important policy initiatives which have been adopted in almost all countries show that solutions can be found which are adapted to the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean's problems, regions and cultures. Nevertheless, such efforts are too few in number to reverse current unsustainable development trends. Unless significant changes are made, the Mediterranean, the world's leading tourist region, could "jeopardize" its major assets, resulting in additional economic constraints and a deterioration in living conditions.

The demographic, economic, social and cultural challenges

There is a stark contrast in the demographic situation in countries to the North and South of the Mediterranean. Northern Mediterranean countries are faced with the problem of an ageing population. In southern and eastern countries, population growth is still a major issue, with an increase of 90 million people expected by 2025. However, a spectacular fall in fertility rates over the past ten years is now resulting in a demographic transition in these countries.

Although it is traditionally a region of trade and transit, the Mediterranean has only occasionally succeeded in being competitive on international markets. Despite the success of some dynamic growth poles and clusters, all too often its enterprises, which are mostly small and medium-sized, lack dynamism and competitiveness. They have not generally stood out in terms of innovation, as they were based for too long on a 'rent economy', fostered by a mining-like exploitation of the region's geographical location and natural resources.

A dramatic problem of labour market integration exists, particularly among youth. The North is not able to absorb the considerable pressure for emigration from southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, which are faced by the need to create over 30 million new jobs by 2025. Unlike in comparable regions in other parts of the world, these countries have not yet managed to 'take off' economically and average GDP per capita in purchasing power parity of several for them is still one-fifth of the level in Mediterranean EU countries.

Most Mediterranean economies, which have been insufficiently dynamic for the past 20 or 30 years in relation to other regions of the world, are experiencing difficult employment situations, with unemployment rates ranging generally between 8 and 25 per cent. Poverty is closely related to the employment situation, as well as changes which marginalize categories of society, such as the very rapid transformation of the agricultural, crafts, and rural sectors.

Social issues are also a major concern, particularly in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. Despite progress, they are still backward in terms of literacy and gender equality. Poverty, especially in rural areas, is still a dominant problem in many countries, although there is relatively little extreme poverty. The situation is aggravated by the un-equitable distribution of wealth. The populations of many southern and eastern Mediterranean countries also suffer from insufficient access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The situation between countries with regard to their cultural capacity is very uneven, although that is partly hidden by the lack of cultural indicators, which are admittedly more difficult to develop than for other sectors. The work of the Strategy has made it possible to measure both handicaps and elements of diversity, which are also broad and need to be respected insofar

as they demonstrate the will to reaffirm natural diversity in a context of globalization, and promote the unique Mediterranean culture as a basic economic and social asset.

The challenges of globalization, regional cooperation and governance

The challenge of globalization requires widespread regional cooperation, political stability, efficient governance and social protection. Yet the situation of Mediterranean countries in fulfilling these conditions is very asymmetrical.

Integration into the EU has considerably improved the political and economic situation of Mediterranean EU Member States (Spain, Portugal, Greece, and now Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus). Further enlargement of the UE, with the possible membership of other East Adriatic countries and Turkey, would reinforce this trend and lead to greater convergence in terms of political, economic and environmental policy. Mediterranean EU countries are facing the challenges of globalization with the strong backing of the European Union.

The southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, which are of course faced with the same challenges of globalization, do not benefit from such dynamic regional cooperation. Established in 1995, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership still needs a collective vision of sustainable development, as well as appropriate resources and commitment. The problem is compounded by inadequate levels of North-South and South-South cooperation and by the continuing conflicts, especially in the Near East, even though some longer-term political solutions appear to be emerging. In view of the slowness of democracy to spread, governance is weak and much needed political and structural reforms, particularly to improve respect for human rights and gender mainstreaming, are not being adopted sufficiently rapidly.

This trend of a cumulative political, social, economic and environmental divide between the two shores of the Mediterranean will, if the relevant reforms are not implemented on an urgent basis, result in growing instability and will accentuate existing levels of social and economic asymmetry. The alternative is to maximize complementarities and opportunities between the North and the South, in the context of joint and differentiated processes of sustainable development, to optimize the positive effects of globalization.

The long-term choice is therefore between unequal development in the North and the South or joint development built around a strong sense of common destiny in the region. From this perspective, the best chance for Mediterranean EU and non-EU countries to meet the challenges of globalization and compete successfully in the emerging multi-polar world is by joining forces and giving strength to an enlarged regional space, encompassing both Europe and the Mediterranean, and by ensuring that the Mediterranean is an area of stability, shared prosperity, democracy and tolerance.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), launched by the EU in 2003/4, is a step in the right direction. The ENP seeks to deepen political cooperation and economic integration between the EU and its immediate neighbours and to promote and support better governance and reform in Mediterranean countries. Through mutually agreed Action Plans, the EU and its ENP partners will address issues of common interest and devise measures beneficial to economic growth and social cohesion, raising living standards and protecting the environment, thereby contributing to the long-term goal of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

1.2 Underlying principles and a long-term perspective

The underlying principles

The underlying principle of the Mediterranean Strategy is that sustainability has to be based on the interdependence of its three pillars: economic development, social equity and environmental protection, as well as on an improved governance. The environment, culture and development in the region are indissolubly interlinked and it is therefore not only vitally

important but also increasingly urgent to make progress in accelerating towards sustainable development. To do this, it is necessary to create jobs on a large scale and to focus on alleviating poverty, although this also depends on policies which are partly beyond the scope of the Strategy. At the social level, it is vital to improve standards of living based on the principles of access to essential services and financial resources, the achievement of gender equality and equity between generations. Implementation of the Strategy also requires the promotion of improved governance, together with justice and full recognition of human rights. Approaches based on local development, civil society, the involvement of the private sector and NGOs, the participation of multiple stakeholders, partnerships and corporate accountability have to be strongly supported.

In matters of international cooperation, the Strategy is based on the principles of solidarity and shared but differentiated responsibility between developed and developing countries. The strategic value of cultural diversity is reaffirmed and the need emphasized to avoid the paradigm of a single developmental model. Current trends must therefore be reversed through collective efforts to avoid in-equitable, unbalanced, standardized and wasteful development in the Mediterranean and its subregions and to overcome the risks and poor perspectives of the development trend scenario.

A long-term perspective for the Mediterranean

The Strategy is based on a long-term vision of a "sustainable" Mediterranean that is politically stable, prosperous and peaceful. This vision is based on a proactive choice of a "win-win" scenario in which the co-development of the North and the South is promoted, while exploiting the positive synergies of efficient environmental, developmental and economic management. Joint efforts are required to make progress in the sustainable management of resources and coastal zones, and to enhance natural and cultural diversity in the region. A dynamic of complementarities and exchanges between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours will have to be developed based around a strong concept of a "shared destiny" and of common and differentiated responsibilities.

Once the strategy has been collectively endorsed and implemented through national strategies, the region should move towards a model of a highly integrated eco-region within an enlarged Euro-Mediterranean area of prosperity and stability. Strong regional unity should emerge in the Mediterranean, where development will be based on recognition of the strategic value of the environment and diversity, with the community of countries being involved in the processes of governance for sustainable development, economic growth and the improvement of living standards.

In this scenario, the new Mediterranean will be able to participate successfully in globalization by enhancing its specificities, complementarities and synergies with neighbouring countries in the European Union and the League of Arab States. Domestic and inter-country economic and social divisions could be gradually reduced and the Millennium Development Goals achieved. Essential collective public goods should be protected, and in certain cases restored, while the management of natural resources will be greatly improved and they will be valued more highly. Awareness will be raised among the people of the region of the enormous potential of the diversity and quality of their heritage for increased and diversified forms of tourism, developed in synergy with agriculture and other economic activities. Cities will become real vectors of regional development, while jobs could be created in new promising sectors, including research and development, access to basic needs, clean technologies and industries, water and energy saving technologies, high quality agriculture and food products, the enhancement of biodiversity and public transport. The EU and its southern neighbours will have understood their mutual interests and recognized the benefits to be drawn, in a world of global competition, from their complementarities and exchanges.

1.3 Four major objectives

The following four objectives are established with the aim of promoting progress towards sustainability in the economic, social and environmental areas and in the field of governance.

Objective 1: Contribute to economic development by enhancing Mediterranean assets

Based on the belief that the protection of the environment and economic growth are not necessarily incompatible, the Strategy is intended to enhance economic development, while reducing pressure on natural resources. This should lead to an equilibrium between satisfying the people's needs, the requirements of economic development and environmental protection, thereby responding to the demand for employment and to social needs, reducing the income gap and asymmetry between developing and developed countries and promoting growth.

To meet the goal of employment and income generation, regional and national initiatives will be supported which are aimed at reinforcing international and private investment, as well as public development aid in Mediterranean countries, with special emphasis on southern and eastern countries. To this end, emphasis is placed on enhancing the opportunities deriving from the future Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA) and relationships with other Middle Eastern countries, while also encouraging bilateral investment partnerships between northern and southern countries. The results of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EMFTA, launched by the European Commission, will have to be taken into account.

To attain these goals, the Strategy calls for cumulative flows of added value to be drawn from the region's unique cultural and natural assets, while also exploring new avenues for the promotion of innovation, skills and culture. New activities should therefore be promoted in services, clean production, new technologies which reduce the consumption of natural resources, including the promotion of SMEs-SMIs as a vehicle for economic development and employment generation. Stronger local interactions are needed between the private sector and training and research, together with the creation of dynamic local clusters of enterprises. A more balanced distribution of new activities in developing countries also has to be sought to provide local job opportunities, thereby helping to limit the brain drain. Balanced regional development, avoiding the excessive concentration of activities in coastal areas, will also have to be encouraged.

