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Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Guidelines for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Objectives and Guiding Principles	4
Method and Results	4
Introduction	6
Objectives and Guiding Principles	6
Reference Framework and Methodological Approach	6
International instruments	12
SEMC Commitments to International MEAs	12
MEAs: General Information and Specific Links with SDGs	13
Links between MEAs and SDGs	40
Mediterranean Instruments	42
Commitments of Mediterranean Countries to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols	43
The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: General Information and Links with International MEAs	43
The MSSD 2016-2025: a Strategic Framework that incorporates Mediterranean MEAs	48
The AFD's Regional Strategy Framework and the MSSD 2016-2025	55
Conclusion	61
Bibliography	62
Acronyms	63
List of Figures	64
Appendices	65
Appendix 1: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals	65
Appendix 2: Logic Diagram of the AFD "Mediterranean" Department's Regional Strategy Framework (CIR) 2015-2018	66

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of this report is to identify and conduct a comparative analysis of the main environmental commitments of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs). The goal of the study is to develop greater consistency in order to improve implementation and synergy, especially with regard to corporate and social responsibility (CSR) in investment projects in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

This report was initiated as part of the 2014-2016 partnership between Plan Bleu and the French Development Agency (AFD). This partnership has enabled sustainable development issues to be better taken into account by the Mediterranean Department of the AFD. It has also been instrumental in Plan Bleu's reflective process leading up to the development of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025). It should also further Plan Bleu's efforts to encourage the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 recommendations by helping SEMCs take ownership of them through the strategic dialogue led by AFD with its clients and partners, and the projects that it funds.

Beyond the AFD and Plan Bleu, this report aims to serve all stakeholders working towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, with particular emphasis on development agencies and financial institutions, which have a role to play in disseminating environmental best practices by providing technical support to their project partners and complying with CSR obligations in their operations. It provides a consolidated assessment of the contractual, strategic and operational commitments of SEMCs in all major environmental management areas. Although the scope of these commitments can vary depending on the type of agreement, the subject, and the scale of application, comparative analysis provides a reference and key tools to improve compliance with environmental standards.

This report was written based on three areas of focus with the goal of creating a useful tool:

1. The inventory and overview of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that have been signed by SEMCs in order to facilitate their ownership and implementation;
2. The comparative analysis of these MEAs and other existing instruments in order to utilize them in a joint or complementary manner;
3. The search for relevant guidelines to help investment and development project leaders in SEMCs, particularly Plan Bleu and AFD partners, to implement these commitments.

METHOD AND RESULTS

This report is organised around three analysis themes:

First, a comparative analysis of international MEAs to identify their complementarities so that projects developed in SEMCs are geared towards sustainability objectives. An analysis of correlations between these MEAs and seven of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a strong environmental component, and with the relevant recommendations of the MSSD 2016-2025 also provides information on their scope.

The MEAs signed by SEMCs include substantial commitments in terms of natural resource and marine environment protection, as well as combating climate change and its impacts and pollution. For each MEA, the most significant elements are presented using a standard format that includes the objectives of the agreement, the obligations of the Contracting Parties and operational guidelines (i.e. the specific measures that implement these obligations and the related tools that can be directly used by managing bodies). The synergies between MEAs, and their links with the SDGs are highlighted to help identify measures that are relevant to the situations encountered.

In principle MEAs are binding to various extents. However, their implementation is left open to interpretation and is dependent on the measures to be taken by the Contracting Parties. As a result, while their purpose and guiding principles provide a solid basis for general implementation, the associated obligations and guidelines can vary depending on the way they are interpreted and implemented by each country.

In the second part, the synergies between the environmental objectives of Mediterranean regional instruments, the Barcelona Convention and its seven additional protocols, and those of other MEAs are examined. The body of regional agreements is compared with the MSSD 2016-2025, which contains guidance and recommendations for their operational implementation.

The objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its additional protocols have led to a gradual increase in the thematic and geographic reach of SEMC commitments to the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean. By analysing the goals of the MSSD 2016-2025 in terms of their contribution to these legal obligations, more operational and cross-disciplinary recommendations can be made, in order to directly or indirectly contribute to the objectives of Mediterranean MEAs. These recommendations, which detail those of the MSSD 2016-2025, may also help countries implement the measures of protocols that they have not ratified.

Mediterranean-specific policy instruments are a way of better contextualising environmental management and CSR with respect to issues that explicitly affect SEMCs. In terms of complementarity, it is useful to utilize the respective guidelines of Mediterranean MEAs and the MSSD 2016-2025. However it is also important to promote both so that international commitments can be applied at the regional level.

Finally, a comparative analysis between the AFD's Mediterranean Regional Strategy Framework (*Cadre d'Intervention Régional - CIR*) and the MSSD 2016-2025 provides operational perspectives for improving the sustainability of the five CIR areas of activity with strong environmental aspects.

Several of the strategic directions in the MSSD 2016-2025 are aimed at guiding projects in these sectors. They clearly correspond with the territorial approaches that some of them reflect in terms of rural, urban and coastal development. Their cross-cutting nature also enriches the framework of fields that have more sector-based approaches such as water and energy management.

The recommendations of the MSSD 2016-2025 therefore direct actions towards initiatives that increase the environmental sustainability of projects in harmony with economic and social sustainability conditions. By targeting its objectives at various stakeholders (National governments, regional institutions, local authorities, universities, private sector, and civil society) while developing cross-cutting development perspectives, the MSSD 2016-2025 acts as an important decision-making tool for development agencies that base their projects on similar approaches combining the various aspects of sustainable development. Finally, the MSSD 2016-2025 is an essential reference for supporting the legitimacy of project CSR initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of this report is to identify and conduct a comparative analysis of the main environmental commitments of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs). The Plan Bleu and French Development Agency (AFD) backed study was carried out with the goal of creating greater consistency in order to improve implementation and synergy, especially when it comes to corporate and social responsibility (CSR) obligations in investment projects in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The partnership between Plan Bleu and the AFD, supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, coincides with the transition of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). During this transition phase, Plan Bleu has been responsible for integrating the 2015 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Mediterranean level through the review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). Partnership with Plan Bleu has helped the Mediterranean Department of the AFD to better take into account sustainable development issues. It has also been instrumental in Plan Bleu's reflective process leading up to the development of the MSSD 2016-2025. It should also further Plan Bleu's efforts to encourage the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 recommendations by helping SEMCs take ownership of them through the strategic dialogue led by AFD with its clients and partners, and the projects that it funds.

Beyond the AFD and Plan Bleu, this report aims to serve all stakeholders working towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, with particular emphasis on development agencies and financial institutions. Under the environmental obligations established by international financial institutions, a cross-cutting approach to environmental governance instruments can help project managing bodies in their efforts to make development projects consistent with the contractual, strategic, and operational commitments of SEMCs.

This report is intended to act as a guide for managing bodies and financial institutions, to help them define and disseminate environmental standards, and implement CSR in operations while providing projects with technical assistance.

This report was written with three areas of focus in mind, all with the goal of creating a useful tool:

- The inventory and overview of MEAs that have been signed by SEMCs in order to facilitate their ownership and implementation;
- The comparative analysis of these MEAs and other existing commitments in order to utilize them in a joint or complementary manner;
- The search for relevant guidelines to help investment and development managing bodies in SEMCs, particularly Plan Bleu and AFD partners, in implementing these commitments.

REFERENCE FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

This report is organised around three analysis themes:

- A comparative analysis of international MEAs to identify their complementarities in order to gear projects developed in SEMCs towards sustainability objectives.
- In the second part, the synergies between the environmental objectives of Mediterranean regional instruments, the Barcelona Convention and its seven additional protocols, and those of other MEAs are examined.
- Finally, a comparative analysis between the AFD's Mediterranean Regional Strategy Framework (*Cadre d'Intervention Régional - CIR*) and the MSSD 2016-2025 provides operational perspectives for improving the sustainability of the five CIR areas of activity with strong environmental aspects.

1. International Environmental Commitments

The first level of analysis concerns internationally recognised MEAs. They will be referred to as "International MEAs" to distinguish them from "Mediterranean MEAs," which focus on specifically regional objectives.

Box 1. The definition of MEAs

Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) are international treaties between three or more states aimed at global environmental protection and restoration. They promote sustainable development by imposing specific actions on signatories. MEAs have been produced without coordination or levels of priority and apply to different areas. Few include any sanctions in the event of violations or real monitoring systems. This explains why states do not always hold well to their international commitments (source: <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r03-233/r03-23336.html>).

MEAs create a legally binding framework for commitments made by states around thematic environmental issues. These include natural resource and marine environment protection, combating climate change and its impacts, pollution control, etc.

The legal framework for MEAs is governed by the Vienna Convention (1969) on the Law of Treaties which recognises various means of expressing consent to be bound by a treaty or international agreement: signature, ratification, acceptance, accession or approval (Article 11). It is up to the contracting states to determine and specify the effects of the different means of expressing consent. As the first step before ratification, acceptance, accession or approval, signature does not entail a commitment to comply with the legal obligations of the treaty. It does not imply that the treaty will enter into force in the signatory country. It expresses an intention to take measures in order to be bound by the treaty at a later time and creates an obligation not to defeat the object and purpose of the treaty (Article 18). In theory, the legally binding scope of MEAs creates liability in the event of negligence or damage due to a failure to comply with the provisions of an international treaty or agreement.

Under MEAs, countries commit to taking measures to meet their objectives, leading to cooperative efforts to make sufficient technical and financial resources available to all the parties. Cooperation is mainly organised through the activities of an intergovernmental organisation, often under a United Nations programme, which oversees and facilitates the implementation and monitoring of commitments. The contracting states can also provide each other with mutual assistance through regular or occasional bilateral cooperation.

MEAs that go beyond the specific issues of the Mediterranean Basin but can be applied to the region are the primary international environmental benchmarks. Since States contractually commit to these MEAs, they become a source of inspiration and support for all development stakeholders in the Mediterranean and a tool to encourage and help countries respect their environmental commitments.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

MEAs can be considered and used as instruments to meet the global agenda for sustainable development. They are theoretically binding commitments that have been renewed, extended and enriched over the years as international mobilisation has evolved towards efforts to harmonise development and environmental protection dynamics. Comparing international MEAs and SDGs promotes their complementarities and enriches the scope of both.

Box 2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The first international sustainable development commitments date back to the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Twenty years later, in 2012, governments came together for the Rio+20 Summit. One of the outcomes of "The Future We Want" declaration was the need to develop SDGs. These non-binding goals aimed at improving the Post-2015 Development Agenda are the successor to the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after their 2015 deadline. With the main goal of eliminating extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries, the eight MDGs made headway in fifteen years. The aim of the SDGs has been to pick up where the MDGs leave off through new themes and more integrated development approaches that are universally applicable to all countries across the world. Thus, 17 SDGs (See Appendix 1) and numerous targets united the international community around priority themes and strategies to better achieve the commitments countries have made and those they will make in the future.

For more information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

Methodological approach

The first part of this report provides an overview of the international MEAs signed by SEMCs by focusing on the MEAs with the most international importance.

Figure 1: MEAs studied in this report and their acronyms or common names

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols	CBD
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	ITPGRFA
Convention on Wetlands	Ramsar Convention
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	World Heritage Convention (WHC)
Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	CITES
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	CMS
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds	AEWA
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area	ACCOBAMS
PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT	
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	UNCLOS
COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS	
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	UNCCD
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol	UNFCCC
COMBATING POLLUTION	
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	Basel Convention
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Stockholm Convention
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol	Vienna Convention
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Rotterdam Convention
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Minamata Convention

Demonstrating the possible contributions of international MEAs to SDGs with a strong environmental dimension must create synergies for project management. Seven SDGs have been selected for their environmental dimension (Figure 2), in order to better identify their complementarities with MEAs.

Figure 2: Sustainable Development Goals selected for their fundamentally environmental dimension

No.	SDG
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The goals and commitments of MEAs are also compared with the recommendations of MSSD 2016-2025 so that they can be individually linked to some of the Strategy's directions and initiatives. The MSSD 2016-2025 can be considered as a regional version of the SDGs and certain international MEAs and its recommendations therefore offer potential additional guidelines for action adapted to the Mediterranean context.

2. Mediterranean Environmental Commitments

The second level of analysis concerns MAP instruments: Mediterranean (or regional) MEAs. They are articulated with MSSD 2016-2025, which contains directions and actions that could be used for the operational implementation of several Mediterranean MEA goals.

The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

The second part of this report explores environmental cooperation tools in the region with particular focus on the commitments made by SEMCs under the Barcelona Convention and MAP. Mediterranean instruments are analysed to guide development partners and stakeholders so that the projects they support can be aligned with the aims of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Box 3. Mediterranean MEAs that are regularly updated and improved

The Convention for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention, 1976) was developed within the framework of the UNEP/MAP, initially for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. In 1995 it was amended and renamed the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, widening the mandate of the MAP to continental areas or the terrestrial part of coastal areas. The Barcelona Convention and its additional Protocols support and strengthen the environmental commitments of the 21 Mediterranean States and the European Union who are the convention's Contracting Parties. Over the last forty years, the MAP system has provided a unique framework for regional cooperation and environmental governance for countries that border the semi-enclosed Mediterranean Sea.

The additional protocols to the convention also demonstrate the active cooperative efforts being made to protect the Mediterranean environment and particularly marine ecosystems (Dumping Protocol, Prevention and Emergency Protocol, Offshore Protocol). These also include terrestrial ecosystems - Land-based Sources and Activities Protocol, Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol, Hazardous Wastes Protocol, Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

These additional protocols to the Barcelona Convention are regional adaptations of certain international MEAs, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Basel Convention, etc. They are promoted, implemented and monitored with the support of the MAP and its Regional Activity Centres (RACs), which are responsible for drawing up regional roadmaps and action plans for implementing and monitoring each protocol. The UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit based in Athens is in charge of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat and oversees and coordinates all MAP Regional Activity Centres and activities.

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

The MSSD is a non-binding integrative political framework meant to guide Mediterranean countries to harmonise the interactions between social, economic and environmental development goals and ensure that they honour their environmental commitments.

Box 4. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) within the MAP system

In 1996, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention created the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) for the MAP system. It is an advisory body made up of a panel of experts representing national governments, local authorities, the private sector and civil society. The MCSD gives opinions and recommendations to the Parties, particularly through the MSSD, which was officially adopted in 2005. This Strategy is a regional response to the global sustainable development agenda. The aim of the MSSD is to help Mediterranean countries define national sustainable development strategies.