Objective 2: Reduce social disparities by implementing the Millennium Development Goals and strengthen cultural identities

The development of human resources and the fostering of the capacities of all the various actors is of crucial importance. The protection of the environment, economic development and sustainable progress cannot be achieved while such a large proportion of the population is illiterate and lacks access to essential services. It is necessary to strengthen measures to foster gender equality, promote the role of women in society, support the upgrading of rural areas, which are too frequently ignored, and plan sustainable urban development.

To contribute to these objectives, the Strategy endorses the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a view to improving living standards and gender equality.

The social situation and trends are a major component in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies. National strategies, as they are close to national realities, clearly have to contain proposals to address employment problems and poverty. The relevant Millennium Development Goals have to be implemented in the region and followed up continuously on the basis of appropriate indicators. The Mediterranean region would benefit from dialogue on employment issues as soon as it can be set in motion effectively.

The promotion of Mediterranean cultural diversity, values and traditional knowledge is also vital. In particular, certain of the Strategy's components are particularly relevant to cultural

aspects, including education (specifically on sustainable development), cultural exchanges, incentives to establish Mediterranean labels, the promotion of new forms of cultural tourism and cooperation for the enhancement of the cultural heritage.

Objective 3: Change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources

Development cannot be "sustainable" unless the unsustainable practices that are affecting basic common goods are brought to an end and assistance is provided for the restoration of these common goods. Priority has to be given to the protection of the sea, the coast, the climate and air quality, water resources, soil and biodiversity, traditional knowledge of nature, the cultural and landscape heritage, together with the reduction of exposure to natural hazards, such as floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes and tsunamis. The continuing degradation of soils, landscapes and coastal areas must also be halted and the objectives of the Earth Summit fulfilled by protecting and enhancing marine, coastal and continental biodiversity.

It is vital to break the links that make economic development dependent on a corresponding, or even more intensive exploitation of natural resources, and therefore to "decouple" economic growth from increased environmental pressure, thereby contributing to the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goal. To this end, change must first be promoted in consumption and production patterns through the use of renewable sources of energy, clean technologies, suitable infrastructure, more efficient public transport including greening public procurement. Access to information, education, training and professional upgrading is needed so as to move from an "emergency" to a "prevention" culture. The management of water, energy, soil and coastal area resources must also be improved, and the growth in waste generation and pollutant emissions reduced. Such a "decoupling" will benefit both enterprises and the environment, offering a win-win scenario.

Objective 4: Improve governance at the local, national and regional levels

Broadly based sustainable development is only achievable with appropriate governance, which requires the exercise of power to be carried out in an environment of openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence. The Mediterranean Strategy therefore endorses the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which calls for sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment as the basis for sustainable development. Indeed, without more efficient governance and the active participation of the various actors, none of the other objectives of the Strategy will be attained. To that end, regional and national efforts for better governance, participatory local development, the involvement of civil society and NGOs and partnerships with the private sector will have to be supported. Application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention will promote the involvement of civil society in achieving sustainable development.

Emphasis also has to be placed on the importance for environmental management of integrated territorial planning under a system of shared responsibility. This requires the development of networking and dialogue between actors, the dissemination of knowledge and training in efficient management practices. Regional and subregional cooperation will also have to be promoted between Mediterranean countries, particularly through the development of more efficient and rational channels of participation and working procedures. Education and training, particularly education for sustainable development (ESD), are recognized as a prerequisite for improved governance. In view of the adoption by 13 Contracting Parties of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (SESD, Vilnius, 2005), this could be used as a blueprint for concerted regional action.

Finally, an important component of the Strategy is the development of synergies to enhance the process of implementing global Conventions, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, in relation with the Barcelona Convention and other relevant regional instruments.

1.4 Seven priority fields of action and synergy

Seven interdependent priority fields of action and synergy are identified below in which it is essential to make real progress:

- better management of water resources and demand;
- improved rational use of energy, increased renewable energy use and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
- sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management;
- sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector;
- sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- sustainable urban development; and
- sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources.

These priority areas of action have been chosen for several reasons:

- They are those most threatened by unsustainable trends. Among them, special attention should be paid to issues relating to the sea and coastal areas, which constitute the common goods of Mediterranean peoples.
- They are also crucially important areas at the economic and social levels, offering a strong potential for improvement. However, it is acknowledged that considerable efforts also have to be made in other sectors, particularly industry, to meet the challenges facing the region.
- These seven priority areas are ripe for action and demonstrate all the shortcomings in governance and integration that need to be corrected if the region is to be able to engage in a process of sustainable development.

The matrix in Appendix 1 sums up the logical framework of the Strategy and indicates the inter-relationships between the four objectives and the seven priority areas of action.

2. ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN THE SEVEN PRIORITY FIELDS OF ACTION

The objectives, orientations and actions proposed for the seven priority fields of action are merely indicative¹, as they are intended to be applicable throughout the region. Although identified separately, the proposed actions are highly interdependent and are more likely to be successful when carried out in convergence and close association with related actions in other areas.

The proposed actions are intended to be implemented by all the parties concerned and attention should be paid to selecting the most cost-effective solutions, including impact assessment studies where appropriate, and using as a priority market tools. The implementation of these actions clearly has a cost. The necessary funds could come from direct savings in infrastructure and the use of natural resources, in reduced levels of pollution and environmental degradation (which have been estimated to account for between 3 and 5 % of GDP), from policy reforms and, of course, from international cooperation.

Countries or groups of countries are faced with significantly different situations and challenges and may need to adopt specific approaches and objectives. Although consistency is desirable in regional and subregional approaches, as outlined in the common Strategy, specific national goals will clearly have to be defined or adjusted in line with each national strategic and planning framework. 'Pilot actions', with limited cost and potentially high visibility, should be proposed during implementation as a means of accelerating change and of demonstrating political commitment to sustainable development. In addition to the actions proposed below, the implementation of the relevant and already adopted MCSD recommendations and actions should be strengthened.

2.1 Improving integrated water resource and water demand management

Water is a scarce and fragile resource that is unequally distributed in time and space, and climate change is expected to lead to more irregular and lower volumes of rainfall. The shortage of water, due to irregular rainfall and aridity, is a major constraint for agriculture. Irrigation is the largest consumer of water. The number of persons in the region with fewer than 1000 cubic metres of water a year is currently 108 million and may reach 165 million by 2025. Certain countries are facing a critical situation.

National strategies have favoured supply-side policies through the construction of dams and boreholes. However, many dams in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries will lose most of their storage capacity because they are becoming silted up and few countries will still be able to exploit them in the long term. Aquifers, many of which consist of non-renewable fossil water, are being over-exploited or irreversibly degraded by saline intrusion. Hydrological systems are deteriorating as a result of the degradation and over-exploitation of catchment areas and the disappearance of wetlands. The management of cross-border water resources is a potential source of conflicts.

Many or most Mediterranean countries are faced with several water-related issues: how to manage their scarce water resources sustainably; how to secure access to safe drinking water for population groups who do not yet have it; and how to accustom individual consumers to practices which save water. The first challenge requires water demand management policies to reduce loss and misuse, the development of more added value through greater efficiency in irrigation and in the use of water in industry and urban areas; and the meeting of economic and social needs at reduced cost. It also requires the integrated management of catchment areas and wetland ecosystems and an increase in water supply, particularly through the development of non-conventional sources of water. The second challenge requires the

¹ For the objectives of the Strategy, the base year is 2000, except if other years are mentioned. For the Millennium Development Goals the base year is 1990.

achievement of the MDGs concerning access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The third necessitates the strengthening of partnerships with local water users and water management bodies and awareness-raising campaigns on how to save water.

Some countries in both the North and the South have begun to undertake more efficient water management, as called for by the Johannesburg Summit. The EU has launched a water initiative, the Mediterranean component of which represents a cooperation framework conducive to the attainment of the MDGs in the region.

Objectives

- Stabilize water demand through the reduction of water losses and the wasteful use of water (a reduction in demand in the North and controlled increases in the South and the East) and increase the added value per cubic metre of water used.
- Promote the integrated management of watersheds, including surface and groundwater; and eco-systems, and foster depollution objectives.
- Achieve the Millennium Development Goals concerning access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- Promote participation, partnership, active cooperation and solidarity for the sustainable management of water, at local and national level.

Orientations and actions

Regional Cooperation

1. Promote the Mediterranean component of the European Union Water Initiative as one of the means of achieving the MDGs and of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Strengthen synergies with donors in support of investment and with other regional cooperation frameworks

Water demand management

2. Determine precise global and sectoral efficiency goals in national strategies. Reorient water policies to integrate water demand management in agriculture and other sectoral policies and encourage demand-side approaches with the aim of improving water use efficiency, reducing unnecessary losses, implementing water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry, tourism and cities in controlling waste water.
3. Establish appropriate fiscal and pricing systems and encourage investment in demand-side management and the development of financial mechanisms for the internalization of external costs and the expected benefits from water-saving measures.

Integrated water resource management

4. Encourage the establishment of appropriate bodies and organizations for integrated watershed, management (surface, groundwater resource and ecosystems), in qualitative and quantitative terms. Strengthen international commitments undertaken for the management of transboundary water resources.
5. Preserve and increase water resources through soil and water conservation measures, agricultural and forestry practices, small-scale irrigation, run off and spate irrigation and the mobilization of non-conventional sources of water, as well as the recycling of urban and industrial wastewaters and drainage water, taking into account quality standards.
6. Strengthen regulatory and other instruments, where appropriate, to reduce the over-exploitation of groundwater and non-renewable water sources and promote the artificial replenishment of groundwater, where necessary.
7. Protect aquatic ecosystems and restore their regulating role.

Access to water and sanitation

8. Support investment to halve by 2015 the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, pursuant to the MDGs.
9. Strengthen regulations, where appropriate, and promote investment in wastewater treatment systems to prevent and reduce pollution from urban and industrial sources.

Water management governance

10. Promote schemes for the integrated participatory management of water resources, including partnerships with local authorities, the private sector and NGOs.
11. Take action to educate users about the need to save water, and protect its quality.

2.2. Ensuring sustainable management of energy and mitigating of and adapting to the effects of climate change

The energy consumption of Mediterranean countries, which are highly dependent on fossil fuels, has more than doubled over the past 30 years. Many Mediterranean countries have established pricing and tax structures that are not conducive to energy saving. Moreover, there is insufficient encouragement for renewable sources of energy. Should this trend continue, the Mediterranean's contribution to total global greenhouse gas emissions could rise from 7% to 9%. In addition, the region's energy dependence could greatly increase.

This situation is all the more regrettable in that the Mediterranean is an ecoregion that is particularly vulnerable to climate change, has a significant potential for renewable energy from natural sources (sun, wind, etc.) and could derive substantial savings from the rational use of energy. Policies which follow these orientations would encourage technological progress, create employment opportunities and increase productivity. Decisive implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of its Kyoto Protocol by the countries that have or will have ratified it would also provide short and long-term local and global benefits, in particular by strengthening the regional cooperation and funding sustainable development projects in Mediterranean developing countries.

Objectives

- Promote the rational use of energy.
- Enhance the potential of renewable energy.
- Control, stabilize or reduce, as appropriate, emissions of greenhouse gasses.
- Mainstream measures for adaptation to climate change in national development plans.
- Increase access to electricity in rural areas, where necessary.

Orientations and actions

Promote energy-saving policies and renewable and cleaner energies

1. Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in national and local strategies for sustainable development. A desirable target for reducing the intensity of energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product by 2015 could be in the range of 1-2% per year. A desirable target for renewable energy would be to meet 7% of the total demand for energy by such means by 2015, excluding combustible renewables and waste (CWR).

2. Encourage economic actors, local authorities and consumers to adopt sustainable energy-saving habits through pricing, targeted subsidies, tax incentives and public awareness-raising campaigns, supported by NGOs. Encourage economic mechanisms, such as Tradable Renewable Energy Certificates (TRECs), and regulations designed to promote renewable energies.

Strengthen regional cooperation and support the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol

3. Invite Mediterranean countries to cooperate in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and flexibility mechanisms of its Kyoto Protocol, to prepare for the post-2012 phase and direct towards the region investment designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Develop synergies with the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MED REP), the *Rome Mediterranean Energy Platform* (REMPEP) and the Euro Mediterranean Energy Policy.

Adapt to climate change

5. Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies. Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the most exposed Mediterranean areas, especially islands, deltas and arid agricultural zones, to climate change.

Access to electricity

6. Support projects and investments for access to electricity. A desirable target by 2015 (compared with 1990) would be to halve the proportion of the population in developing countries who do not have access to electricity.

2.3. Ensuring sustainable mobility through the appropriate management of transport

Passenger and freight transport needs are growing faster than the rate of economic and demographic growth. In view of these trends, transport systems are not sustainable in the long term. The use of long-haul maritime transport and coastal shipping is expanding dramatically, resulting in major pollution and accident risks. Linkages between the two shores of the Mediterranean are generally insufficiently rational and competitive. Land transport is dominated by road traffic, which accounts for 88% of passenger traffic and 82% of freight. As it accounts for one-third of total energy consumption, transport in northern countries is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and to pollution. Traffic congestion costs are steadily increasing. Trends in relation to transport in the southern countries give rise to the same concerns. They are often aggravated by systems of public investment, subsidies and taxation which favour mobility based on the use of private motor vehicles and roads, rather than collective forms of transport.

Although they raise difficult issues which have cultural and social dimensions, these trends could be managed sustainably if appropriate regional and national policies were applied which anticipated expected developments. Some countries, and a growing number of local authorities, have shown the way by adopting policies which promote the more sustainable management of transport. Compulsory standards for motor vehicles are being applied in the European Union which are encouraging technological improvements. Promising results are also being attained by successful experiments in the combination of sea, rail and road transport.

Objectives

- Support regional and national initiatives to promote more competitive and sustainable transport systems and to improve Euro-Mediterranean transport linkages and networks.
- Encourage more integrated transport systems which ensure a better complementarity of road, rail and sea transport, including a significant shift from road to sea and rail.

- Improve the integration of transport policies into economic planning so as to achieve continued progress in “decoupling” the growth of motor transport from GDP growth.
- Encourage the use of cleaner or less polluting fuels

Orientations and actions

Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems

1. Develop before 2010 a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework, taking into account the objectives of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and other relevant regional initiatives,
2. Explore the possibility of extending to non-EU Mediterranean countries the benefits of the Marco Polo Programme for the development of road-sea modal transfers.

Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport and reduce pollution and harmfulness

3. Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote, after environmental impact assessments, alternative transport systems, in particular "motorways of the sea" and railways. A desirable objective by 2015 would be to scale down the road share to 75% of total traffic for both the number of passengers and volume of freight.
4. Conduct strategic environmental impact assessments for major national and international transport plans and programmes at the local urban level.
5. Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution by promoting low pollution collective transport systems at the local urban level.
6. Develop clean fuels. A desirable objective for 2015-2020 would be to rise the share of clean fuel (LPG, NGV, bio fuel) and the share of electric and hybrid vehicles up to 30% and to manage to eliminate lead contained into gasoline.

Decoupling transport growth and GDP growth

7. Use economic instruments insofar as possible to internalize the costs of transport into prices by 2025 and explore options to decrease transport use through the possibilities of telecommuting.

2.4 Promote sustainable tourism

The Mediterranean is the world's leading tourist region. Tourism is a major industry in terms of employment and income in the region and consists mainly of a seasonal seaside the resort model.

The intense competition between tourist destinations is exacerbated by the business practices of major tour operators and the lack of capacities at local level to control unsustainable trends in the development of tourism. This has led to a certain standardization in the supply of tourist facilities, insufficiently controlled development and a loss of quality in several established or rapidly developing destinations. This situation has been encouraged by public policies which emphasize tourist numbers and the development of the related infrastructure, rather than added value, the enhancement of Mediterranean diversity and cultural and social development. While tourism is important for the economy in many countries, the benefits are unevenly distributed and the adverse environmental impacts in such areas as transport, noise, waste generation, the consumption of space, and the degradation of landscapes, coasts and ecosystems are not accounted for in national economic statistics relating to tourism.

Some 637 million tourists (international and domestic) are expected in the region by 2025, which means an additional 270 million in comparison with 2000. About half of them will stay in coastal regions. By anticipating these flows, there is a real opportunity to influence international and domestic tourism and to encourage a development towards more cultural-rural and accountable tourism, which would favour inland areas and cities, environmental concerns and coastal protection and cultural and historical sites.

Objectives

- Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental impacts of tourism, especially in existing coastal tourist areas.
- Promote sustainable tourism, which in turn reinforces social cohesion and cultural and economic development, enhances Mediterranean diversity and specificities and strengthens synergies with other economic sectors, especially agriculture.
- Increase the added value of tourism for local communities and actors in developing countries.
- Improve governance for sustainable tourism.

Orientations and actions

Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism

1. Strengthen the implementation of the recommendations on tourism adopted in 1999 by the Contracting Parties, identify good practices and produce an in-depth assessment of the progress made by 2008.
2. Promote within countries, on the basis of studies of carrying capacities, a more balanced distribution of tourists in terms of destinations and seasons.

Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities

3. Draw up, as soon as possible, not later than 2010 , 10-year promotional framework programme for the Mediterranean together with the Ministries concerned, the private sector, sustainable tourism professionals and promoters, highlighting the assets of the Mediterranean cultural and environmental heritage, with a view to developing a "Mediterranean tourism quality label". Promote a pilot action at the regional level to support the implementation of national and sub-national programmes.
4. Develop "tourism pay-back" formulae so that tourists contribute to the preservation of the natural environment, cultural heritage and the sustainable development of destinations.
5. Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport, especially sea and air transport to islands, as a means of contributing to the sustainable development of these regions.
6. Adapt tourism more effectively to the constraints and opportunities offered by protected natural areas, especially with a view to preserving biodiversity and the natural and cultural heritage in regional parks, biosphere reserves and protected coastal areas.
7. Encourage countries to promote rehabilitation programmes in destinations where hotel facilities and tourism infrastructure are becoming obsolete, and where historical sites are poorly maintained.

Improve governance for sustainable tourism

8. Improve coordination between countries and major operators to improve the harmonization of regulations and develop synergies at the regional level.
9. Improve cooperation mechanisms between tourism and environmental authorities and strengthen the capacities of local authorities to manage the development of tourism and promote sustainable tourism.

2.5. Promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development

Agriculture in the northern Mediterranean countries tends to be concentrated in plains and foothills and is partly based on irrigation. However, water is not generally used efficiently. It is frequently over-exploited and is often polluted and affected by salinization. Good quality farmland is increasingly being lost to urban development. These trends are also affecting

modern agriculture in southern Mediterranean countries. Inland areas in developed countries, and particularly mountain areas, were abandoned extensively over the past century, with the environmental consequences including increased vulnerability to flooding and fires and a loss of biodiversity. These areas have experienced a decrease in traditional activities and have a low level of public services, but have benefited from the growth of tourism, a residential economy and local agri-food products. However, their landscapes are often at risk of degradation, which is likely to be irreversible.