At their 18th ordinary meeting (COP18) in Istanbul in 2013, to coincide with the creation of the SDGs, the Contracting Parties made the decision to launch a review of the MSSD. The MCSD worked alongside the MAP Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu to carry out a consultation process involving regional stakeholders and to draft the new Strategy. MSSD 2016-2025 was officially approved in February 2016, at COP 19 in Athens. It is based on the following vision: **“A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This must be achieved through common objectives, strong involvement of all stakeholders, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.”**

The MSSD is a reference document for financial institutions and development players working in the Mediterranean. Financial institutions are essential to its implementation. Their technical and financial resources must enable States to follow recommendations made to address the specific issues of the region and contribute to SDGs implementation. Furthermore, a comparative analysis of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and the actions recommended by the MSSD seems relevant to orient the contributions of development stakeholders towards meeting the objectives of Mediterranean MEAs: <http://planbleu.org/en/activites/sustainable-development-and-mssd>

Methodological approach

The second part of the report provides an overview of legally binding commitments in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols that can be used to apply certain elements from international MEAs.

Figure 3: Mediterranean MEAs selected and their common names

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean	Barcelona Convention (BC)
Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft	Dumping Protocol
Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	Prevention and Emergency Protocol
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources	LBS Protocol
Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean	SPA and Biodiversity Protocol
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil	Offshore Protocol
Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	Hazardous Wastes Protocol
Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean	ICZM Protocol

An overview of the six objectives of MSSD 2016-2025 in light of their contributions to Mediterranean MEAs should make it easier to appropriate the issues that they address and identify operational perspectives to meet these objectives.

Figure 4: Six Objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025)

Objective 1:	Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas
Objective 2:	Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development
Objective 3:	Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities
Objective 4:	Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean
Objective 5:	Transitioning towards a green and blue economy
Objective 6:	Improving governance in support of sustainable development

3. The AFD’s Regional Strategy Framework and MSSD 2016-2025: convergence of strategic and operational aspects for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

The MSSD 2016-2025 offers important guidelines for defining the environmental sustainability of the AFD’s Regional Strategy Framework (CIR 2015-2018, Appendix 2). The MSSD Strategy presents recommendations that are more operationally-oriented than MEAs. This provides the AFD with a key reference for orienting some of its activities, especially when countries have not ratified the corresponding MEA(s). Finally, as far as AFD CSR initiatives and territorial actions are concerned, the MSSD 2016-2025 acts as a tool to support project development processes with integrated visions.

The third level of analysis of this report provides the AFD Mediterranean Department with strategic recommendations related to its areas of activity in order to support some of its efforts.

Methodological approach

The third part of this report provides a comparative analysis of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the AFD’s “Mediterranean” Regional Strategy Framework (CIR). The outcome is a set of MSSD 2016-2025 strategic directions considered particularly relevant for the CIR’s five areas of activity with strong environmental aspects. MSSD 2016-2025 has some thirty strategic directions. This report uses a reasoned sample (4 or 5) of those that are the most relevant for each of the CIR’s five areas of activity, along with a practical example of action for each of them.

Figure 5: The five Mediterranean Regional Strategy Framework (CIR) areas of activity selected for their environmental aspects and related CIR objectives

d. Support for income-generating rural activities (agro-industry, agroforestry, food storage)	Objective 3: Improve the attractiveness of urban and rural areas
e. Mediterranean coastal development (biodiversity, bay contracts, sustainable tourism, port logistics)	
f. In cities: improve urban mobility, decent housing, rehabilitate informal settlements; industrial waste clean-up; improve hospital care and health services	
g. Renewable energies and energy efficiency; promote the use of gas; optimise utility networks and update electrical interconnections	Objective 4: Promote energy security via a sustainable energy mix
h. Water availability (IWRM, desalination, leak reduction, optimisation of agricultural water) and quality (wastewater treatment and purification); agroecology; flood prevention	Objective 5: Adapt to water stress and arable land scarcity

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

SEMC COMMITMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL MEAs

This Chapter begins with an inventory of SEMC commitments to international MEAs (i.e. signature, ratification, etc.). Figure 6 provides a summary of these commitments, with the agreements/conventions shown in the rows and a column for each country.

It should be recalled that the objectives of an MEA has to be legitimately implemented if the country has ratified, acceded to, accepted or approved the MEA in question. Once a treaty is ratified, internal law cannot justify its failure to be implemented. However, signature is an intermediary form of consent to an MEA, indicating that the country plans to undertake the treaty obligations and has begun to harmonise its legal and regulatory framework so as to comply with the obligations at a later time. Signature can encourage or incite project managing bodies to anticipate the implementation of MEA obligations.

There appears to be considerable SEMC coverage of international MEAs. Problems associated with the legal status of Palestine within the United Nations have delayed its commitments to international MEAs. However, it seems to be increasingly invited by Secretariats of different conventions to ratify treaties. Palestine recently ratified four MEAs on 2 January 2015.

Some agreements or protocols have yet to be ratified by many countries due to their recent nature and the need to create or adapt national legal or regulatory policies. This is the case of the Nagoya Protocol, adopted in 2010 by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, or the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013).

Sometimes there are specific reasons why they are not ratified or signed, such as if the geographic or thematic scope of an MEA is irrelevant for the country in question. This is clearly the case for Jordan and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.

Figure 6: SEMC signature and ratification of MEAs

	Algeria	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey
CBD										
Cartagena P.										
Nagoya P.										
ITPGRFA										
RAMSAR										
WHC										
CITES										
CMS										
AEWA										
ACCOBAMS										
UNCLOS										
UNFCCC										
UNCCD										
Kyoto P.										
Vienna C.										
Montreal P.										
Basel C.										
Stockholm C.										
Rotterdam C.										
Minamata C.										

Key: ■ Ratification, Acceptance, Approval, Accession, ■ Signature, ■ Unsigned

(ACCOBAMS), as the country does not border the Mediterranean Sea. Other reasons such as the cost of resources that need to be put in place to honour contractual obligations, or the consequences of failing to comply with obligations can dissuade countries from signing or ratifying an MEA.

MEAs: GENERAL INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC LINKS WITH SDGs

The overview of international MEAs is intended to facilitate the appropriation of their areas of action and operational guidelines. Although most of all their objectives are interdependent and/or complementary, it is easier to understand their issues and identify potential synergies by clustering them into groups based on their themes and theoretical approaches. We therefore distinguish between:

- MEAs concerning the protection of natural resources
- MEAs concerning the protection of the marine environment
- MEAs on combating climate change and its impacts
- MEAs on combating pollution

Analysing the content of the MEAs makes it possible to identify the most significant aspects for each agreement by standardising the general information presentation format (objectives and general obligations, guidelines for project managing bodies).

In general, all the agreements include the following requirements for Contracting Parties:

- Sufficient national measures of various kinds to fulfil the obligations of the agreement. The agreements do not all include the same level of detail regarding specific actions and resources. However some have an action plan to guide the Parties on how to implement their obligations.
- Public awareness and education activities on the issues related to the agreement.
- Institutional, scientific, technical, technological and financial cooperation between the Contracting Parties in order to jointly achieve the objectives of the agreement.
- Information and data exchange to monitor the themes of the MEAs.

By identifying and determining the extent to which the SDGs and their targets are covered, their synergies with the MEA in question can be understood, potentially providing the opportunity for joint use. In this sense, the directions and actions of the MSSD 2016-2025 serve as regional guidelines in support of certain activities in addition to the MEA and corresponding SDGs, or in substitution where the country has not ratified the MSSD. 2016-2025

A general overview of all the links between international instruments is provided at the end of this chapter (Section 3) and offers a concise look at the overlap between MEAs and SDGs (Figure 27). Figure 28 shows a summary model of the most significant synergies.

MEAs concerning the protection of natural resources

MEAs on the protection of natural resources include agreements with objectives characterised by strong conservation principles that mainly target terrestrial ecosystems and their biological resources (Figure 7). However, due to the territorial approach developed by some agreements, the marine environment and non-biological resources can also benefit from the same type of protection. "Natural Heritage" sites under the World Heritage Convention (WHC, 1972) and Ramsar sites under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention, 1971) are good examples of this mixed goal of protecting biological and non-biological resources, and the marine and/or terrestrial environment. The objectives and measures of these two conventions can be used in synergy in the same territory. This is the case of the wetlands of Ichkeul National Park in Tunisia, which is on both the World Natural Heritage List (WHC) and the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar).

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, is a reference and umbrella agreement covering all terrestrial and aquatic biological resources with far-reaching measures that partially overlap with each of the conventions on the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. This is particularly the case for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA, 2001). The treaty works in harmony with the CBD to pursue food security objectives by conserving biodiversity in agricultural activities. Its theme is particularly concerned by the protocols of the CBD: the Cartagena Protocol (2000) on living modified organisms and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their utilization (2010). The Nagoya Protocol is not yet in force in most SEMCs, but its agricultural principles are somewhat covered by the ITPGRFA through its Farmers' Rights. Like the ITPGRFA, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, 1975) contributes to the objectives of the CBD by regulating and controlling economic activities that threaten certain aspects of biodiversity.

The World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS or Bonn Convention, 1979) focus more on conservation than regulating natural resources but also contribute to the objectives of the CBD, even though they were adopted and came into force before it. Within the scope of the CMS, two additional MEAs were created and outline the commitments made by SEMCs to conserve two types of migratory species: the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA, 1996) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS, 1996). These agreements are classified as marine environment MEAs in this report. Finally, the AEWA Agreement and the Ramsar Convention both contribute to each other's objectives concerning waterbirds/ waterfowl as these species are ecologically dependent on wetlands.

Figure 7: International MEAs concerning the protection of natural resources

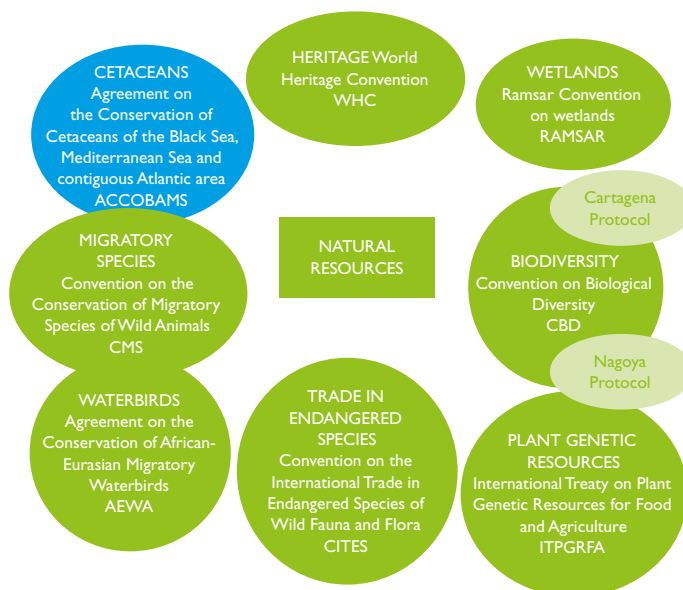


Figure 8: The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	
Year adopted: 1992 Entry into force: 1993 Contracting Parties: 196 Acronym: CBD	SEMC Parties to the Convention: All SEMC Parties to the Cartagena Protocol All SEMC Parties to the Nagoya Protocol Egypt, Jordan, Syria SEMC signatories to the Nagoya Protocol: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia
OBJECTIVES 1) The conservation of biological diversity. 2) The sustainable use of its components. 3) The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS Development of national strategies/plans/programmes dedicated to achieving these objectives or integrating them into other national plans and programmes. Main activities: Identification and monitoring of biological diversity. Adoption of general legislative, administrative or political measures (example: protected areas) to protect, restore, support sustainable use and promote innovation and local knowledge. Facilitate the exchange of all information related to the objectives of the convention (technical reports, etc.).
CARTAGENA Protocol (adopted in 2000 with entry into force in 2003) Objective: Contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The protocol also sets out to regulate transboundary movements of genetically modified organisms.	
NAGOYA Protocol (adopted in 2010 with entry into force in 2014) Objective: Create conditions to access genetic resources and address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources while encouraging the involvement of local communities in defining and managing genetic resources and promoting traditional knowledge.	
GUIDELINES National legislation and plans/strategies/reports on conservation, use and access to genetic resources. Example: protected area maps and systems. The principle of precaution and the use of environmental impact studies for projects likely to significantly harm biological diversity in order to prevent or mitigate their effects and, if possible involve the public. The promotion of traditional knowledge, and access of local communities to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 serve as strategic directions for facilitating the appropriation of the Convention's objectives. For information and communication purposes, under some conditions, certification and labelling systems could be used for programmes and projects via one or more of the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets. https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/default.shtml	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	15	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
2	14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
2	2	2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
1	6	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
1	12	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
1	13	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development.
Strategic Direction	2.3: Promote networks of ecologically protected areas at national and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss
Example of national action	2.3.2. Establish programmes to enhance awareness among local stakeholders on the economic, social and environmental value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss for their daily lives.
Example of regional action	2.3.5. Promote the "Green list" (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies.

In general, creating ecologically protected areas requires management measures that help conserve exceptional or threatened components of biodiversity.

Action 2.3.2 of the MSSD 2016-2025 also encourages the adoption and implementation of national awareness programmes developed at the local level, although their use varies significantly from region to region.

Finally, promotion of the "Green List" (action 2.3.5), aimed at helping Contracting Parties of the CBD implement their strategic plan 2011-2020, must be shared at the Mediterranean level. The "Green List" is an instrument that should facilitate the pursuit of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, which states that "by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular

importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes".

Figure 9: International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	
<p>Year adopted: 2001 Entry into force: 2004 Contracting Parties: 136 Acronym: ITPGRFA</p>	<p>SEMC Parties to the Treaty: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey</p>
<p>OBJECTIVES 1) The conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. 2) The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.</p>	<p>GENERAL OBLIGATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the conservation of these resources: exploration, collection, characterisation, evaluation and documentation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. • For the sustainable use of these resources: promotion of diverse farming systems, ecological practices, farmer involvement, measures for improving and diversifying genetic material and farmer's access to it.
<p>GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources, consisting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture between the Contracting Parties, also transferred to individuals or entities under the jurisdiction of any Contracting Party subject to a Standard Material Transfer Agreement (MTA); b) Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of plant genetic resources: the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building, and the sharing of the benefits arising from commercialisation. • Farmers' rights defined under the Treaty include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; b) The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; c) The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	2	2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed. 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries.
2	12	12.8 By 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.
2	15	15.6 Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and promote appropriate access to genetic resources, as internationally agreed.
2	14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
1	13	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
1	6	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development.
Strategic Direction	2.2: Promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions.
Example of national action	2.2.1. Establish national seed banks and knowledge repositories of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds.
Example of regional action	2.2.4. Establish regional collaboration between seed banks and knowledge repositories around the Mediterranean.

Action 2.2.1 of the MSSD 2016-2025 corresponds to the objectives of the ITPGRFA in that national seed banks and knowledge repositories can contribute to conserving the diversity of plant genetic resources and awareness about their sustainable use in agricultural sectors. At the regional level, action 2.2.4 would contribute to the objectives of the Multilateral System of Access Benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources between the Contracting Parties of the ITPGRFA in the Mediterranean.

Figure 10: Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS	
<p>Year adopted: 1971 Entry into force: 1975 Contracting Parties: 168 Common name: Ramsar Convention</p>	<p>SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey</p>
<p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>1) The conservation and wise use of wetlands, including "areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres."</p> <p>2) The protection of waterfowl, which are species that are ecologically dependent on wetlands.</p>	<p>GENERAL OBLIGATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of wetlands in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, based on their ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology (Ramsar sites) • Implementation of measures (planning, wardening) so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in their territory <p>Main activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of nature reserves • Training of personnel competent in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening
<p>GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The List of Wetlands of International Importance "Ramsar Sites": Algeria (50), Egypt (4), Jordan (1), Lebanon (4), Libya (2), Morocco (24), Syria (1), Tunisia (41) and Turkey (14) • Implementation of integrated management of water resources in wetlands • The protection of waterfowl • Regional Ramsar initiatives in the Mediterranean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MedWet: Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (All SEMCs) http://medwet.org BlackSeaWet: Black Sea Coastal Wetlands (Turkey) http://www.blackseawet.org/ 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	15	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
2	6	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
2	13	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
2	2	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
2	12	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025

MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development.
Strategic Direction	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems.
Example of national action	2.1.2. Ensure that management processes are in place for protected areas.
Example of regional action	2.1.9. Develop or strengthen cross border water cooperation programmes.

The Ramsar Convention promotes the creation of nature reserves for wetlands requiring preservation. The creation of these nature reserves must promote the adoption of suitable management measures in order to protect wetlands, as recommended by action 2.1.2 of the MSSD 2016-2025 for all types of protected areas.

The Ramsar Convention underlines the importance of integrated management of water resources for the protection of wetlands. It also encourages Contracting Parties to cooperate for the protection of cross-border wetlands. Given the need for cooperation for protection of wetlands, the cross border water cooperation programmes recommended by Regional Action 2.1.9 of the MSSD 2016-2025 could contribute to two key objectives of the Ramsar Convention.

Figure 11: Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE	
<p>Year adopted and entry into force: 1972 Contracting Parties: 163 Acronym and common name: WHC World Heritage Convention</p>	<p>SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey</p>
<p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>The protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>Natural heritage includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view; b) geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation; c) natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty. <p>Cultural heritage includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science; b) groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science; c) sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view. 	<p>GENERAL OBLIGATIONS</p> <p>Take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage.</p>
<p>GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National legislation and plans/strategies/reports on the protection, conservation and presentation of the heritage of the countries concerned. • The “World Heritage List” includes a “List of World Heritage in Danger (serious and specific danger)”, which lists sites requiring special conservation or preservation measures. SEMCs have therefore added their natural heritage sites to the World Heritage List: Algeria (1), Egypt (1), Jordan (1), Tunisia (1), Turkey (2). • The World Heritage Committee can cooperate with international, national, governmental and non-governmental organisations with similar objectives to those of the Convention for implementing its programmes and projects. 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	15	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
2	14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
2	12	12.8 By 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. 12.8b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
2	2	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
1	13	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
1	6	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025

MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development.
Strategic Direction	2.3: Promote networks of ecologically protected areas at national and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss.
Example of national action	2.3.1. Promote national networking activities for ecologically protected areas with similar and different protection status.
Example of regional action	2.3.4. Promote a regional network of managers of ecologically protected areas building on the experiences of existing initiatives.
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities
Strategic Direction	3.2: Encourage inclusive urbanisation and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management
Example of regional action	3.2.4. Develop or strengthen regional networking and partnership programmes between cities and at the city-region level around the Mediterranean to promote knowledge-sharing and capacity building on sustainable cities. (Indicator: Status of UNESCO "World Heritage" sites in Mediterranean countries)

Turning areas with exceptional and/or threatened environmental characteristics into heritage sites contributes to their protection and raising awareness about the value of their natural resources.

The development of national and regional networks of environmentally protected areas, as recommended by Actions 2.3.1 and 2.3.4 of the MSSD 2016-2025 can therefore contribute to the objectives of the World Heritage Convention by encouraging the establishment or improvement of natural heritage management in countries.

Figure 12: Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA	
Year adopted: 1973 Entry into force: 1975 Contracting Parties: 181 Acronym: CITES	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
OBJECTIVES Regulations on the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora to ensure their protection and sustainable use	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS Creation of a management body responsible for controlling and regulating trade (export permit, certificates, etc.) described in the convention for specimens of species included in Appendices I, II or III. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a Scientific Authority. • Measures to penalize trade in and/or possession of certain specimens. • Measures to provide for the confiscation or return to the State of export of specimens.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix I includes all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. • Appendix II includes: all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival; and other species which must be subject to regulation in order that trade may be brought under effective control. • Appendix III includes all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the co-operation of other Parties in the control of trade. 	
COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS See below: <i>SDGs which correspond to this MEA are grouped with the other Conventions concerning the protection of fauna (CMS and AEWA).</i>	
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025 See below: <i>The MSSD 2016-2025 recommendations related to this MEA are grouped with the other Conventions concerning the protection of fauna (CMS and AEWA).</i>	

Figure 13: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS	
Year adopted: 1979 Entry into force: 1983 Contracting Parties: 121 Acronym and common name: CMS or Bonn Convention	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia
OBJECTIVES The protection and conservation of migratory species of wild animals and their habitats	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take necessary steps to conserve migratory species and their habitat • For endangered species, endeavour to provide immediate protection to conserve and restore their habitats, to prevent, compensate for or minimize the adverse effects of human activities, and strictly control the introduction of or control already introduced exotic species
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation status of a species will be taken as favourable when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) population dynamics data indicate that the migratory species is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its ecosystems; b) the range of the migratory species is neither currently being reduced, nor is likely to be reduced, on a long-term basis; c) there is, and will be in the foreseeable future sufficient habitat to maintain the population of the migratory species on a long-term basis; and d) the distribution and abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels to the extent that potentially suitable ecosystems exist and to the extent consistent with wise wildlife management; • Appendix I lists migratory species which are endangered and require immediate protection • Appendix II lists migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those which have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement. <p>If the circumstances so warrant, a migratory species may be listed both in Appendix I and Appendix II.</p>	
COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS <i>See below: SDGs which correspond to this MEA are grouped with the other Conventions concerning the protection of fauna.</i>	
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025 <i>See below: The MSSD 2016-2025 recommendations related to this MEA are grouped with the other Conventions concerning the protection of fauna.</i>	

Figure 14: Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS	
<p>Year adopted: 1996 Entry into force: 1999 Contracting Parties: 75 Acronym: AEWA</p>	<p>SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia</p>
<p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or restore them to such a status, giving special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status</p>	<p>GENERAL OBLIGATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds and encourage protection and managements • Endeavour to implement remedial measures, including habitat rehabilitation and restoration, and compensatory measures for loss of habitat due to human activities • Prohibit the introduction of non-native waterbird species into the environment and take all appropriate measures to prevent these species from becoming a potential threat to indigenous species.
<p>GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any use of migratory waterbirds is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them (mainly wetlands) • Annex 2 is a list of migratory waterbird species to which the Agreement applies and the geographical distribution of these species. 	

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL COVERAGE OF CITES, CMS AND AEW		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	15	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.
2	14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
1	6	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
1	12	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
1	13	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development.
Strategic Direction	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems.
Example of national action	2.1.1. Ensure that legal measures are in place to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in line with international and regional commitments.

Species conservation generally requires regulatory measures that protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. These measures must take into account the particular situation of species protected by the CITES, CMS and AEW and lead to the development of specific protection measures for these species and the ecological systems that support them.

MEAs concerning the protection of the marine environment

Some conventions on the protection of natural resources described above also apply for the protection of the marine environment. These include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the World Heritage Convention.

In this section, the MEAs concerning the protection of the marine environment include the MEAs for which the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources is their exclusive goal.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982) is well-known for its objectives to regulate the rights and activities of countries with respect to maritime areas and their resources. However, for this report, it is important to underline the environmental scope of the Convention. The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS, 1996) will then be presented. The ACCOBAMS is the result of cooperation between the secretariats of three conventions: the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) and the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (BC, 1976, 1995).

The Barcelona Convention and its seven additional Protocols originally created objectives and measures specifically dedicated to the Mediterranean marine environment. Although they continue to express the fundamental principles of the UNCLOS in terms of cooperation for the protection of the marine environment, they now cover issues related to both the marine environment and the coastal environment. Through their application to the Mediterranean context and the gradual expansion of their geographic and thematic scope, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols now serve as reference MEAs in SEMCs. These Mediterranean MEAs work together with other existing instruments and in Chapter 2, will be presented and assessed with all SEMC commitments concerning the environmental issues specific to their region.

Figure 15: MEAs concerning the protection of the marine environment

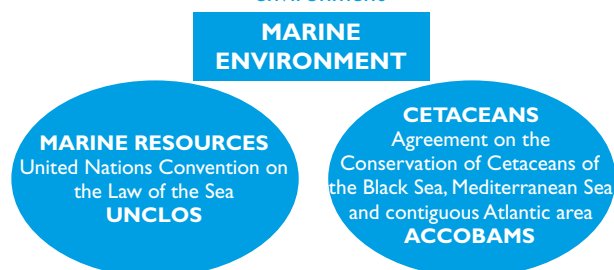


Figure 16: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA	
Year adopted and entry into force: 1982 Contracting Parties: 196 Acronym: UNCLOS	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia
OBJECTIVES Establish a legal order for the seas and oceans which will facilitate international communication, and will promote the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the Articles of the Convention, States may claim certain maritime zones under their jurisdiction (beyond internal waters): Territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, continental shelf. Depending on the zone each State may adopt laws/regulations and administrative measures relating to passage, maritime traffic and certain activities (military, economic, scientific, etc.). States may be authorised to adopt these types of regulations for environmental reasons such as conservation and optimised management of natural resources (especially fishing), preservation of the environment of the coastal State and/or the prevention, reduction and control of pollution. States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment and the right to exploit their natural resources. States have the obligation to cooperate for equitable access to marine resources, particularly with neighbouring land-locked States.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, legally binding regional commitments aimed at preserving the Mediterranean Sea, meet the UNCLOS regional cooperation objectives for the protection of the marine environment. Various cooperation instruments have been developed by the UNEP/MAP, which is the regional organisation that supports the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Roadmap for implementing the Mediterranean Ecosystem Approach, Strategic Action Plan for regional and national activities to reduce land-based pollution, Regional Action Plan on marine litter, Offshore Regional Action Plan, Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, etc. 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
2	12	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
1	13	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
1	7	7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas.
Strategic Direction	1.2: Establish and enforce regulatory mechanisms, including Maritime Spatial Planning, to prevent and control unsustainable open ocean resource exploitation.
Example of national action	1.2.1. Promote and support the blue economy concept through strong partnership between maritime sectors and public authorities in regard to the sustainable and equitable use of marine areas and resources.
Flagship Initiative	1.2.6. Prepare a regional programme on assessment and control regarding open ocean exploration and exploitation of non-living resources, based on the Maritime Spatial Planning approach, and including standards for open ocean exploitation compatible with good environmental status.

Actions 1.2.1 and 1.2.6 of the MSSD 2016-2025 contribute to the UNCLOS objectives concerning the sustainable use of marine resources and cooperation between States for the protection of the marine environment. The Blue Economy concept applies to Mediterranean coastal, marine and maritime sectors and promotes sustainable development while improving human well-being and social equity and significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological shortages. At the national level, the Blue Economy must be supported by strong partnerships between public authorities and business operators in order to ensure sustainable and equitable use of marine areas and resources in the country's jurisdiction (Action 1.2.1, MSSD 2016-2025). Programmes on assessment and control regarding open ocean activities require regional cooperation based on Maritime Spatial Planning carried out jointly by the countries (Action 1.2.6).

Figure 17: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA	
Year adopted and entry into force: 1996 Contracting Parties: 23 Acronym: ACCOBAMS	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia
OBJECTIVES Achieve and maintain cetaceans in a favourable conservation status.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS Adopt conservation measures for cetacean species and their habitats aimed at banning the deliberate capture of cetaceans, mitigating the impacts of human activities and setting up emergency response measures.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACCOBAMS is the result of cooperation between the secretariats of three conventions: the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (BC) and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Appendix I: List of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area covered by the agreement. 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

MEAs on combating climate change and its impacts

Combating climate change and its impacts and climate-related issues are the primary or underlying focus of two MEAs, both adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a benchmark convention. Over the years, the Contracting Parties have increased their commitment to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, was a key step in climate action as it implemented binding targets and innovative cooperation tools for stabilising and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. More recently, the Paris Agreement adopted on 12 December 2015 during the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 21) deals with combating climate change and recognises the importance of protecting oceans and biodiversity.

The Paris Agreement is the first universal agreement on climate. Its aim is to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. The following Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC was held in a Mediterranean country for the second consecutive time (COP22, Morocco, November 2016) and is a powerful testament to Mediterranean commitments to climate change.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) responds to certain climate change-related phenomena. The UNCCD contributes in an underlying way to combating climate change and its impacts and addresses the issues of drought and desertification from the perspective of environmental protection, and of economic and social development, particularly in Africa.