Agriculture in the southern and eastern countries still plays an important social and economic role, although productivity is generally low and little importance is accorded to the efficient and sustainable management of water and soil resources. While they are still numerous, despite emigration, rural inhabitants are mostly poor and have a low educational level. Rural women, who perform most of the farm work, are still socially marginalized, and have limited access to economic and financial tools. Considerable stress is being placed on natural resources, with dramatic results in terms of deforestation, erosion, the silting up of dams, reduced control of run-off water, desertification and an irreversible loss of biodiversity. For those concerned, emigration is seen as the main solution to a situation of persistent poverty.

The considerable disparities that already exist in agricultural productivity levels between developed and developing countries and between modern agriculture and subsistence farming are still widening. In addition, Mediterranean agricultural and rural models, which are at the origins of Mediterranean identity, are under increasing threat from the predominance of imported consumption patterns. This trend is illustrated in particular by the decline of the Mediterranean dietary model despite the recognized positive effects on health. The prospective scenario for the expected impacts of trade liberalization, climate change and the lack of efficient rural policies offers a gloomy picture in some southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, with the prospect of aggravated regional imbalances, deeper ecological degradation and persistent or accrued social instability. There is a clear need for alternative sustainable agriculture and rural development strategies at the national and regional levels if progress is to be made in reducing rural poverty, revitalizing inland areas, developing internal and foreign market outlets and safeguarding environmental public goods. Increased international and domestic demand for high quality traditional Mediterranean food and agricultural products offers a major opportunity to make Mediterranean agriculture more competitive at the global level. The region should also acquire a considerable comparative advantage if ways could be found to increase the added value gained from its landscapes, culture, crafts, traditions and, in more general terms, by placing greater emphasis on the multifunctionality of agriculture.

Objectives

- Take into account the opportunities and risks associated with the process of trade liberalization at the Euro-Mediterranean level to consolidate the penetration of Mediterranean agricultural products on global markets by enhancing the comparative advantages of Mediterranean quality, including quality labels, organic agriculture and traditional products and to avoid social and environmental collapse.
- Promote the technical and commercial adaptation of Mediterranean agriculture with a view to increasing its added value and exploiting in a sustainable manner the factors of production that are under the greatest threat, namely water and soil.
- Ensure the future of rural communities and reduce poverty by providing rural infrastructure and basic services, diversifying the rural economy and improving local governance.
- Reduce the irreversible loss of agricultural land and biodiversity, prevent the degradation of the landscape and improve the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

Orientations and actions

Trade liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products

1. Promote greater awareness in the forthcoming Euro-Mediterranean negotiations by drawing attention to the risks of a over rapid liberalization and emphasize the need for a gradual and asymmetrical approach, in particular to protect vulnerable rural populations in developing countries.
2. Coordinate regional and national initiatives for the integration of sustainable agricultural and rural development issues into future Euro-Mediterranean neighbourhood agreements and programmes.
3. Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of local agricultural products, the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products, such as wine, olive oil, vegetables, fruit, flowers, durum wheat and animal products. Create a conducive regional environment to help countries develop policies and efficient procedures for the labelling and quality certification of Mediterranean food products and to promote the Mediterranean diet.

Promote productive and rational agriculture

4. Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures, including land and water policies, education and training, access to credit and markets, strengthening of farmers' associations and professional organizations.
5. Promote and/or reinforce the establishment of networks between Mediterranean countries to disseminate and apply sound and innovative agricultural practices, in particular the reduced consumption of water, fertilizers and pesticides, and to promote organic agriculture, local agricultural varieties, traditional techniques, the use of alternative sources of energy and the restoration of soil fertility.
6. Promote regional consultations with Mediterranean countries with a view to adapting to their specific needs the existing legal framework that ensures the sovereignty of countries in matters of gene pools, biodiversity and the right to control the use of GMOs and regulate their movement in conformity with the Cartagena Protocol.

Rural development and local governance

7. Encourage national efforts to promote sustainable agricultural and rural development schemes and programmes based on local development and a participatory process with the aim of improving the living conditions of the rural population and mitigating regional and social inequalities. Special attention should be paid to improving infrastructure and services and promotion of economic diversification, especially through rural tourism, cleaner production, the agro industry and services.
8. Promote regional policies and encourage national programmes to enhance the multifunctionality of agriculture and, in particular its potential to contribute to enhancing the ecological and economic value of landscapes, traditional knowledge and skills and cultural heritage, through tourism and other economic activities.
9. Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors, especially by encouraging local rural development initiatives, and programmes to enhance the involvement of women in the decision-making process.

Sustainable management of rural areas and of the Mediterranean natural environment

10. Identify and implement relevant regional actions to support the implementation of International Conventions on desertification and biodiversity.
11. Reduce the impacts of desertification and the irreversible loss of agricultural land and biodiversity. A desirable target would be to decrease by at least one-third by 2015 the current rates of the loss of agricultural land through erosion, salinization, desertification, urban and other forms of development and abandonment. A desirable goal for biodiversity is to put an end by 2010 to the loss of continental biodiversity in the EU Member States and to reduce it substantially in other Mediterranean countries.

12. Promote, especially in poorer areas of developing countries, the establishment of sustainable agricultural and rural development programmes, biosphere reserves, regional natural parks and contractually based local land use schemes to encourage local communities to manage farmlands, hill areas and woodlands sustainably.
13. Promote forest landscape restoration initiatives to restore forest ecological functions and their capacity to contribute to a sustainable rural economy and provide key ecological services.
14. Expand protected areas through the allocation of sufficient resources to obtain the commitment of local communities. A desirable target by 2010 would be for 10% of all Mediterranean land ecosystems to be under the status of a protected area.
15. Promote political decisions to protect agricultural areas from being built up, particularly through legally binding national and local land use planning schemes.
16. Promote adaptation to climate change by increasing scientific monitoring through appropriate observatories, the enhancement of research on dry farming techniques and the planning of alternative uses for agricultural areas that are under the greatest threat.

2.6. Promoting sustainable urban development

In the northern Mediterranean countries, the size of the urban population is expected to stabilize. However, in most cases, the principles of sustainable development are not taken into account in urban development, as illustrated by the over-extension of urban areas, the excessively high level of energy consumption and wasted space, the high and growing production of urban waste, the increasing cost and inconvenience of traffic congestion and the dangerous loss of social cohesion in urban areas.

In southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, urban issues are no less critical. In 20 years, there are expected to be nearly 82 million more urban inhabitants in these countries, at least one-third of whom will be located in coastal urban areas. If uncontrolled, such growth rates can only aggravate current problems, which are already alarming, as illustrated by the low levels of social cohesion, the spread of poverty, the expansion of informal settlements, which sometimes account for over 60% of new built-up areas, the rising levels of air pollution, the inadequate supply of clean water, ineffective waste management and the accumulated effects of these factors on the health of the population. Moreover, the problems are likely to get worse with current changes in consumption patterns.

Examples of successful urban renovation on both shores of the Mediterranean show the impact that Mediterranean cities, when properly managed, can have on sustainable development. The efforts that are currently being made are, however, far from sufficient. Fewer than 600 urban areas are reported to have made a commitment to Agenda 21 type processes. The reasons include, in particular, the limited technical and financial capacities of cities in developing countries, especially small and medium-sized cities, and the insufficient levels of decentralized cooperation between northern and southern cities, which is preventing effective networking to assist in the promotion of sustainable urban development.

Objectives

- Promote a sustainable urban economy and approaches to development planning which anticipate the forecast growth in the urban population in the coming decades.
- Integrate into economic and spatial planning the exceptional cultural, historical and landscape assets of Mediterranean cities.
- Improve the quality of urban life by expanding green areas and by reducing negative environmental factors (air pollution and waste generation), as well as social disparities and inequalities in access to services, particularly in southern and eastern Mediterranean cities.

- Improve urban governance while strengthening solidarity between Mediterranean cities.

Orientations and actions

Anticipate and plan for expected urban growth

1. Develop alternative urban models with a view to integrating informal settlements into cities, and anticipate the expected rates of urban growth through more balanced territorial planning and support to small and medium-sized cities.
2. Promote urban spatial planning that includes transport policies and the expansion of cities, the creation of green areas and parks and the protection of peri-urban agricultural areas, natural areas and historical urban centres.

Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities

3. Promote Mediterranean cities by enhancing the value of their cultural, historical and landscape heritage.

Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities

4. Reduce significantly the proportion of slum housing, and achieve the other social Millennium Development Goals.
5. Set precise objectives in national sustainable development strategies to raise the profile of urban environmental issues in the following fields:
 - air quality monitoring systems. A suitable objective would be for such systems to cover all major Mediterranean urban areas by 2015 and to promote a Mediterranean network for the exchange of epidemiological information and studies on issues relating to urban areas.
 - the reduction of urban air pollutants such as CO, Nox, VOC, particulate matter and lead, through appropriate vehicle standards, urban traffic policy, the strengthening of public transport networks, the diversion of heavy traffic and the use of clean fuels. A suitable objective would be to achieve a 30% share of clean fuels, such as LPG, NGV bio-fuels, electric and hybrid vehicles, and ultimately to ban leaded gasoline, by 2015/2020.
 - the management of urban waste, including the reduction of waste generation and the recycling and rational disposal of packaging. Suitable objectives by 2015 would be to dissociate the increase in waste generation and GDP growth so as to reduce the current growth rate in waste generation by around 50%, double recycling rates and transform at least half of unregulated waste dumps into sanitary landfills.
 - the reduction of noise pollution
 - the treatment of municipal waste waters, in conformity with the provisions of the LBS Protocol to treat them all by 2025.
 - promotion of urban transport policies which give priority to public and private collective transport.
 - promotion of urban planning taking into account the prevention of natural and technological hazards, and, where relevant, the necessity to move particularly polluting and dangerous industrial units.
6. Invite all Mediterranean urban areas, especially large cities, to launch before 2015 local Agenda 21 type processes, strategies, planning and urban renewal programmes involving inhabitants, associations and businesses in joint urban renewal projects and public/private partnerships.