It should also be noted that SDG 13 focuses exclusively on climate change (as does Objective 4 of the MSSD 2016-2025): "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

Figure 18: MEAs on combating climate change and its impacts

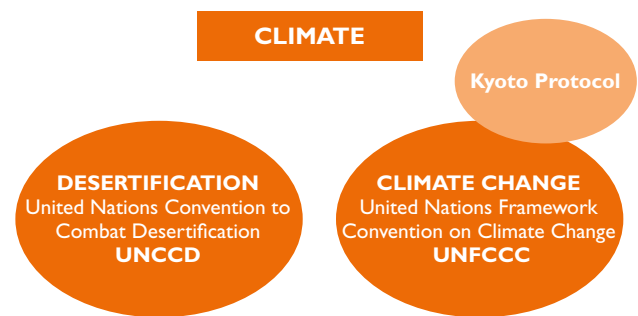


Figure 19: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL	
Year adopted: 1992 Entry into force: 1994 Contracting Parties: 196 Acronym: UNFCCC	SEMC Parties to the Convention: All Kyoto Protocol: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
OBJECTIVES Stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS Take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects Main activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and periodically update national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol (see below in the MEAs on combating pollution). • Implement national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.
KYOTO Protocol (adopted in 1997 and entry into force in 2005) The Parties included in Annex I (developed countries) agree to achieve their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments (Annex 2) with a view to reducing their overall emissions of such gases by at least 5 per cent below 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008 to 2012.	
International Emissions Trading	Emissions trading system between States that emit less than their quota and States that exceed their emissions targets.
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)	Mechanism to encourage Parties included in Annex I to assist developing countries (Parties not included in Annex I) in activities and projects resulting in certified emission reductions. Parties included in Annex I may use these reductions to contribute to compliance with part of their quantified limitation and reduction commitments.
Joint Implementation	The same principles as those of the CDM are applied to projects between two Parties included in Annex I.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, taking into account the differing circumstances, responsibilities and capabilities of developing countries and their respective commitments. • The use of impact studies on the greenhouse gas emissions of programmes. • Mitigation programmes involve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The development, application and transfer of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management sectors. b) The conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. • Adaptation programmes involve appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by drought, desertification and floods. 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	13	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
2	7	7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
2	12	12.8 By 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. 12.8.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.
2	15	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
2	14	14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.
2	2	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
2	6	6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	Objective 4: Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean.
Strategic Direction	4.1: Increase scientific knowledge, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems.
Example of national action	4.1.3. Establish national climate clearinghouses to ensure that the relevant knowledge, data and information reach the various types of stakeholders.
Flagship Initiative	4.1.9. Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism, including the social and behavioural sciences, endorsed by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options.

The MSSD 2016-2025 dedicates one of its six objectives to climate change issues in the Mediterranean. Strategic directions for guiding countries in the implementation of initiatives that reduce and adapt to climate change include the development of scientific knowledge and technical capacities, which is a priority for informing all stakeholders in their decisions (Action 4.1.3). At the regional level, a science-policy interface mechanism should improve assessment capacities in the area of climate change trends in the Mediterranean and improve regional coordination regarding adaptation and mitigation across all countries (Action 4.1.9).

The MSSD 2016-2015 includes recommendations for other sectors targeted by the UNFCCC. For example:

- Recommendations for national and regional sustainable energy management actions are covered in Objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- The transport, waste management and construction sectors are each addressed by a strategic direction (and related actions) in Objective 3.
- Agriculture and forestry are two areas of action targeted by the strategic directions and recommendations of Objective 2.
- The industry sector is particularly targeted by the strategic directions and recommendations of Objective 5.

Figure 20: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa)	
Year adopted: 1992 Entry into force: 1996 Contracting Parties: 196 Acronym: UNCCD	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
OBJECTIVES Combat desertification through activities which are part of the the integrated development of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development aimed at prevention and/or reduction of land degradation; rehabilitation of partly degraded land; and reclamation of desertified land	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of long-term integrated national strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources • Adoption of measures aimed at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promotion of alternative livelihoods and improvement of national economic environments with a view to strengthening programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and at ensuring food security; b) Understanding and being mindful of demographic dynamics; c) Promotion of sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable agricultural practices, development and efficient use of various energy sources, d) Adaptation of institutional and legal frameworks, e) Strengthening of capabilities for assessment and systematic observation, including hydrological and meteorological services, f) Capacity building, education and public awareness.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas for action cited in the General Obligations • The Convention distinguishes between developed countries and developing countries affected by desertification and/or drought by giving priority to cooperation programmes in Africa • Programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought must be developed and implemented with the participation of local populations and authorities and integrate objectives and strategies for poverty eradication. • Annex I of the Convention details implementation measures needed for combating desertification and/or drought in Africa. 	

COVERAGE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	13	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
2	15	15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
2	6	6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
2	2	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
2	12	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
1	7	7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development.
Strategic Direction	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems.
Example of national action	2.1.6. Develop socio-economic models for national strategic choices for water allocation between agriculture, industry, tourism, and domestic uses, taking into account environmental and social aspects, as well as economic development needs
Example of national action	2.1.8. Develop action plans for the restoration of land from extractive activities.

Climate change is a major cause of desertification, but in the long term, human activities are ultimately responsible. National Action 2.1.6 of the MSSD 2016-2025 aimed at efficient use of water therefore contributes to the objectives of the UNCCD. The restoration of land from extractive activities targeted by National Action 2.1.8 is also an essential way of mitigating the risks of land desertification.

MEAs on combating pollution

MEAs on combating pollution are aimed at reducing and eliminating emissions and release of substances from anthropogenic activities that are harmful for the environment.

The Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol (adopted in 1985 and 1987) seek to reduce pollution impacting the ozone layer. Substances that deplete the ozone layer have been regulated so that, over the years they have increasingly been reduced, with some even eliminated. The convention and its protocol are complementary with MEAs aimed at combating climate change since they target anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions that are not regulated by the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol as they explicitly refer to the Montreal Protocol. In 2009, the Vienna Convention became the world's first universally ratified convention.

Three MEAs on combating pollution pursue complementary objectives: The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (1998).

To facilitate the implementation of these three conventions, a coordination and cooperation process called the "Synergies Process" was created by the secretariats of the three conventions. Simultaneous conferences of the Parties of these conventions have led to the adoption of "Synergies Decisions" since 2010 in order to strengthen their objectives and respective resources.

Although the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013) has yet to enter into force in SEMCs, most have signed it. States have therefore expressed their intentions of committing to this MEA in the near future and an overview of its objectives can encourage them to make the first steps towards harmonising their policies with their future commitments.

The five conventions regulating the use of substances that are harmful for the environment can be examined through a comparative analysis to identify SDGs and relevant MSSD 2016-2025 recommendations. The level of coverage by SDGs will then be detailed for each of the conventions in Section 3 of this chapter.

Figure 21: MEAs on combating pollution

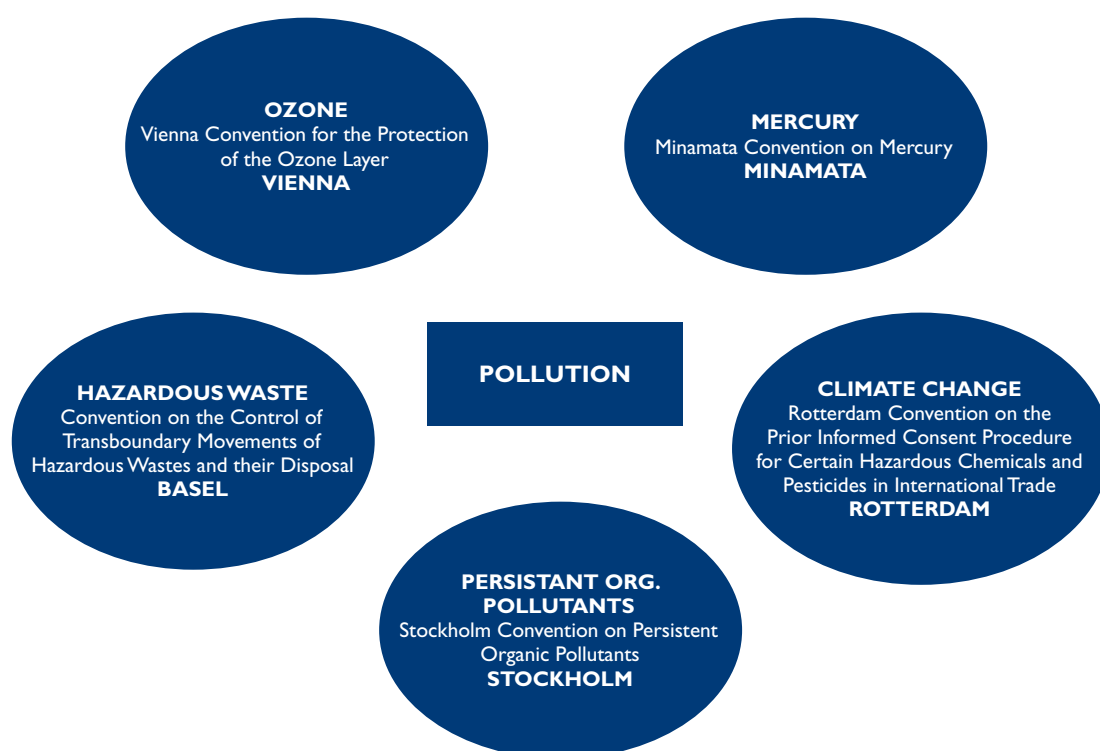


Figure 22:Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER	
Year adopted: 1985 Entry into force: 1988 Contracting Parties: 197 Common name:Vienna Convention	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey Parties to the Montreal Protocol: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
OBJECTIVES 1) Prevent and reduce the impacts of human activities on the ozone layer in order to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting from modification or likely modification of the ozone layer. 2) Develop means to promote research, cooperation and information exchange between the parties that lead to binding provisions in the form of protocols and amendments, if required to further scientific knowledge.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt legislative or administrative measures to control, limit, reduce or prevent human activities under their jurisdiction or control should they have or be likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer. • Cooperation within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Research and scientific assessments on issues identified by the Convention (Annex I). b) Joint or complementary programmes for systematic observation of the state of the ozone layer and other relevant parameters. c) The exchange of scientific, technical, socio-economic, commercial and legal information, taking into account in particular the needs of the developing countries.
The MONTREAL Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (adopted in 1987 with entry into force in 1989) Objective: Reduce the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances by reducing their quantities in the atmosphere 1. Implement regulations on authorised production and consumption volumes of ozone-depleting substances listed in Annexes A, B, C, D, E within the agreed time schedule. Certain adjustments and reductions of production and consumption of the controlled substances listed in the Annexes of the Protocol have been made since the Protocol entered into force. The Contracting Parties have eliminated some substances. 2. Control of trade between Parties. 3. Some provisions are specific to developing countries and create a financial mechanism for the purposes of providing financial and technical cooperation to enable their compliance with control measures within allotted timeframes.	
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled ozone-depleting substances listed in Annexes A, B, C, D and E of the Montreal Protocol. • This convention may create significant synergies with MEAs on combating climate change and its impacts in that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Research and scientific assessment programmes identified by the Vienna Convention particularly target the climate impact of any modification to the ozone layer b) Anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions regulations established by the Kyoto Protocol do not cover the controlled substances in the Montreal Protocol but explicitly refer to it. 	

Figure 23: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

BASEL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL	
Year adopted: 1989 Entry into force: 1992 Contracting Parties: 183 Common name: Basel Convention	SEMC Parties to the Convention: All SEMC Party to the Basel Protocol: Syria
OBJECTIVES 1. Reduce pollution risks related to hazardous wastes by defining rules that govern transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the settlement of disputes 2. Promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other waste in each country. This means the collection, transport and disposal of wastes in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes. Control of hazardous waste management and disposal activities within the State and monitoring of transboundary movements that exporters under the jurisdiction of the State arrange to other Contracting Parties of the Convention.
3. The Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal: adopted in 1999, this protocol is not yet in force.	
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annexes I and II list hazardous wastes recognised by the Convention. It should be noted that the hazardous nature of wastes is also determined by national legislation in each State. They may therefore add substances to the list on their own initiative. For SEMCs (other than Jordan and Palestine) the Barcelona Convention Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal may also be referred to. 	

Figure 24: Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS	
Year adopted: 2001 Entry into force: 2004 Contracting Parties: 179 Common name: Stockholm Convention	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
OBJECTIVES Protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Persistent organic pollutants possess toxic properties, resist degradation, and accumulate in living organisms.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS The implementation of an action plan that includes regulatory and assessment schemes for pesticides and industrial chemicals in order to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reduce or eliminate releases from production and use of POPs by implementing best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce production volumes or dispose of these substances in an environmentally sound manner; reduce or eliminate releases from POP stockpiles and wastes
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex A lists the chemicals for which production and use is to be eliminated (i.e. that will eventually be prohibited). Annex B lists the chemicals for which production and use is to be restricted. 	

Figure 25: Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE	
Year adopted: 1998 Entry into force: 2004 Contracting Parties: 154 Acronym or common name: Rotterdam Convention	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Syria SEMC signatories: Tunisia and Turkey
OBJECTIVES Promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of measures to ban or regulate the trade of chemicals (import and export) and severely hazardous pesticide formulations on the territory. Via the prior informed consent procedure established by the convention: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> countries notify each other of their decisions regarding whether or not they wish to accept future shipments of chemicals listed in Appendix III of the Convention; exporting countries agree to comply with these decisions.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex III of the Convention includes the list of chemicals covered by the prior informed consent procedure. A decision guidance document is prepared and sent to all the Parties for each of these chemicals. The purpose of the document is to help governments assess risks related to the handling and use of the chemical in question and make informed decisions about the future import and use of the chemical based on local conditions. 	

Figure 26: Minamata Convention on Mercury

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY	
Year adopted and entry into force: 2013 Contracting Parties: 18 Acronym: Minamata Convention	SEMC signatories: Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey
OBJECTIVES To protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.	GENERAL OBLIGATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adoption of measures to regulate and control the supply and trade of mercury, including mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used, as well as artisanal and small scale gold mining, emissions of mercury and mercury compounds, releases of mercury into water and land; environmentally sound interim storage of mercury and mercury wastes, as well as contaminated sites, etc. The adoption of health policies and measures to reduce and/or prevent the negative effects of mercury on human health.
GUIDELINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex A lists mercury-added products. Annex B lists manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. Annex C details what must be included in national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Annex D lists point sources of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds. 	

COVERAGE OF THE FIVE CONVENTIONS BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Level of Coverage	SDG Number	Example of corresponding target
2	12	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
2	14	14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
2	15	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
2	13	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
2	2	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
2	6	6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
2	7	7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. 7.3.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025 FOR ALL CONVENTIONS ON COMBATING POLLUTION	
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	5. Transition towards a green and blue economy
Strategic Direction	5.4: Encourage environmentally-friendly and social innovation.
Example of national action	5.4.1. Increase capacity for eco-innovation in the industry and service sectors, through regulatory measures and economic incentives, including to promote market uptake.
Flagship Initiative	5.4.5. Create and promote a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation.
MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities
Strategic Direction	3.4: Promote sustainable waste management within the context of a more circular economy.
Example of national action	3.4.1. Implement innovative, integrated and sustainable waste management solutions, in line with the waste hierarchy: prevention, reduction, reuse, sorting, recycling, recovery, and disposal.
Flagship Initiative	3.4.5. Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction.