Improve urban governance

7. Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level through decentralization, the reinforcement of the capacities of local authorities, an increase in the relative share of local taxes in total fiscal revenues, the enhancement of partnerships between cities and central governments in the fields of housing, sanitation and transport and the development of training programmes on

sustainable urban management and social policies.

8. Develop decentralized cooperation between Mediterranean cities and local authorities, gradually extending URBAN-type programmes to SEMC areas. Initiate a regional cooperation and natural risk management mechanism to which the Mediterranean cities would contribute.

2.7. Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones

As coveted development areas, coastal zones constitute a necessary or priority focus for numerous activities and a fragile space of major ecological, social and cultural value. The accumulation of stress factors is considerable. Holiday home urbanization, illegal construction and the building up of coastal areas, land-based pollution (which accounts for up to 80% of total marine pollution), waste generation, the extraction of sand and water, the poor management of catchment areas, certain leisure activities, fishing and aquaculture practices and invasion by exogenous species are all resulting in a spiral of degradation. This situation is leading to the deterioration of landscapes, cultural heritage sites and living standards, salt-water invasion and coastal erosion, the destruction of sand dunes, wetlands and sea-bed meadows, and the often irreversible loss of underwater and coastal biodiversity. The human and economic costs, which include the loss of local jobs, are increasing, for example as a result of the over-exploitation of fish resources.

Although representing only 0.7% of the earth's ocean surface, the Mediterranean Sea carries 30% of the world's maritime traffic. Pollution from ships is mainly of an "operational" nature, including illegal oil discharges and ballast water. However, the risk of accidents remains high, despite prevention policies.

It is necessary to forestall these trends. Without policy changes, vast inter-connected urban areas will develop in coastal regions and nearly 50% of the 46,000 km of Mediterranean coastline may be built up by 2025, compared with about 40% in 2000. There may well be a considerable rise in the costs of environmental degradation and vulnerability to hazards, such as flooding, tsunamis and maritime pollution. There is also the risk of a growing disparity of responses between current and future EU Member States and other countries. EU Member States are subject to stringent environmental management standards, such as the Water Framework Directive, the Erika Packages 1 and 2 and the Birds and Habitat Directives. The less advanced among them benefit from substantial assistance programmes and Community funds. Other countries have no such support, and are faced with much higher rates of urban, industrial and tourist growth in their coastal areas, which constitute a vital asset for their development.

The variety of situations calls for differentiated strategies. In some degraded areas, the emphasis should be on restoring lost assets, while in other areas it would be more advisable to anticipate degradation so as to safeguard and promote development based around the protection of the environmental, cultural and social heritage.

Much progress has been made in regional cooperation, with the extension of the Barcelona Convention to the protection of coastal areas, the evolution of MAP and the gradual implementation of measures to prevent and reduce pollution and protect biodiversity and the cultural heritage. However, the relative percentage of protected coastal areas is still very inadequate and the implementation of the Protocols and action plans adopted under the Barcelona Convention is moving at a slow pace. Laws, agencies, land surveys, economic tools, master plans and jurisdictions are still not adequate to ensure the integration of environment and development. In numerous countries, the protection of coasts, integrated coastal zone management and the mobilization of international funding and local and professional actors to combat pollution must be improved.

Objectives, orientations and actions

Strengthening regional cooperation

Improve regional cooperation and promote the implementation of regional programmes of action with adequate means.

1. Ensure the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and action plans and the related recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties. Support actively the elaboration and implementation of the EU Marine Strategy.
2. Actively support the formulation and implementation of the EU Marine Strategy.
3. Strengthen subregional approaches.
4. Strengthen regional solidarity, synergies between MAP, METAP and the various regional cooperation frameworks and financial mechanisms to help developing countries attain the objectives set out in this Strategy. Support capacity building for integrated coastal management, raise public awareness and consider the establishment of a fund to enable private sources and local communities to finance the conservation and sustainable management of the Mediterranean coast. Ensure the constant monitoring of the actions and measures implemented.

The integrated management and development of coastal zones

Promote the balanced and integrated management and 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.

1. Adopt by 2007 a Protocol for the Integrated Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones and implement the related regional strategy.
2. Take account of the fragility of the environment in planning and development. Prevent continuous and linear urbanization of coastal areas by avoiding the construction of new roads parallel to and alongside the coast. 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.
3. Carry out environmental impact studies for projects and strategic environmental assessments for plans and programmes affecting the sea or coastal zones, and continue to develop tools for integrating environmental concerns into policies, programmes and projects.
4. Insofar as possible, adopt laws, mechanisms and tools for integrated coastal zone management by 2012 in countries which do not yet have them.
5. Promote integrated management approaches and projects for coastal zones and catchment areas, with the involvement of local authorities, enterprises and NGOs, so as to achieve greater efficiency, coordinate a limited number of practical issues and mobilize donors.
6. 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. Adopt contingency plans for all vulnerable coastal spaces by 2010, including the implementation of prevention exercises to mobilize the populations concerned.
7. Implement specific plans for the sustainable management and development of islands.
8. Make the best use of the Euro-Mediterranean SMAP programme to promote integrated coastal zone management.

Preventing and reducing pollution from ships

Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships by achieving the goals set out in the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which is currently being finalized. Eliminate operational pollution from ships by 2025.

1. Fully implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. Increase EU aid and support for its implementation.
2. Identify, as a priority, in conjunction with the appropriate MAP Regional Activity Centres, those areas which should be designated by the IMO as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), and obtain the necessary support from concerned countries.
3. Request the Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal States (in particular through MAP and the Black Sea Environmental Programme) to engage in coordinated action for the prevention and reduction of pollution from ships, taking into account the similarities between the situations in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea and, the needs for common actions.

Preventing and reducing land-based pollution

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.

1. Implement without delay the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources in order to meet the objectives set out in the Strategic Action Plan adopted in 1997 for the implementation of the LBS Protocol. Reduce pollutants from industrial sources, such as the reduction of BOD by 50% by 2010 and the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste by 20% by 2010. Equip all coastal cities with over 10,000 inhabitants with systems for the environmental management of solid waste by 2015. Halve by 2015 the number of coastal urban inhabitants with no access to sanitation.
2. Identify bilateral and international funding for the establishment of a system to provide support for the implementation of the National Action Plans and help equip coastal cities in developing countries to address land-based sources of pollution, giving preference to cost-effective technologies. Invite the EU to strengthen its support for the related public investments through partnerships with Mediterranean countries.
3. Continue and increase capacity-building programmes for developing countries, cities and enterprises for the management and treatment of waste and effluent by mobilizing international environment funds and maximizing synergies with MAP, and the various networks of local and professional actors. Promote environmentally sound production processes, products and services through the development of voluntary initiatives and reduce waste generation by adopting the "3R" approach (reducing, reusing and recycling).

Protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and marine resources

Halt the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity by 2010 in EU Member States and reduce it substantially in other countries, in accordance with international and European commitments.

Ensure the development of fishing in the Mediterranean towards an ecosystem approach and restore the stocks as far as possible by 2015, in accordance with the commitment of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. Promote sustainable aquaculture techniques that minimize their impact on the environment and conflicts with other users of the coast.

1. Accelerate implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Preservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP-BIO), adopted in 2003. Prepare for its updating by inserting the recommendations adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Adopt national action plans for marine and coastal biodiversity.

2. Encourage fishing and aquaculture practices that are compatible with the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable management of marine resources. Strengthen implementation of commitments undertaken within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the declaration of the Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean (Venice, November 2003) and the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union.
3. Actively implement the programme of work on protected areas adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account the agreed timetable and objectives.
4. Identify the Mediterranean sites in which the sustainable management of biodiversity would be advanced by the creation of marine and coastal protected areas, including in particular pelagic and deep habitats, within and beyond zones of national jurisdiction, on a scientific basis and in accordance with the Law of the Sea.
5. Increase the number of protected areas throughout the Mediterranean significantly, to cover at least 10% of coastal and marine habitats with forms of protection that meet the criteria of the IUCN.
6. Promote a representative network of protected marine and coastal areas that makes up an ecologically representative regional system, and increase their protection by adding them, when necessary, to the SPAMI list.
7. Promote the creation of new types of protected spaces (public-private-local community partnerships; partnerships with owners of coastline property; mobilization of local NGOs), and invite the managers of protected areas to play a more active role in promoting local sustainable development.
8. Strengthen cooperation between MAP and the GFCM and, at the local and national levels, cooperation between fisheries operators and the managers of protected areas.
9. Strengthen institutional and human capacity for management of the interactions between human activities and marine and coastal biodiversity.
10. Strengthen the synergies between international organizations and networks (such as the Barcelona Convention, IUCN, MedWET, the Bern Convention, the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area UNEP/CMS/ACCOBAMS, the Natura 2000 Network and the EU Marine Strategy).

3. IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY, ASSOCIATING ALL THE PARTNERS AND MONITORING PROGRESS

For its implementation, the Strategy requires:

- a regional space of solidarity and commitment
- the participation of States through national strategies, of local authorities, the socio-economic actors, associations and populations;
- new methods of governance, which are indispensable for progress in achieving sustainable development; and
- collective follow-up at the Mediterranean level.