The Contracting Parties of the Vienna, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions have regulated the use of certain substances that are harmful to the environment in an effort to achieve pollution prevention, reduction and elimination objectives. These commitments are all part of the transition towards a green and blue economy (Objective 5 of the MSSD 2016-2025), which combines socio-economic development goals with obligations to reduce environmental risks and ecological shortages. MEAs aimed at combating pollution contribute to the emergence of new sustainable production and consumption models and promote the development of environmental innovation. Action 5.4.1 of the MSSD 2016-2025 therefore recommends the use of regulatory measures and economic incentives to develop eco-innovation, especially in the industry and service sectors. To promote Mediterranean businesses that contribute to environmental innovation, Flagship Initiative 5.4.5 needs to support exemplary behaviour in the private sector and help promote innovative solutions.

The issue of sustainable waste management is specifically addressed by the MSSD 2016-2025 in Objective 3. However, it also falls within the scope of the green and blue economy of Objective 5, which promotes sustainable production and consumption models and the development of eco-innovation. Waste management solutions in line with the waste hierarchy (Action 3.4.1 of the MSSD 2016-2025) can therefore include the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and generally reduce all risks of pollution from harmful substances targeted in all five MEAs. Flagship Initiative 3.4.5 promotes cooperation to improve knowledge and transfer innovative solutions to reduce waste across the Mediterranean region.

LINKS BETWEEN MEAs AND SDGs

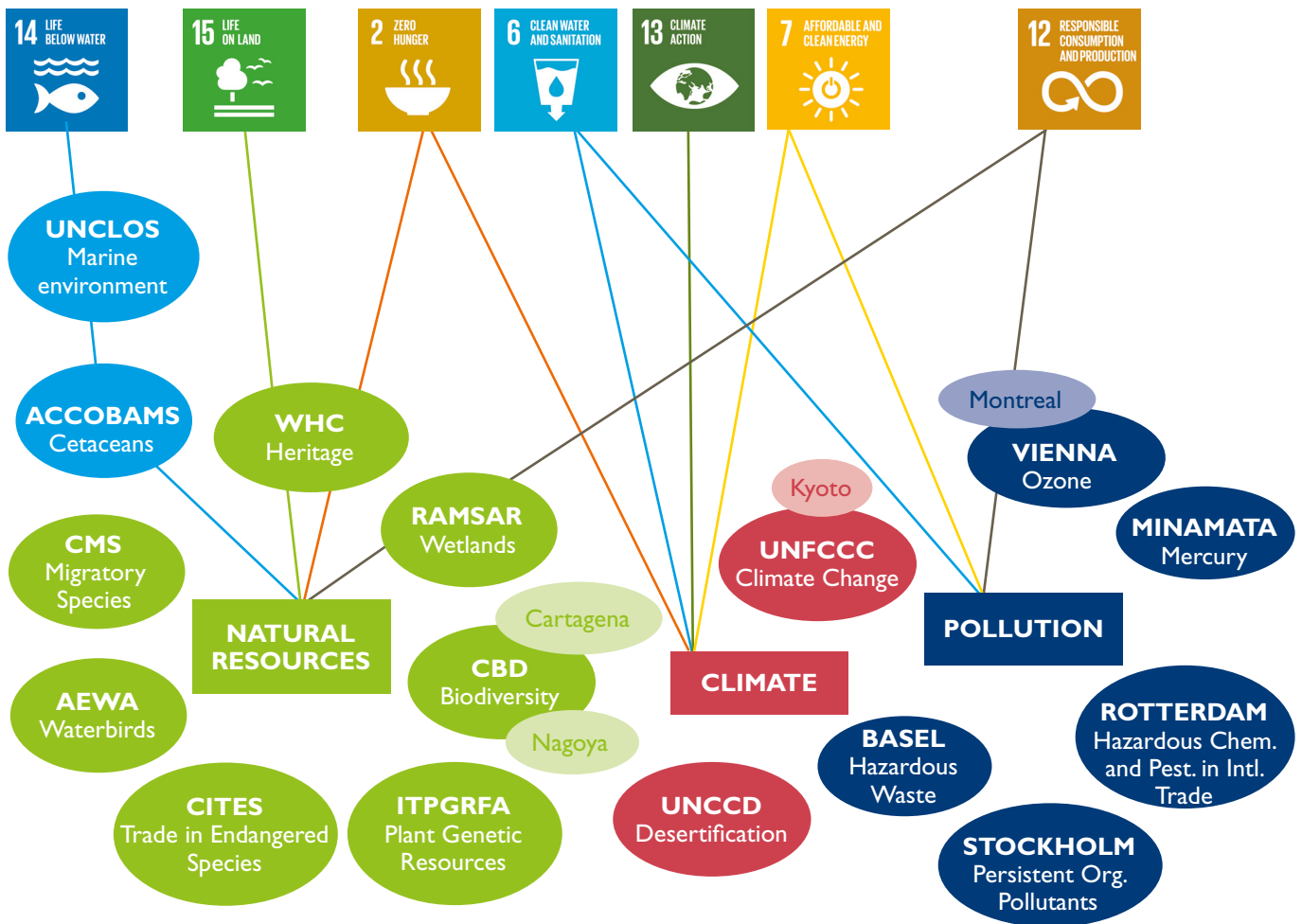
Each international MEA is covered by several of the seven SDGs chosen for their strong environmental aspects. Figure 27 below shows the various levels of coverage using a scale that identifies corresponding links (2, highlighted in yellow) and links that are simply complementary (2), along with incidence links (1) and cases where there is no relevant connection (0). MEAs on the protection of natural resources and the marine environment are particularly covered by SDGs 14 and 15. MEAs aimed at combating climate change and its impacts are mainly covered by SDG 13. Finally, MEAs on combating pollution are covered by SDG 12. Figure 28 gives a graphic representation of the most significant links.

Figure 27: Coverage between international MEAs and SDGs

	2 ZERO HUNGER	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND
CBD and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
ITPGRFA	2	1	0	2	1	2	2
RAMSAR	2	2	0	2	2	0	2
WHC	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
CITES	0	0	0	2	1	2	2
CMS	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
AEWA	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
UNCLOS	0	0	1	2	1	2	0
ACCOBAMS	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
UNFCCC	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
UNCCD	2	2	1	2	2	0	2
Vienna Convention	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Basel Convention	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Stockholm Convention	2	2	1	2	1	2	2
Rotterdam Convention	2	2	1	2	1	2	2
Minamata Convention	2	2	2	2	1	2	2

Coverage	
2	Corresponding Objectives
2	Complementary Objectives
1	Indirectly linked Objectives
0	No relevant connection

Figure 28: Links between SDGs and international MEAs



MEDITERRANEAN INSTRUMENTS

The Barcelona Convention was adopted in 1976 and has been the leading regional framework for environmental governance specific to the Mediterranean Basin ever since. In 1975, the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) was developed as the first Regional Seas Programme created under the umbrella of the UNEP. Its objective is to assist Mediterranean countries to implement the Convention and its successive annexed Protocols covering specific areas related to environmental protection. Today, the MAP system involves the twenty-one Mediterranean countries¹ and the European Union, all Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Figure 30). Due to development disparities between the countries, the system promotes cooperation on general obligations under the Convention, and increasing commitment by the countries in specific priority areas covered by the protocols. The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and the mandates of the MAP have gradually shifted to focus more on integrated planning and management of environmental issues in the Mediterranean. This shift is in line with changes to international and Mediterranean commitments to sustainable development (Figure 29).

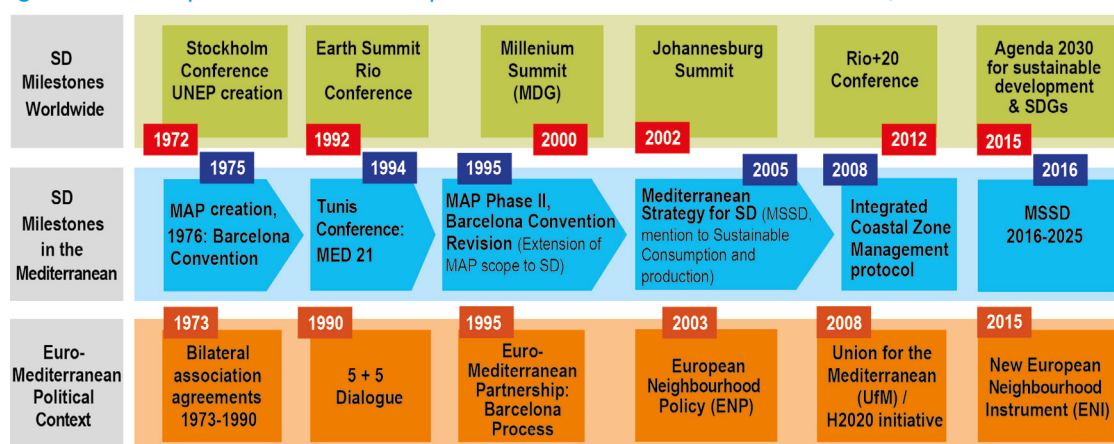
The Barcelona Convention was amended in 1995 (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean) to include the protection of coastal zones, while extending an exclusive focus on the environmental aspect to the economic and social pillars of sustainable development. The MAP was also amended to become the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II). Finally, in 1996, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention created a new advisory body for the MAP,

the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), to support these countries in taking on and applying more cross-cutting approaches to their cooperation objectives. The MCSD spearheaded the drafting and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable development (MSSD) adopted in 2005 - which is not a legally binding instrument. At their 18th Ordinary Meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Contracting Parties asked the UNEP/MAP Secretariat to begin a review of the MSSD so that the revised draft strategy could be examined and adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 19th meeting (COP 19) held in Greece in February 2016. The goal of the MSSD 2016-2025 is to set a strategic framework for the countries to achieve their shared sustainable development goals. It provides recommendations for the countries and any stakeholders wishing to work in synergy to address environmental and development issues in the Mediterranean.

An important part of this report is to determine the level of commitment of SEMCs to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Palestine and Jordan are not Contracting Parties and as a result, are not concerned by the legal and strategic initiatives of the MAP. However, Palestine regularly integrates MAP technical programmes and is expected to sit on the MCSD as an observer State in the coming years.

An overview of the objectives and obligations of the Barcelona Convention and each of its protocols provides better insight into how they are adapted from international MEAs to the regional level and how the MSSD 2016-2025 contributes to the implementation of these MEAs in the Mediterranean.

Figure 29 : The steps of sustainable development in the Mediterranean and Worldwide (Source: Plan Bleu, 2016)



SD = Sustainable Development; MAP = Mediterranean Action Plan; MDG = Millennium Development Goals; SDG = Sustainable Development Goals

¹ Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

COMMITMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

Figure 30: Signature and ratification status of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols

	Barcelona Convention	Dumping Protocol	Prevention and Emergency Protocol		LBS Protocol		SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	Offshore Protocol	Hazardous Wastes Protocol	ICZM Protocol
	1995 Version	1976 Version **	1976 Version	2002 Version	1980 Version	1996 Version	1995 Version	1994	1996	2008
Algeria										
Egypt										
Lebanon	*									
Libya							1982 Version			
Morocco										
Syria										
Tunisia										
Turkey										

Key: * Pending notification from the depositary country, ** 1995 amended version not yet in force

- Ratification, Acceptance, Approval, Accession
- Signature
- Unsigned

THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS GENERAL INFORMATION AND LINKS WITH INTERNATIONAL MEAs

Figure 31: Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COASTAL REGION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN	
Year adopted: 1976 Entry into force: 1978 Year amended version adopted: 1995 Entry into force: 2004 Common name and acronym: Barcelona Convention, BC	SEMC Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey (Lebanon - pending notification for the 1995 amended version)
GENERAL INFORMATION Objective: Establish a legal framework for regional cooperation to prevent, abate, and combat pollution to protect and improve the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean. The Convention lists the various aspects of environmental protection that the Protocols each set out to translate into courses of action. The main amendments made in 1995 consisted in widening the scope of the Convention to coastal zones, creating provisions concerning the application of the precautionary principle and polluter pays principle, promoting impact assessments, protecting/preserving biodiversity, preventing hazardous waste and public access to information and participation.	
COVERAGE OF MEA OBJECTIVES: The Barcelona Convention and its protocols address the marine environment protection objectives included in the UNCLOS, although it was adopted ten years earlier. The UNCLOS strongly encourages States bordering a semi-enclosed sea to cooperate with each other through a regional organisation to coordinate the management, conservation, exploration and exploitation of living resources, to coordinate the implementation of their rights and duties with respect to the protection of the marine environment, to coordinate their scientific research policies and undertake joint programmes.	

Figure 32: Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (7)

PROTOCOL FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA BY DUMPING FROM SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT	
Year adopted: 1976 Entry into force: 1978 Year amended version adopted: 1995 Not yet in force Common name: Dumping Protocol	SEMC Parties to the Protocol (1976 version): Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
GENERAL INFORMATION Objective: Prevent pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft. The protocol prohibits the dumping into the Mediterranean Sea area of wastes or other matter, with the exception of materials such as dredge spoils, fish waste, platforms and other man-made structures (excluding floating material and without prejudice to the provisions of the Offshore Protocol) and inert geological materials that do not cause chemical pollution, in accordance with special permits from the competent national authorities. Incineration at sea is prohibited	
COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAs: Basel Convention Stockholm Convention Rotterdam Convention	

PROTOCOL CONCERNING COOPERATION IN PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM SHIPS AND, IN CASES OF EMERGENCY, COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA	
Year adopted: 1976 Entry into force: 1978 Year amended version adopted: 2002 Entry into force: 2004 Common name: Prevention and Emergency Protocol	SEMC Parties to the 1976 Protocol: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey SEMC Parties to the 2002 revised Protocol: Morocco and Turkey. SEMC signatories to the 2002 revised Protocol: Algeria, Libya, Syria, and Tunisia
GENERAL INFORMATION Objective: Cooperation in preventing pollution from ships and in cases of emergency, combating pollution. The Protocol defines the principles for cooperation concerning accidents or the release of hazardous and noxious substances (prevention, preparedness, and response to pollution). The Protocol calls for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of national or regional emergency plans; • Monitoring activities, dissemination and exchange of information between the Contracting Parties, communication and assessment of pollution and risks; • Cooperation in the recovery of hazardous substances, etc. The Protocol particularly targets offshore activities and installations. Some of its provisions are therefore complementary with those of the Offshore Protocol (see below).	
COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basel Convention • Stockholm Convention 	

PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES

Year adopted: 1980

Entry into force: 1983

Year amended version adopted: 1996

Entry into force: 2008

Common name: LBS Protocol

SEMC Parties to the 1980 Protocol: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

SEMC Parties to the 1996 revised Protocol: Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

GENERAL INFORMATION

Objective: Prevent pollution from land-based sources and activities, including:

- pollution emanating from land-based sources and reaching the Sea directly through discharges or coastal disposals or indirectly through watercourses including ground water flow;
- pollution transported by the atmosphere.