Such commitments imply profound changes and reforms. The Strategy's success therefore depends on the capacity of governments, local authorities, enterprises and other actors in civil society to promote convergence in their policies, decisions and actions. This requires the mobilization of human resources and the development of an appropriate institutional framework. It also requires the monitoring of its implementation, in which progress will necessarily be gradual and differentiated, starting with clearly identified short-term action to pave the way for longer-term action

3.1. A regional space of solidarity and commitment

As a result of the EU's enlargement process and its Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) programme, commitment and solidarity are already being strengthened in countries on the northern shore of the Mediterranean. In terms of sustainable development, it is necessary to improve the integration of the principles and goals of the European and Mediterranean sustainable development strategies in the process of enlargement.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, initiated in 1995, constitutes a major political framework for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy. It is expected that the next steps in the EU's Mediterranean neighbourhood policy toward Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries will integrate social and ecological issues more fully into the decision-making process so as to build a genuine policy of sustainable co-development.

A strengthened Euro-Mediterranean Partnership will provide Mediterranean countries with greater opportunities to achieve their aspirations. Sustainable development should be a guiding principle in the Euro-Mediterranean project and the neighbourhood policy. This renewal will have to be combined with strengthened synergies with other regional cooperation frameworks, and particularly with the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership will gain much from this positive reorientation, which is of vital importance for the region's future. Policy renewal needs to guarantee the progressive enlargement of solidarity to southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, taking their specificities into account. Solidarities based on South-South cooperation will also have to be strengthened. In this respect, the League of Arab States and the Union of Arab Maghreb will have a dynamic and catalytic role to play in further promoting sustainable development in their member countries.

Other international institutions active in the region, such as FAO, World Bank, UNDP, GEF the World Tourism Organization and other regional United Nations organizations, as well as facilities and programmes such as CIHEAM, CEDARE, MWI and METAP, will also have an important role to play in the implementation of the Strategy. Subregional approaches, such as

the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, the trilateral agreement between Croatia, Italy and Slovenia for the protection of the Adriatic Sea and coastal areas, the RAMOGE agreement and the Black Sea Environment Cooperation Programme, should be strengthened and their convergence and complementarity with UNEP/MAP promoted so that they become active partners in implementing the MSSD.

Orientations and actions

1. Strengthen reciprocal commitments for Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, domestic reform and European support for the upgrading of North-South and South-South cooperation. Agree soon after the endorsement of the Strategy on the financial and technical arrangements for the implementation of its orientations and actions for assisting countries in their integration, as appropriate, in NSSDs.
2. Promote the integration of sustainable development principles and the goals of the MSSD into the EU's enlargement policy and the CARDS programme, on the one hand, and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the neighbourhood policy, on the other.
3. Strengthen reciprocal agreements in areas of common interest, and particularly the environment, research and development and decentralised cooperation approaches, in the seven priority fields of action.
4. Increase the effectiveness and use of existing instruments, such as the EU/MEDA and FEMIP, and that of future EU financing instruments for international cooperation, to facilitate the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy in all the components of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, including association agreements. Explore the possibility of expanding the benefits of Interreg, Urban, Leader and Marco Polo type programmes to the South and East of the Mediterranean. Expand the scope of Arab Funds and the UNFCCC fund for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions to contribute to the implementation of the MSSD. In this process, take fully into account assessments of the cost of environmental degradation, the problems identified by trend scenarios, the benefits of "win-win" scenarios and the proposals to be made in the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone.
5. Develop innovative mechanisms to deal with the issue of debt, for example by converting it into research and development activities, programmes and twinning arrangements that mobilize local and professional actors around the Mediterranean and into pro-environmental programmes.
6. Study the possibility of developing a Mediterranean-wide agreement on investment that includes sustainability rules.
7. Invite the Mediterranean countries to increase initiatives and projects, including pilot projects, of a regional, subregional or bilateral nature for each of the seven priority fields of action that contribute to the implementation of the Strategy, such as "type-2 partnership initiatives" and the Adriatic Ionian Initiative.
8. Strengthen synergies with UNEP/MAP and other existing regional cooperation frameworks and networks and initiate a specific programme for the funding of the follow-up to the MSSD and its implementation, in particular through pilot projects.

3.2. Strengthen capacities, involve actors and mobilize financial resources

Strengthening human resources and involving actors: Research, training, education, awareness-raising, capacity building and participation

There are still significant levels of illiteracy in Mediterranean developing countries, particularly in rural areas and among women. The imbalance between the skills acquired in schools and universities and the employment market has negative effects, resulting in under-employment, particularly among young graduates. The 'brain-drain' is a crucial issue. Research and development expenditures, including in northern Mediterranean countries, are on average much lower than those in countries in other regions with similar income levels.

Continuing deficits in such areas as the dissemination of knowledge, education and access to information, do not favour the participation of people in decision-making processes, despite political and institutional progress in these fields. Active networks of NGOs help in compensating for deficits in these areas by disseminating knowledge and experience between countries, especially in environmental education. Some countries also are making substantial efforts in the field of education. However, education in sustainable development is generally lacking including at higher levels. The enhancement of human resources and fundamental civil rights, the integration of the information society, the reduction of the information gap between the North and the South, and the need to adapt to the rapidly developing knowledge economy, are among the most urgent requirements for sustainable development.

The Mediterranean Strategy calls upon all actors who can offer their consensus and active support, including:

- public and private enterprises
- researchers, educators
- local authorities and other relevant institutions, all of which have an increasingly important role to play in raising awareness and the implementation of sustainable development at all appropriate levels

All approaches based on partnerships and project contracts are preferable to constraint and obligations.

Orientations and actions

1. Ensure primary education for all, promote gender mainstreaming and integrate women into development more effectively in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Reorient the supply of initial and continuous training to provide young people and SMEs with the skills necessary for them to adapt to the new context created by globalization and free trade.
3. Introduce sustainable development into educational curricula, from primary school right up to universities and graduate schools and contribute to the implementation at the Mediterranean level of the Thessaloniki UNESCO Conference Declaration (1997), the United Nations resolution on the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2015) and the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (Vilnius, 2005).
4. Promote higher education and scientific research in synergy with the private sector and increase resources for research and development with the aim of at least reaching in 2015 the average level of resources devoted to research and development in countries with equivalent income levels per capita, particularly in the context of the relevant EU Framework Programme for Research and Development.
5. Emphasize as priorities in research policies the rational use of natural resources, the development of environment-friendly technologies and the role in development of Mediterranean know-how and diversity. Promote networking between universities and research and training centres at the regional level to improve the overall effectiveness of the contribution of research.
6. Develop cooperation at the regional level, especially between MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, support regional networks of NGOs and countries in their efforts to manage and disseminate information and promote public participation
7. Intensify North-South exchanges for the development of information and communication technologies and the creation of new opportunities based on services and research and development activities in the “knowledge economy”.

Financing sustainable development

The implementation of the Strategy requires significant government spending on infrastructure projects to address the challenges of reducing environmental problems, improving access to basic services, promoting research and development, establishing sustainable transport systems, introducing incentives to change consumption and production patterns, strengthening capacities and providing support for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Developing Mediterranean countries are facing the burden of their foreign debt, the weakness of their public financial resources, a fall in income for customs duties and the lack of a suitable environment to attract foreign direct investment. The scope for funding sustainable development activities is also limited by relatively high levels of expenditure on the protection of sovereignty, including defence, and security, and by traditional supply-side policies, which often have high costs and environmental impacts.

The incentive and tax mechanisms do not mobilize and make the various actors sufficiently accountable for triggering a sustainable development process. Local taxation is particularly low in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, where the financial sector is, in those countries, still over-dependent on a banking system that has a near monopoly of savings. In many countries, the collateral required by commercial banks and the high costs of credit impede access by SMEs to investment in productive activities. Financial markets and the possibilities of alternative financing, such as micro credit, venture capital and subsidies, are poorly developed. The share of official development aid relevant to the orientations and actions laid out in the Strategy is limited. Financial institutions still do not have the necessary capacity to fund the human resources and programmes that are necessary for multiple small-scale actions.

Although domestic reforms to rationalize public expenditure and revise taxes and banking systems are necessary and are already partly under way, they are still insufficient. The developing countries, as a result, cannot support their needs on their own.

Orientations and actions

1. Invite the European donor countries members of OECD DAC to effectively implement the Millennium Development Goals related to the level of official development aid reaching 0.7% of GNP by 2015.
2. Encourage donors to mainstream sustainable development in their strategies and methods. Substantially increase the relative percentage of aid provided for actions that contribute to the implementation of this Strategy. Promote financing for decentralized development programmes, including those involving MEDA funding.
3. Rationalize and re-orient domestic government spending and promote the greening of public procurement to achieve greater consistency with the objectives of the Strategy. Undertake systematic cost-benefit analyses covering the environmental and social dimensions. Institutionalize and undertake environmental impact assessments, particularly before implementing any major public investment programmes.
4. Promote the implementation of systems, such as micro-credit, venture capital and incentive schemes, to support and fund productive activities and innovation by SMEs.
5. Evaluate the positive and negative externalities of policies and actions in terms of the environment and sustainability. Use economic instruments, such as subsidies/taxes and pricing mechanisms, to make the various actors accountable for sustainable development processes.
6. Develop public financial mechanisms to support the least favoured regions, rural areas, cities and neighbourhoods, with a view to strengthening social and territorial cohesion.
7. Continue and accelerate tax reforms and reforms of financial and banking systems, taking into account needs related to sustainable development.

3.3 National implementation

Engaging in the process of sustainable development requires involvement and endorsement at the highest levels. Such involvement and endorsement is crucial as sustainable development involves defining and adopting fundamental principles in laws and institutions, making decisions and setting long-term objectives, committing effectively concerned actors, identifying conflicts of interest, sometimes questioning the established "rent" economy, ensuring arbitration and consistency and moving policies forward.