Priority is given to the phasing out of inputs of substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate.

The Protocol calls for:

- The adoption of national and regional action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables for their implementation, which take into account the best available techniques and the best environmental practice (including clean production technologies);
- The implementation of preventive measures to reduce to the minimum the risk of pollution caused by accidents;
- The implementation of release authorization and regulation systems.

Annex I lists elements to be taken into account in the preparation of action plans, programmes and measures for the elimination of pollution from land-based sources and activities (sectors of activity, characteristics of substances in the environment, categories of substances).

Annex II includes the list of elements to be taken into account in the issue of the authorizations for discharges of wastes (characteristics and composition of the discharges, particularly with respect to their harmfulness, the discharge site and receiving environment, availability of waste technologies and potential impairment of ecosystems).

Annex III lists the Protocol's conditions of application to pollution transported through the atmosphere.

Annex IV lists criteria for the definition of best available techniques and best environmental practice.

COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAs:

- Vienna Convention
- Basel Convention
- Stockholm Convention

PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Year adopted: 1982 Entry into force: 1986 Year amended version adopted: 1995 Entry into force: 1999 Common name: SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	SEMC Parties to the 1982 Protocol: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey SEMC Parties to the 1995 Protocol: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Objective: To protect marine and coastal biodiversity, notably by the establishment of specially protected areas (SPA)

The Protocol calls for the adoption of measures to:

- Protect and preserve species and their habitats.
- Promote the sustainable use of biological resources.
- Establish, protect and manage SPAs through protection and conservation measures concerning navigation, exploitation, etc.
- Establish a "List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance" (SPAMI), which have wider international recognition than SPAs: List of SPAMI.

The annexes of the Protocol include:

- Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List (Annex I);
- The list of endangered or threatened species (Annex II);
- The list of species whose exploitation is regulated (Annex III).

COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAs

- CBD
- WHC
- Ramsar Convention
- CITES, CMS, AEWa, ACCOBAMS

PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION RESULTING FROM EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THE SEABED AND ITS SUBSOIL

Year adopted: 1994 Entry into force: 2011 Common name: Offshore Protocol	SEMC Parties to the Protocol: Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

GENERAL INFORMATION

Objective: The protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil.

The Protocol calls for the formulation and elaboration of rules concerning:

- the authorisation of activities in the Protocol Area (requirement of an environmental impact assessment);
- the disposal or management of harmful or noxious substances and materials related to offshore activities;
- the obligation and verification of the financial capacity and emergency plan of operators to provide compensation for and cover accidental damage;
- The Protocol also calls for cooperation between the Parties for responding to cases of emergency and developing new methods to minimise risks.

COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAs:

- Basel Convention
- Stockholm Convention

PROTOCOL ON THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA BY TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL

Year adopted: 1996 Entry into force: 2008 Common name: Hazardous Wastes Protocol	SEMC Parties to the Protocol: Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey SEMC signatories: Algeria, Egypt, Libya
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

GENERAL INFORMATION

Objective: the prevention of pollution from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

The Protocol calls for:

- The reduction and elimination of hazardous wastes generation;
- The prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the elimination of such movements (and particularly the implementation of the precautionary approach);
- Measures to prevent illegal traffic;
- Rules and procedures in the field of liability and compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes.

COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAS:

- Basel Convention primarily
- Stockholm Convention

PROTOCOL ON INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Year adopted: 2008 Entry into force: 2011 Common name: ICZM Protocol	SEMC Parties to the Protocol: Morocco and Syria SEMC signatories: Algeria, Tunisia
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

GENERAL INFORMATION

Objective: Promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

ICZM is defined as a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account at the same time the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land parts.

The Protocol calls for the adoption of measures through legislation, planning and management mainly to ensure:

- The sustainable use of natural resources and preservation of habitats or species in coastal areas by ensuring that fishing or aquaculture practices and other economic activities are sustainable or that certain coastal zones remain unexploited;
- The prevention and/or reduction of natural disasters and the impacts of climate change;
- Coherence between public initiatives and between decisions by public authorities through institutional coordination.

COVERAGE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOWING MEAS:

- CBD
- Ramsar Convention
- WHC
- UNFCCC

THE MSSD 2016-2025: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK THAT INCORPORATES MEDITERRANEAN MEAs

This report has identified different adaptations of international MEA objectives to which MSSD 2016-2025 directions and actions may contribute. The MSSD 2016-2025 takes into account the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The 2013 decision of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to review the MSSD 2005-2015 underlined

the importance of synergies with the process involved in creating the Sustainable Development Goals. This was to ensure consistency between international objectives and goals and those in the Mediterranean region, while leaving room for innovation and characteristics that are specific to the region. The objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 therefore correspond to a regional adaptation of the SDGs, as shown in the table below. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the MSSD 2016-2025 objectives, at least one (and often more) SDGs are directly or indirectly linked to each of them.

Figure 33: Linking the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 to the SDGs

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 objectives	Sustainable Development Goals
1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas	14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development	2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean;	13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
6. Improving governance in support of sustainable development	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
Cross-cutting sustainable development goals related to social issues	1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Source: MSSD 2016-2025

The MSSD 2016-2025 was drafted under the oversight of the MCSD and its expertise is recognised in Article 4 (Paragraph 1) of the Barcelona Convention. It states that "For the purpose of implementing the objectives of sustainable development the Contracting Parties shall take fully into account the recommendations of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable development established within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan."

By looking at the contributions of MSSD 2016-2025 objectives to the obligations of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, more integrated and operational-minded recommendations can be made. The protocols on marine pollution target national authorities responsible for regulating specific technical obligations while the MSSD 2016-2025 proposes guidelines for authorities to contribute directly or indirectly to contractual objectives.

The MSSD 2016-2025 also gradually guides countries towards implementing the provisions of protocols that they have not ratified. This is particularly true for the ICZM Protocol, which has multidimensional objectives and recommends multisectoral national measures. Although the complexity of implementing this protocol explains why many SEMCs have yet to ratify it, countries can gradually be encouraged to adopt ICZM approaches. For example, Algeria signed the Protocol (subject to ratification) in 2008 and presented its national ICZM Strategy to the MAP (2015) and the first coastal plan for the municipality of Reghaïa at a national conference held in Oran in March 2015.

The following tables give a comparative assessment of the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention.

Figure 34: Levels of coverage between the Barcelona Convention and its additional Protocols and the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025

	Barcelona Convention	Dumping Protocol	Prevention and Emergency Protocol	LBS Protocol	SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	Offshore Protocol	Hazardous Wastes Protocol	ICZM Protocol
Objective 1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Objective 2	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	2
Objective 3	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	2
Objective 4	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Objective 5	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1
Objective 6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Coverage	
2	Corresponding Objectives
2	Complementary Objectives
1	Indirectly linked Objectives
0	No relevant connection

I. ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

Objective I of the MSSD 2016-2025 relies on improved implementation and compliance with the obligations of existing legal instruments (Barcelona Convention and its Protocols) and the establishment and improvement of regulatory mechanisms in order to prevent and control unsustainable open ocean resource exploitation.

Enhanced prioritisation and results-based management through ministries with budget portfolios and implementing line agencies should improve the conditions in which legal instruments are implemented (especially if implementation is supported by public trusteeships). In the same way, **improving the implementation of technical instruments** should guide the Contracting Parties in fulfilling the commitments they have made under the Protocols, for example:

- Implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the ICZM in the Mediterranean should help countries develop national policies in line with the ICZM Protocol and further its implementation.
- Application of the Roadmap for implementing the Mediterranean Ecosystem Approach should encourage countries to work towards sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems, which is a shared objective of the Convention and its Protocols, with further recommendations in the SPA and Biodiversity and ICZM Protocols.
- Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region and its national action plans meets the objectives of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.

Maritime Spatial Planning and the use of strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessments of investments are also recommended. These instruments are included in the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and are based on the precautionary principle that generally characterises the legal obligations of the “MAP system”.

Finally, Objective I of the MSSD 2016-2025 is based on the **blue economy** concept, which consists in managing and controlling the sustainable and equitable use of marine areas and resources through strong partnerships between maritime sectors and public authorities. These governance issues related to coordinating institutions and sectors for a balanced distribution of activities such as fishing are covered by the ICZM Protocol. The blue economy concept is also based on several provisions of the Dumping, Offshore and Hazardous Wastes Protocols that detail authorisation and regulating systems for these activities by national authorities.

2. PROMOTING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FORMS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The second Objective of the MSSD 2016-2025 addresses the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystem services, and sustainable rural development models needed for food security in the Mediterranean. The recommendations of this objective focus mainly on land areas and suggest directions and actions for mitigating the impact of activities on the coastal and marine environment status. For example, the LBS Protocol identifies agriculture, livestock farming, aquaculture and the agri-food industry as sectors needing priority attention under national plans and measures aimed at eliminating pollution from land-based sources and activities.

Recommendations concerning the sustainable use, management, and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems make reference to the **protection of biodiversity and protected areas** which are particularly found in the objectives of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. They also meet the recommendations of the ICZM Protocol, which provides for **rational and cross-sectoral management of natural resources** particularly with regard to water use. Regulating development in urban and rural areas should restrict urbanisation of coastal areas and preserve their ecosystems, which are two objectives of the ICZM Protocol.

3. PLANNING AND MANAGING SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN CITIES

Objective 3 of the MSSD 2016-2025 includes essential recommendations for meeting the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The coastal and marine environment is highly threatened by a concentration of people and activities along Mediterranean coasts.

The **sustainable waste management within the context of a more circular economy** is an essential strategic direction for contributing to all the protocols. The LBS Protocol encourages the Contracting Parties to give priority to the following sectors: the recycling industry, the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste and domestic wastewater; the management of solid household waste, waste incineration and residue management, etc. This and the Offshore Protocol promote the consideration of available techniques through a waste discharge permit system. These techniques include alternative treatment processes, recycling methods, land-based disposal alternatives and low-waste technologies. MSSD 2016-2025 recommendations for innovative, integrated and sustainable waste management solutions can also help reduce pollution risks from waste dumping at sea targeted by the Dumping Protocol and risks related to transboundary movements of hazardous waste targeted by the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, which calls for the environmentally sound management of this waste.

Objective 3 also focuses on enhancing **urban resilience, in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards**. The recommended actions can therefore contribute to the general objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, such as those of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol aimed at reducing the risks of and responding to coastal and sea pollution incidents. The recommended actions also concern the recommendations of the ICZM Protocol to prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The application of **holistic and integrated spatial planning** should address urban sprawl, triggered in some cases by tourism development in coastal areas. This strategy applies several key principles from the ICZM Protocol. These include the formulation of land use strategies, plans and programmes covering urban development and socioeconomic activities, as well as other relevant sectoral policies, the balanced allocation of uses throughout the entire coastal zone to avoid unnecessary concentration and urban sprawl.

Actions related to **planning and transport management models** can therefore significantly contribute to these principles. The Strategy's actions to promote **inclusive urbanisation** also make reference to principles in the ICZM Protocol related to the participation and involvement of the local public, economic stakeholders and various territorial communities and public authorities concerned. The actions recommended by the MSSD 2016-2025 concerning the **protection and rehabilitation of historic urban areas** are similar to the ICZM Protocol objectives for cultural development of coastal areas. Finally, actions promoting the **construction of green buildings** also meet the Protocol objectives to reduce the environmental impact of urban development on coastal areas.

4. ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY ISSUE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The goal of the MSSD 2016-2025 is to guide countries towards actions that encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and help them adapt to climate change. This generally includes increasing scientific knowledge and technical capacities, formulating smart and resilient solutions, leveraging financial mechanisms that involve the private sector, encouraging reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national frameworks, particularly in the energy sector.

This objective should ensure *informed decision-making, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation services of natural ecosystems such as coasts, wetlands and forests, as well as the mitigation services of forests and marine areas*. This corresponds with the objectives to protect marine and coastal ecosystems under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and particularly those of the SPA and Biodiversity and ICZM Protocols. Climate change severely impacts ecosystems increasingly threatened by desertification and soil degradation, rising sea levels, more frequent and severe droughts, changes in species composition and habitat loss. These phenomena are also taken into account by one of the objectives of the ICZM Protocol, which seeks to prevent and/or reduce the effects of natural hazards, and in particular of climate change, which can be induced by natural or human activities. Similarly, Objective 4 of the MSSD 2016-2025 suggests actions to promote *the introduction of climate change measures into coastal and urban policies and plans*.

Finally, Objective 4 seeks to *decrease greenhouse gas emissions by scaling up investments in renewable energy*. Its actions therefore advance the LBS Protocol objectives to reduce pollution transported through the atmosphere.

It should be noted that the *UNEP/IMAP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas* (2016) is aimed at increasing resilience to climate change by developing a regional approach for adapting to climate change.

5. TRANSITION TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

The green economy, which is called blue economy when it applies to Mediterranean coastal, marine and maritime sectors, is defined by Objective 5 of the MSSD 2016-2025 as an economy that promotes sustainable development while improving human well-being and social equity and significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological shortages. This objective includes actions that are common to the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and particularly the LBS, Dumping, Offshore and Hazardous Wastes Protocols, which seek to regulate and control economic activities that present serious risks for the coastal and marine environment.

The obligations of these four Protocols are manifested in the strategic directions and actions of MSSD 2016-2025 Objective 5 concerning *the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns to encourage environmentally-friendly and social innovation and promote the integration of sustainability principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment*.

The LBS Protocol encourages the Contracting Parties to adopt action plans, programmes and regulating measures across several sectors, based on the best available techniques (use of non-waste technologies) and best environmental practice (based on preserving resources, limiting the use of hazardous substances and products and the production of hazardous waste, etc.).

The Dumping Protocol gives criteria governing the issue of permits for dumping for certain waste and matter. These criteria pursue objectives to reduce or eliminate the environmental impact of these operations. Information on the characteristics and composition of the matter (its properties, toxicity, persistence, etc.) and characteristics of the dumping site and method of deposit must therefore be provided. Other criteria are also considered such as possible effects on marine life, the practical availability of alternative land-based methods of treatment, disposal or elimination or treatment to render the matter less harmful for sea dumping.

The Offshore Protocol also encourages the Parties to invest in the best available environmentally effective and economically appropriate techniques to prevent and combat pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the seabed and its subsoil.

Like the Dumping Protocol, the criteria governing the issue of permits for dumping waste also pursue the objectives of limiting impacts on the environment. They are particularly based on the characteristics and composition of the waste and its constituents, on the effects on marine ecosystems, etc. The Protocol requires that environmental impact assessments be prepared to ensure that environmental protection activities are carried out throughout offshore operations.

The Hazardous Wastes Protocol promotes clean production methods to reduce or avoid the generation of this type of waste. It promotes environmentally sound management of hazardous waste to ensure that hazardous wastes are collected, transported and disposed of in a manner which will protect the environment.

Furthermore, the **Regional Action Plan on marine waste (UNEP/MAP)**, which came into force in 2014, is the first regional plan on marine waste defined within the framework of a convention on regional seas.

Finally, Objective 5 of the MSSD 2016-2025 may contribute to some of the objectives and principles of the ICZM Protocol. The Protocol encourages harmony between economic, social, cultural and environmental development, and coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone.

It should be noted that one of the aims of the **Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (2016)** is to transition to sustainable consumption and production models in priority economic sectors (agriculture, goods manufacturing, housing and construction, tourism), while addressing related environmental degradation challenges. It supports the implementation of sustainable consumption and production measures at the regional level and identifies the measures needed to guide their implementation at the national level in order to address targeted human activities which have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment and related transversal/cross-cutting issues.

6. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The strategic directions and actions of Objective 6 of the MSSD 2016-2025 focus on new forms of cooperation between diverse sustainable development stakeholders. The strategic directions and actions of the objective are emblematic of the objectives and guiding principles that bring together the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

Firstly, a set of actions seeks to **promote implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements**. These actions promote the implementation of the precautionary principle through instruments such as environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, also recognised by the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Similarly, the ICZM Protocol includes actions aimed at achieving coherence between policies, cross-sectoral coordination and promoting partnerships with the private sector.

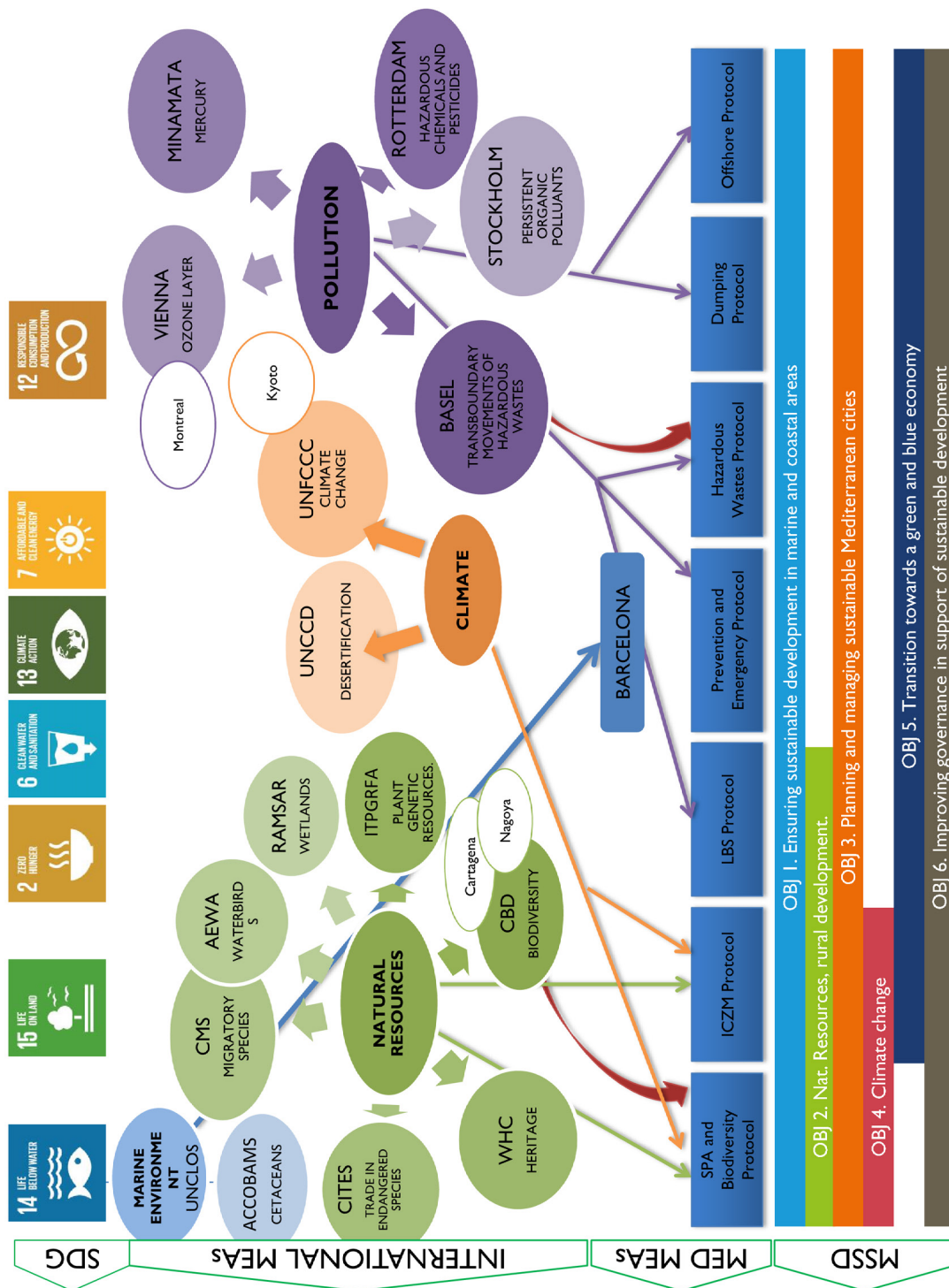
Actions to **enhance regional, sub-regional and cross-border dialogue and cooperation, including on emergency-preparedness**, are a strategic aspect also found in the MAP system, particularly with respect to the objectives of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. All the themes covered in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols include the cooperation of stakeholders in the scientific and technical fields.

The actions of the MSSD 2016-2025 to **promote the engagement of various stakeholders in the governance process** address obligations in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (in particular the ICZM Protocol) concerning public information and participation. This also applies for actions to **promote education and research for sustainable development**, especially those that seek to strengthen the science-policy interface.

Finally, the strategic direction which sets out to **enhance regional capabilities for information management** is of key interest for monitoring objectives and activities included in the Barcelona Convention and all its Protocols.

Figure 35 offers a graphic representation of the links between the different instruments analysed at the international and Mediterranean levels.

Figure 35: Links between the SDGs, international MEAs, Mediterranean MEAs and the MSSD 2016-2025



THE AFD'S REGIONAL STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND THE MSSD 2016-2025

A comparative analysis of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the AFD Mediterranean Department's CIR 2015-2018 was carried out to pinpoint recommendations that are more operational than the guidelines identified to date to improve the environmental sustainability of operations. The areas of activity defined by the CIR 2015-2018 and particularly the five selected for this analysis due to their environmental importance (Figure 35) are essential tools for addressing both development and environmental issues in the Mediterranean. These areas are covered in depth in environmental MEAs and cooperation initiatives in the Mediterranean. The objectives and principles of international and Mediterranean commitments intersect with the recommendations of the MSSD 2016-2025, which develops more integrated approaches to environmental protection. These strategic approaches correspond

with the territorial approaches found in some of the areas of activity of the CIR. This cross-cutting nature deepens the reflection on activities organised to target specific sectors. The possibilities for integrating the strategic recommendations of each MSSD 2016-2025 objective in the five areas of activity selected from the Mediterranean CIR can be depicted in a general schematic diagram (Figure 36). Objective 6 of the MSSD 2016-2025 - "Improving governance in support of sustainable development" - is dedicated to new forms of cooperation between stakeholders in decision-making and actions concerning sustainable development and suggests strategic directions and actions that can be applied in all sectors. The tables below show the detailed comparative analysis of the AFD's Mediterranean CIR and the MSSD 2016-2025, with references to MEAs.

Figure 36: Coverage of the AFD's "Mediterranean" CIR areas of activity by MSSD 2016-2025 Objectives

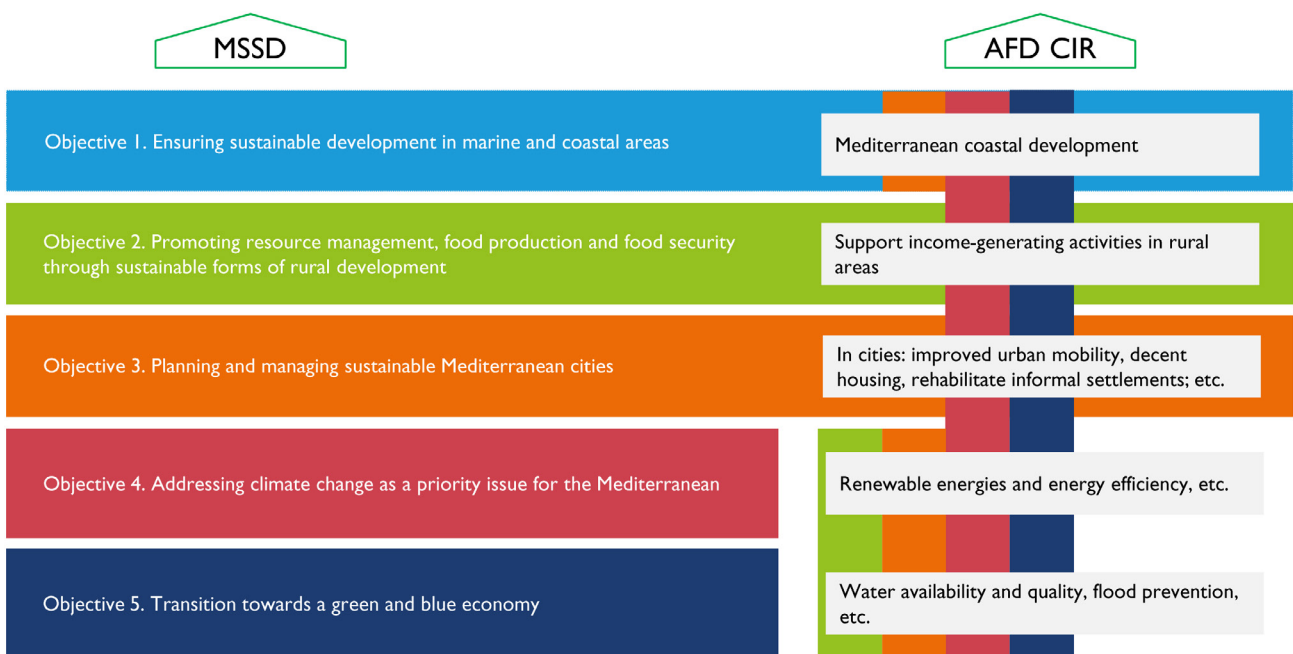


Figure 37: Support for income-generating activities

SUPPORT FOR INCOME-GENERATING RURAL ACTIVITIES (agro-industry, agroforestry, food storage)		
Main international MEAs: ITPGRFA, Ramsar, UNCCD, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions		
ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE MSSD 2016-2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of biodiversity and local varieties of crops and indigenous breeds; • Pollution of soil, water and air; • Vulnerability of small producers to economic and climatic changes and natural resource scarcity; • Low provision of social services and infrastructure in certain rural areas; • Loss of agricultural land, erosion and desertification; • Socio-economic inequalities affecting rural populations, particularly women and youth; • Logistical deficit at local, national and regional levels, including lack of access of local and small producers to land, water, credit, and markets; • Agricultural production and market controlled by large players, leaving limited access for small-scale producers and local products; • Loss of traditional know-how and aging farmers; • Insufficient collective organisation and lack of participation of local communities in natural resource management; • Insufficient consideration of water, land and food security nexus 		
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025		
Objective	Strategic Direction	Example of national action
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems	2.1.3. . Ensure Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and permitting processes are in place to regulate development in rural areas, as well as monitoring and adaptive management of interventions.
	2.2: Promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions	2.2.3. Promote the valorisation of traditional knowledge in rural development funding programmes.
	2.4: Promote inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, women's empowerment and youth employment, including equitable and sustainable access to basic local services for rural communities	2.4.1. Develop participatory rural development programmes to encourage sustainable economic development of vulnerable rural communities, particularly for the benefit of women and youth, taking into account also the vulnerability of such communities to natural and human-induced hazards, which recognise the multi-functionality of rural areas.
4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean;	4.4: Encourage institutional, policy and legal reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks, particularly in the energy sector	4.4.1. Mainstream climate change into national legislation and policies with a focus on measures concerning energy and transport and on delivering no/low regret adaptation measures across all vulnerable sectors and territories such as coastal and urban areas, water management, agriculture, health, and tourism; introduce climate change measures into urban and coastal policies and plans.
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.3: Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns	5.3.2. Undertake awareness-raising programmes on sustainable lifestyles for promoting sustainable behaviour.
	5.4: Encourage environmentally-friendly and social innovation.	5.4.2. Support networks of eco-incubators and clusters for green and social businesses and entrepreneurs.