To enable progress to be made in this regard, the Johannesburg Summit proposed the development of national sustainable development strategies. Mediterranean countries made the decision to develop national strategies in 2001. The Mediterranean Strategy is intended to serve as a 'framework' and an inspiration for national strategies that are currently being formulated and it can help in updating them. Clearly, each country must set its own specific objectives, depending on its national specificities and challenges, schedules and resources, while giving due consideration to MSSD objectives and other regional and international commitments.

The implementation of the Strategy depends on the action undertaken at the national level. It is therefore important for national development policies to integrate fully the requirements of sustainable development, and particularly for national strategies to feed down into sectoral sustainable development strategies covering such sectors as transport, energy and tourism. The promotion of local development policies justifies greater devolution of competence to local authorities and actors in the framework of contracts guaranteeing the inclusion of sustainability.

These national strategies will be considerably more effective if they are based on integrated prospective analyses of the environment and development. Administrative services responsible for planning, the environment and regional development have an important role to play in highlighting the major issues and risks and in contributing to the development of shared visions of possible and desirable avenues for the achievement of sustainable development.

Orientations and actions

1. Develop or update national sustainable development strategies giving due consideration to the MSSD vision, orientations and objectives. Promote peer review mechanisms of NSSDs by other countries and concerned partner institutions.
2. At the national level, develop or update sectoral strategies corresponding in particular to the seven priority fields of action and define a corresponding set of indicators.
3. Adopt measures, where necessary, to consolidate civil rights, participatory mechanisms and basic principles of the representativity, transparency and accountability of governance.
4. Undertake internal reforms to promote sustainable development and the successful implementation of the national and regional sustainable development strategies. Encourage regional and local authorities and communities to promote and contribute to the implementation of NSSDs
5. Establish an appropriate institutional framework for sustainable development, including national commissions, policies and programmes, assessment systems, mechanisms for undertaking sustainable development trend and prospective studies.
6. Establish partnerships and instruments for the commitment of all stakeholders to the processes of sustainable development, including local development processes and integrated regional management projects, the establishment of pools of experts to help local actors, the adoption of incentives, pricing, duties and taxes, certificates, charters and standards, and the promotion of awareness-raising campaigns, information and communication.
7. Promote all necessary interministerial cooperation for the effective implementation of sustainable development policies.

3.4 The Mediterranean Strategy as a model for the regional follow-up of progress and the promotion of sustainable development

Sustainable development goals will be attained more effectively if they are monitored properly, based on close follow-up of progress in the implementation of the MSSD and the exchange of experience. Regular assessments should demonstrate the eco-region commitment for being exemplary in this field. This also means comparing Mediterranean achievements with global goals and contributing to international assessments, reviews and debates.

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, created in 1995 as part of UNEP/MAP, has proved to be an adequate framework for such exchanges and collective follow-up. Mobilization will be increased through strengthened commitment from its members and regional partners, MAP support centres and programmes, working with improved transparency and stronger partnerships.

Orientations and actions

1. Maintain the high level of involvement of environmental actors and increase that of non-environmental actors in MCSD activities and the promotion of the Strategy. Strengthen the mobilization of elected representatives, the media and sectoral leaders to spread knowledge and ownership of the Strategy's objectives. Invite countries to develop extensive information programmes about the Strategy and links between actors in the assessment of its implementation.
2. Establish a two-year monitoring cycle to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategy and carry out an in-depth assessment every five years, the first of which in 2010 will constitute a special assessment for the third World Summit on Sustainable Development.

To this end:

- strengthen the Mediterranean network for monitoring the state of the environment, for information provision capacities and the promotion of sustainable development, including MAP components, the EEA and other regional cooperation frameworks.
- direct in a coordinated manner network efforts to measure progress regularly through policy-relevant assessments based on an adequate combination of indicators, analysis of good practices and other available targeted information.
- strengthen the exchange of experience and organize workshops or forums on the seven priority fields of action under the aegis of the MCSD.

Annex 1: Synergies between objectives and priority fields of action

FOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES	SEVEN ESSENTIAL ISSUES							IMPLEMENTATION
	Water	Energy and climate change	Transport	Tourism	Agriculture and rural development	Urban development	Sea and coastal zones	
<p>Economic development.</p> <p>Enhance Mediterranean assets</p>	Increase agricultural added value of cubic meter of water. (2)	Enhance the potential of Med. renewable energies: (7% of demand by 2015). (7) Reduce energy dependency	Develop more competitive and sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport systems Reduce growing congestion costs	Promote Sustainable tourism. Enhance value of Mediterranean assets and diversify tourism (13) Increase added value of tourist economy for local communities in developing countries. (14)	Enhance Mediterranean diversity and quality: typical products, organic agriculture, diet, landscapes.... (18) Productive and rational agriculture. Diversify rural economy. (15)	Promote sustainable urban economy Create added value from the cultural, historical and landscape heritage.	Develop activities (tourism, aquaculture,...) integrating natural fragilities. Protect and promote the unique value of coasts, sea resources, landscapes	<p>SOLIDARITY, COMMITMENT AND FINANCING</p> <p>Strengthen reciprocal commitment and financial support for MSSD goals/Med developing countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Development Aid: (27) • UE net public financial flows (28) <p>Type 2 initiatives Synergies EMP/ MAP</p>
<p>Reduce social disparities</p>	Halve the population (2015/1990) without access to safe drinking water (4) and sanitation (5) .	Halve the population without access to electricity (2015/1990)	Reduce the growth of transport costs in household budgets	Develop tourism to help promoting social cohesion and cultural values	Reduce rural poverty and social gaps with urban population. Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Enhance social and territorial cohesion	Reduce social inequalities. Integrate informal settlements. Reduce the share of slum housing. (20)	Preserve the social and cultural added value of traditional coastal activities (fishing, salt production, agriculture,...).	<p>Systems to fund productive and innovative activities by SMEs (29)</p> <p>Strengthen capacities of local authorities (30)</p> <p>Reinforce territorial cohesion Financial tools (31)</p>
<p>Change unsustainable production and consumption patterns.</p> <p>Ensure the Sustainable management of natural resources.</p>	Stabilize water demand (reduce losses and wasteful use)-. (1) Protect water resources (quantity and quality). (3) Prevent natural risks	Rational use of energy (energy efficiency). (6) Control, reduce or stabilize GHG emissions. (8) Reduce vulnerability of sensitive areas to climate change.	Stabilize or reduce road traffic share. (11) Transfer traffic from road to rail and sea. Low polluting collective urban transport systems. (12) Decoupling economic growth and motorised traffic increase.	Reduce tourist pressures in environmental hot spots. Better temporal and spatial management of tourist flows	Reduce desertification, and loss of arable land by erosion, salinisation and artificialisation. (16) Protect biodiversity and landscape. prepare agriculture for climate change.	Promote Mediterranean model of mixed and compact towns. Reduce air pollution. (22) Increase share of clean fuels. Reduce growth of municipal waste generation, (21) increase recycling and share of sanitary landfills	Avoid linear coastal urbanization. (23) Reduce land-based pollution. (25) Prevent pollution from ships. Eliminate operational pollution. (24) Stop/reduce marine and coastal biodiversity losses. Reduce vulnerability to risks.	<p>HUMAN CAPITAL AND PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure primary education for all (32) • Gender equality. Eliminate gender disparities in education (33) • Education in sustainable development • Increase public/private spending on research and development (34) • Access to information. Participatory approach. <p>NATIONAL STRATEGIES</p>

<p>Improve governance</p>	<p>Water demand policies: global and sectoral targets (agriculture, urban water, industries). Integrated water resource management. Promote local participation and partnerships</p>	<p>RUE/RE policies. Economic tools. Awareness campaigns. Cooperation/Implementation Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms. (8)</p>	<p>Economic tools. Investment. Euro-Med sustainable transport network.</p>	<p>Regional cooperation, ecotourism framework programme, labelling. Local governance. Economic tools. Tourism pay-back formulae. Carrying capacities</p>	<p>Euro-Mediterranean approach. Sustainable agricultural and rural development policies, programmes, regional parks, biosphere reserves.(17) Strengthen local communities governance, promote women.</p>	<p>Articulate spatial and transport planning. Strengthen capacities of local authorities. Promote Local Agenda 21, urban renewal programmes (19) public-private partnerships. Decentralized cooperation networks.</p>	<p>Enforce and improve regional and sub regional cooperation: (Convention, Strategies, SAP). Set up Protocol, laws and local governance for coastal management. Plans for islands. Risk plans. Protected areas network (objective 10% . (26) Increase international and European support.</p>	<p>National and sectoral sustainable development strategies. Institutional frameworks for sustainable development.</p>
----------------------------------	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--

(1) Indicators (see Annex 2)

Annex 2: Indicators for MSSD follow-up

I- Global follow-up of progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean

The global follow-up of progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean will show the main changes in terms of: socio-economic disparities between the two shores, economic weight of the Mediterranean region in the world, poverty and unemployment, contribution of the region to global pollution (climate change), environment degradation costs and the capacity of development to consider the needs of future generations. To that end, the major macro indicators available will be used, taking into account the usual interpretation caveats.

II- The 34 priority indicators for MSSD follow-up

Improving integrated water resource and demand management

Stabilize water demand (decrease in the North and controlled increases in the South and East). Reduce losses and misuses by setting up efficiency objectives for each sector of use. Decouple water demand and GDP growth and significantly increase the economic agriculture added value per cubic metre of water used.

Preserve water resources.

Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for access to safe drinking-water and sanitation.

N. 1	Water efficiency index (total and per sector with reference to objectives)
N. 2	Water intensity index ratio compared to GDP and research of evaluation of Water intensity irrigated agriculture production added value compared with water demand for irrigation
N. 3	Exploitation index of renewable water resources
N. 4	Proportion of the population with access to safe drinking-water (total, urban, rural) with reference to MDGs
N. 5	Proportion of the population with access to sanitation (total, urban, rural) with reference to MDGs

Managing energy demand and mitigating the effects of climate change

Use energy rationally by setting up global objectives and for each sector.

Develop renewable energies to meet 7% (excluding biomass) of the energy demand by 2015.

Control, stabilize or reduce emission of gas

Use the Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms for the sustainable development of the developing Mediterranean countries.

N. 6	Energy intensity, total and per sector, with reference to efficiency objectives
N. 7	Proportion of renewable energies in the energy balance sheet
N. 8	Green house gas emission
N. 9	Number of carbon emission reductions and amount financed in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms by the annex 1 countries to the benefit of other Mediterranean countries

Ensuring sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management

Decouple the motorized transport increase from GDP growth.

Stabilize or reduce whenever possible the proportion of road transport in the overall volume of traffic by a shift to sea and rail.

Reduce urban vehicle congestion and pollution noise by promoting low-pollutant public transport.

N. 10	Motorized transport intensity in relation to the GDP
N. 11	The proportion of road transport in terms of freight transport
N. 12	Proportion of public surface transport (urban and interurban)

Promote sustainable tourism

Diversify tourism by developing offers that enhance Mediterranean diversity (eco-tourism, cultural, urban and rural tourism).

Increase added value of tourism for local communities and actors in developing countries.

N. 13	Proportion of non-seaside beds in total number of holiday beds
N. 14	International tourism receipts with assessment of effective benefits for destination countries and local populations

Promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development

Diversify the rural economy by developing non-agricultural activities.

N. 15	Agricultural population to rural population ratio, with identification of socio economic indicators (employment, businesses)
-------	--

Equip rural areas and reduce gaps with urban areas.
Combat desertification and the loss of productive land by 2015, reduce by at least one-third the present rates of quality agricultural land losses due to erosion, salinization, desertification, urban and other development and abandonment.

Promote sustainable agricultural rural development programmes, especially in marginal rural areas.

Increase the agriculture added value, recognition and marketing of quality Mediterranean products.

Synthesis from various MDG indicators

- | | |
|-------|---|
| N. 16 | Loss of arable land by desertification, erosion, salinization, artificialization and agriculture abandonment |
| N. 17 | Sustainable rural development programmes for underprivileged rural areas, reconciling human development and environmental protection, including biosphere reserves and natural parks (proportion of relevant department budget) |
| N. 18 | Proportion of agriculture quality products (identification, labelling and geographical origin, homeland products, labels, organic farming) |

Promoting sustainable urban development

Promote a sustainable urban economy. Anticipate and plan for expected urban growth.

Reduce social disparities.

Improve the urban environment:
Reduce waste generation. Decouple the increase in waste generation and GDP growth.
Reduce air pollutants.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| N. 19 | Number of cities with over 10000 inhabitants engaged in a process Agenda 21 type or in urban renewal programmes |
| N. 20 | Proportion of urban population with access to a decent dwelling |
| N. 21 | Household waste generation per capita and the number of uncontrolled dumping sites |
| N. 22 | Air quality in major Mediterranean urban areas, assessed via a composite index (indicator) to be defined (e.g. ATMO index) |

Promoting sustainable management of the sea and the coastal areas and take urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones

Promote balanced development and integrated management of the coastline. Push back urbanization to prevent artificialization of coasts. Avoid linear and continuous urbanization.

Eliminate operational pollution from ships by 2025.

Reduce pollution from land-based sources.

Halt or reduce substantially marine and coastal biodiversity loss by 2010. Bring at least 10% of the marine and coastal surface under some form of protection.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| N. 23 | Artificialized coastline / Total coastline (0–1-km and 1–10-km strip) |
| N. 24 | Operational pollution from ships |
| N. 25 | Proportion of coastal urban inhabitants with no access to sanitation |
| N. 26 | Surface of protected coastal and marine areas |

Strengthen solidarity, commitment and financing for a sustainable development at regional, national and local levels

Before 2015, raise the level of official development aid (ODA) from the European OECD countries to 0.7% of their GNP (MDG), and reinforce this support contribution to implementation of the Strategy.

Strengthen reciprocal commitments, solidarity and Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation for sustainable development.

Promote implementation of systems to enable funding of SMEs for productive and innovative activities (micro-credit, venture capital, incentives, etc).

Strengthen local authorities' prerogatives and capacities.

Reinforce territorial and social cohesion. Develop public financial mechanisms to support the least favoured regions.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| N. 27 | ODA allocated as % of OECD DAC countries donors' GNP; proportion of the ODA allocated to Mediterranean countries and proportion contributing to the strategy objectives |
| N. 28 | EU net public financial flows to EU Mediterranean members, candidates, CARDS and MEDA countries (in absolute value and per capita) and proportion contributing to the objectives of the strategy |
| N. 29 | Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems to bank credit |
| N. 30 | Proportion of local government tax revenue as % of total tax revenues (government receipts). Proportion of government budget allocated to local authorities. |
| N. 31 | Public financial mechanisms to support the least favoured regions |

Strengthen human capital and actors' involvement: research, training, education, awareness-raising and participation

Ensure primary education for all (MDG).	N. 32	Literacy rate of young people between 15 and 25 years old
Eliminate the disparities between girls and boys in education (MDG).	N. 33	The girl/boy ratio enrolment in primary education and high school
In synergy with the private sector, increase expenses on research and development between now and 2015 so as to get closer to at least the average level in countries with equivalent incomes, stressing the rational use of natural resources, developing environment-friendly technologies and enhancing the Mediterranean economic and social know-how and diversity.	N. 34	Public and private expenses for research and development in % of GDP

III- Additional* indicators for MSSD follow-up

Reduce exposure to floods and drought hazards.		Regulation indexes (average flow of regulated resources compared to total flow)
Protect water resources.		Unsustainable water exploitation index
Reduce water pollution		Purification rate of collected wastewater
By 2015, halve the proportion of the population (compared with 1990) with no access to electricity by favouring the use of renewable energies.		Electrification rate (urban/rural) in measuring the proportion of renewable energies in the new services to isolated rural areas
Have Euro-Mediterranean transport links available so as to ensure greater competitiveness that integrates sustainability.		Indicator to be defined
Reduce tourism's negative environmental impacts, especially coastal areas' tourism.		Tourism density along the coast
Reduce rural poverty.		Proportion of rural population under national poverty level
Revive the Mediterranean model of mixed and compact cities that generate low environmental pressures and offer a good quality of life.		Artificialized land use per capita
Significantly reduce continental biodiversity loss.		Biodiversity indicator to be defined
Halt or significantly reduce marine and coastal biodiversity loss by 2010 and preserve halieutic resources.		Share of the surface area of posidonia in the infra-coastal zone
Transform at least half of unregulated waste dumps into sanitary landfills.		Share of regulated sanitary landfills
Decrease pollution from land-based sources by the reduction by 20% of hazardous waste production by 2010.		Hazardous waste production
Improve coastal water quality.		Composite indicator to be defined
Invite the developed Mediterranean countries to increase initiatives and projects of regional, sub-regional or bilateral interest that contribute to implementing the Strategy ("type-2 initiatives").		Type 2 initiatives
Reinforce EU foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Mediterranean.		Proportion of the EU FDI going to Mediterranean countries in the total extra-EU FDI
		Balance of the net financial flows to Mediterranean developing countries (including workers' remittances, ODA, FDI)
Improve access to information and promote a participatory approach.		Countries that have ratified the Aarhus Convention
Maintain cultural diversity.		Indicator to be defined
Implement national strategies for sustainable development.		National or sectoral strategies adopted or reviewed

*10-15 Additional indicators will be proposed for a more accurate follow-up of progress achieved in the priority fields.

Annex 3: Acronyms and abbreviations

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
BOD	Biochemical dissolved-oxygen demands
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstructions Development and Stabilisation (EU Assistance Programme for the western Balkans)
CEDARE	Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CWR	Combustible Renewables and Waste
EEA	European Environment Agency
EMP	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
ENP	European neighbourhood Policy
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FEMIP	Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GNP	Gross National Products
MWI	Mediterranean Water Institute
IMO	International Maritime Organization
Interreg	A Community initiative which aims to stimulate interregional cooperation
IUCN	World Conservation Union
LBS	Land-Based Sources
Leader	Community initiative for rural development
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEDA	Principal financial instrument of the European Union for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
MEDREP	Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme
MedWET	Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
METAP	Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGV	Natural Gas for Vehicles
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxide
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAMOGE	Agreement adopted by the Governments of France, Monaco and Italy to ensure that the coastal areas of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, the Principality of Monaco and the Ligurian Region should constitute a pilot zone for preventing and combating pollution of the marine environment
REs	Renewable energies
REMPEP	Rome Mediterranean Energy Platform
RUE	Rational Use of Energy
SAP	Strategic Action programme
SAP-BIO	Strategic Action Programme for Conserving Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
SEMC	South and East Mediterranean Countries
SMAP	Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme

SME	Small and Medium enterprise
SMI	Small and Medium industry
SPAMI	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
URBAN	A Community initiative concerning economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis in order to promote sustainable urban development
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Background documents related to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development: Vision, Orientations, Strategic Thematic Notes, together with other relevant documents are available on our website: www.unepmap.org under MCSD and “what’s new” and for the Report on Environment and Development please visit the web site of Bleu Plan/RAC: www.planbleu.org