Figure 38: Mediterranean coastal development

MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL DEVELOPMENT (biodiversity, bay contracts, sustainable tourism, port logistics)		
Main international MEAs: CBD, WHC, Ramsar Convention		
ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE MSSD 2016-2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued environmental degradation and increased risks from marine pollution and marine noise; Loss of biodiversity; Ecosystem fragmentation and degradation; Unsustainable exploitation of living resources and alien species in ecological systems; Impacts from exploitation of non-living marine resources; Incidental catches of endangered species; Increased linear coastal urbanization resulting in inadequate protection and management of land, urban sprawl owing to illegal construction and gentrification of coasts, and unrestricted tourism development. 		
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025;		
Objectives	Strategic Direction	Example of national action
1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas	1.1: Strengthen implementation of and compliance with the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and other regional policy instruments and initiatives supplemented by national approaches	1.1.6. Implement the Regional Programme of Work for Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, and its related roadmaps.
	1.2: Establish and enforce regulatory mechanisms, including Maritime Spatial Planning, to prevent and control unsustainable open ocean resource exploitation	1.2.1. Promote and support the blue economy concept through strong partnership between maritime sectors and public authorities in regard to the sustainable and equitable use of marine areas and resources.
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	3.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment	3.1.2. Ensure that legally-binding instruments for tourism development are put in place for those areas that suffer from tourism pressures, and related real-estate expansion and coastal deterioration. 3.1.5. Monitor coastal urbanization and encroachment at regional level and provide monitoring support to national and local authorities.
	3.4: Promote sustainable waste management within the context of a more circular economy	3.4.1. Implement innovative, integrated and sustainable waste management solutions, in line with the waste hierarchy: prevention, reduction, reuse, sorting, recycling, recovery, and disposal.
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.5: Promote the integration of sustainability principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment	5.5.3. Build capacity of national agencies on sustainable investment and corporate social responsibility, including corporate environmental responsibility.
	5.6: Ensure a greener and more inclusive market that integrates the true environmental and social cost of products and services to reduce social and environmental externalities	5.6.3. Provide assistance to countries interested in integrating the polluter-pays principle, extended producer responsibility and payments for ecosystem services into national finance policies.

Figure 39: Sustainable cities

In cities: improve urban mobility, decent housing, rehabilitate informal settlements; industrial waste clean-up; improve hospital care and health services		
Main international MEAs: UNFCCC, Vienna, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions		
ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE MSSD 2016-2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban quality of life and health degraded by traffic congestion, noise, poor air quality, inadequate supply of sanitation and increased generation of urban waste; • Resilience reduced by natural and human-induced risks, particularly those triggered by climate change; • Unsatisfactory urban economic and social cohesion, especially in slums and informal urban settlements, which is further increased by regional territorial imbalances, resulting in rural migration to large cities that increases urban poverty; • Increased demand for energy, coupled with inefficient use of energy; • Degradation of historic urban areas; • Continued rise in waste generation due to growing population and increased consumption; • Low capacity of local authorities for integrated forms of urban management; • Economic growth that does not take into account environmental and social impacts; • Environmentally-harmful and inefficient production facilities; • Investment flows financing unsustainable facilities and inefficient infrastructure. 		
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025		
Objective	Strategic Direction	Example of national action
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	3.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment	<p>3.1.1. Utilize spatial planning systems to ensure balanced development in urban areas that incorporate measures for infrastructure provision, and land-take reduction where possible, as well as the provision of multifunctional urban green and blue infrastructures, which provide urban ecosystem services that are also important for climate change adaptation.</p> <p>3.1.4. Promote the protection, upgrading and creation of additional public open space that is safe, green and shady, and part of a network of green infrastructure.</p>
	3.2: Encourage inclusive urbanisation and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management	<p>3.2.2. Upgrade informal settlements into cities and anticipate the expected rates of urban growth through more balanced territorial planning and the provision of decent and affordable housing.</p> <p>3.2.3. Put in place governance regimes that allow urban jurisdictions to regulate, register and manage land, within a rights-based framework.</p>
	3.5: Promote urban spatial patterns and technological options that reduce the demand for transportation, stimulate sustainable mobility and accessibility in urban areas	3.5.2. Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution through economic and regulatory instruments promoting low-pollution collective transport systems at the local urban level, maritime public transport (blue ways), multi-modal links, and more sustainable freight transport.
	3.6: Promote green buildings to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment	3.6.1. Put in place institutional and legal arrangements, strategies, support schemes, training programmes and standards to construct green buildings and retrofit existing buildings.
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.5: Promote the integration of sustainability principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment	5.5.2. Promote eco-design criteria and environmental certification of products and services.

Figure 40: Renewable energies and energy efficiency

RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ PROMOTE THE USE OF GAS/ OPTIMISE UTILITY NETWORKS AND UPDATE ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTIONS		
Main international MEAs: UNFCCC, UNCCD, Vienna, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions		
ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE MSSD 2016-2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased demand for energy, coupled with inefficient use of energy; Growing trend of greenhouse gas emissions within and beyond the energy sector; Slow pace in emergence of climate-friendly societies due to limited access to best available technologies and alternative development practices. 		
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025		
Objective	Strategic Direction	Example of national action
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems	2.1.5. Achieve a sustainable balance between production of food, use of water and use of energy, through improving energy and water use efficiency, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, as well as through the introduction of institutional and legal reforms.
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	3.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment	3.1.1. Utilize spatial planning systems to ensure balanced development in urban areas that incorporate measures for infrastructure provision, and land-take reduction where possible, as well as the provision of multifunctional urban green and blue infrastructures, which provide urban ecosystem services that are also important for climate change adaptation. 3.1.4. Promote the protection, upgrading and creation of additional public open space that is safe, green and shady, and part of a network of green infrastructure.
4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean;	4.2: Accelerate the uptake of climate-smart and climate-resilient responses	4.2.1. Design, finance and implement national technology investment plans for climate change.
	4.4: Encourage institutional, policy and legal reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks, particularly in the energy sector	4.4.2. Mainstream climate change in the energy sector through scaling up investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, promoting universal energy access and reforming energy subsidies and ensuring that energy projects are assessed for their climate impact.
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.4: Encourage environmentally-friendly and social innovation.	5.4.3. Promote and support collaborative partnerships between universities, businesses and research centres.
	5.5: Promote the integration of sustainability principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment	5.5.1. Raise the awareness of financial actors on the economic risks arising due to lack of environmental and social impact assessments, encouraging them to mainstream such assessments through the provision of tools and guidelines.

Figure 41: Resource and water demand management

WATER AVAILABILITY (IWRM, DESALINATION, LEAK REDUCTION, OPTIMISATION OF AGRICULTURAL WATER) AND QUALITY (WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND PURIFICATION); AGROECOLOGY; FLOOD PREVENTION		
Main international MEAs: UNFCCC, UNCCD, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions		
ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE MSSD 2016-2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overexploitation or illegal use of water; • Pollution of water; • Resilience reduced by natural and human-induced risks, particularly those triggered by climate change; • The damage caused by climate change, including extreme events and long-term steady changes, increases in key vulnerable areas and sectors; • Relatively high dependence on natural resources for economic development. 		
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSSD 2016-2025		
Objective	Strategic Direction	Example of national action
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems	<p>2.1.4. Put in place participative cross-sectoral resource management strategies to ensure that renewable natural resources are extracted in ways that do not threaten the future use of the resources, and without exceeding their maximum sustainable yield.</p> <p>2.1.5. Achieve a sustainable balance between production of food, use of water and use of energy, through improving energy and water use efficiency, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, as well as through the introduction of institutional and legal reforms.</p> <p>2.1.6. Develop socio-economic models for national strategic choices for water allocation between agriculture, industry, tourism, and domestic uses, taking into account environmental and social aspects, as well as economic development needs.</p>
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	3.7: Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards including climate change	3.7.3. Prepare and implement action plans to improve urban resilience to natural and human induced risks, including through natural solutions, smart development and awareness-raising.
4. Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean;	4.4: Encourage institutional, policy and legal reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks, particularly in the energy sector	4.4.1. Mainstream climate change into national legislation and policies with a focus on measures concerning energy and transport and on delivering no/low regret adaptation measures across all vulnerable sectors and territories such as coastal and urban areas, water management, agriculture, health, and tourism; introduce climate change measures into urban and coastal policies and plans.
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.3: Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns	5.3.2. Undertake awareness-raising programmes on sustainable lifestyles for promoting sustainable behaviour.

CONCLUSION

This report presents and carries out a comparative analysis of several sources of contractual, strategic and operational guidelines on environmental protection in SEMCs. The environmental sustainability of development projects can be improved by utilizing these guidelines individually or in synergy, relying on commitments already made by countries and focusing on the conditions in which they are implemented. At the project level, this cross-referencing expands and legitimises the environmental criteria for public or private investment. At the territorial, national or Mediterranean level, this may generate a domino effect with various stakeholders.

Development agencies and international financial institutions have a role to play in disseminating environmental best practices by providing technical support to their partners (managing bodies) and complying with CSR obligations in their operations.

The connections made in this report between the environmental commitments that apply to the Mediterranean region in (i) MEAs and the SDGs, (ii) the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and (iii) the MSSD 2016-2025, could be complemented by in-depth analyses on the subjects of each MEA. For example, taking a closer look at the sensitivity of various sectors to the risks of releases or emissions of various harmful substances would provide greater insight on the contribution of certain programmes to the objectives of MEAs aimed at combating pollution.

The operational reach of instruments can vary substantially depending on their type, the thematic approaches that they develop and their scale. Based on the three sources of guidelines that have been used, three general recommendations can be made to programme managing bodies concerning the functionality of the results presented in this report.

- **For programme managing bodies, international instruments (MEAs and SDGs) can be used to bring their operations and some of their efforts under specific themes (international MEAs) and/or internationally recognised general goals (SDGs).** In principle MEAs are binding to various extents. However, their implementation is left open to interpretation and is dependent on the measures to be taken by the Contracting Parties. As a result, while their purpose and guiding principles provide a solid basis for general implementation, the associated obligations can vary depending on the way they have been applied and implemented by each country.

- **Using Mediterranean instruments (Barcelona Convention and its Protocols) enables managing bodies to better contextualise their objectives and obligations with respect to environmental issues that are specific to SEMCs and benefit from more integrated approaches to interactions between environmental and development issues in the Mediterranean.** Because Mediterranean commitments have a shared legal and strategic framework, when relevant, it can be particularly useful to compare and use their guidelines in the interest of complementarity and adapting international commitments to the regional level.
- **The recommendations of the MSSD 2016-2025 direct actions towards initiatives that increase the environmental sustainability of investments in harmony with more general economic and social sustainable development conditions in the Mediterranean.** The MSSD 2016-2025 suggests more operational strategies and actions that have the added advantage of being defined based on an extensive consultation process to address the region's current sustainable development issues. By targeting its objectives at various players (national governments, regional institutions, local authorities, universities, the private sector, and civil society) while developing cross-cutting development approaches, the MSSD 2016-2025 acts as an important decision-making incentive for development agencies as they base their programmes on similar approaches: integrated objectives that do not focus on specific sectors or themes and that involve multiple stakeholders. Finally, the MSSD 2016-2025 is an essential reference for supporting the legitimacy of project CSR initiatives.

This technical report was initiated as part of the partnership between Plan Bleu and the AFD in their efforts for strategic dialogue on shared interests. It promotes the inclusion of sustainability principles and criteria in AFD decision-making regarding public and private investment in the Mediterranean, and thereby contributes to the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 as a key strategy for the transition of the Mediterranean region towards a green and blue economy.

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ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS	Accord sur la conservation des cétacés de la mer noire, de la méditerranée et de la zone atlantique adjacente / Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AEWA	Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie / Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AFD	Agence Française de Développement / French Development Agency
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
ASP / SPA	Aires spécialement protégées / Specially protected areas
MTA	Standard Material Transfer Agreement (ITPGRFA)
Barcelona Convention / BC	Convention de Barcelone sur la protection du milieu marin et littoral de la Méditerranée / Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
CCNUCC / UNFCCC	Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques / United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CdP / COP	Conférence des Parties / Conference of the Parties
CDB / CBD	Convention sur la diversité biologique / Convention on Biological Diversity
CLD or CNULCD / UNCCD	Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification / United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CIR	Cadre d'Intervention Régional (AFD) / Regional Strategy Framework (AFD)
CITES	La Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction / Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMDD / MCSDD	Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable / Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
Bonn Convention or CMS	Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage / Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CNUDM / UNCLOS	Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la Mer / United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
GIZC / ICZM	Gestion intégrée des zones côtières / Integrated Coastal Zone Management
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
ODD / SDG	Objectifs de Développement Durable / Sustainable Development Goals
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
PAM / MAP	Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée / Mediterranean Action Plan
PNUE / UNEP	Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement / United Nations Environment Programme
POPs	Polluants organiques persistants / Persistent Organic Pollutants
SEMCs	Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries
Convention Ramsar / Ramsar Convention	Convention sur les zones humides / Convention on Wetlands
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
SMDD / MSSD	Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable / Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
TIRPGAA / ITPGRFA	Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture / International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
UICN / IUCN	Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature / International Union for Conservation of Nature
WHC	Convention concernant la protection du patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel / World Heritage Convention

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. MEAs studied in this report and their acronyms or common names.....	8
Figure 2. Sustainable Development Goals selected for their fundamentally environmental dimension	9
Figure 3. Mediterranean MEAs selected and their common names.....	10
Figure 4. Six Objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025	11
Figure 5. The five Mediterranean CIR areas of activity selected for their environmental aspects and related CIR objectives	11
Figure 6. SEMC signature and ratification of MEAs.....	12
Figure 7. International MEAs concerning the protection of natural resources.....	14
Figure 8. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.....	14
Figure 9. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	16
Figure 10. Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)	18
Figure 11. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.....	20
Figure 12. Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	22
Figure 13. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	23
Figure 14. Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).....	24
Figure 15. MEAs concerning the protection of the marine environment.....	26
Figure 16. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	26
Figure 17. Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)	28
Figure 18. MEAs on combating climate change and its impacts.....	29
Figure 19. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol	30
Figure 20. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.....	32
Figure 21. MEAs on combating pollution.....	34
Figure 22. Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol	35
Figure 23. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	36
Figure 24. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	36
Figure 25. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	37
Figure 26. Minamata Convention on Mercury	37
Figure 27. Coverage between international MEAs and SDGs.....	40
Figure 28. Links between SDGs and international MEAs	41
Figure 29. Steps of sustainable development in the world and in the Mediterranean.....	42
Figure 30. Signature and ratification status of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols	43
Figure 31. Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.....	43
Figure 32. Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (7).....	44
Figure 33. Linking the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 to the SDGs	48
Figure 34. Levels of coverage between the Barcelona Convention and its additional Protocols and the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025	49
Figure 35. Links between the SDGs, international MEAs, Mediterranean MEAs and the MSSD 2016-2025	54
Figure 36. Coverage of the AFD's "Mediterranean" CIR areas of activity by MSSD 2016-2025 Objectives.....	55
Figure 37. Support for income-generating activities.....	56
Figure 38. Mediterranean coastal development.....	57
Figure 39. Sustainable cities.....	58
Figure 40. Renewable energies and energy efficiency	59
Figure 41. Resource and water demand management	60

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Objective 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Objective 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Objective 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Objective 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Objective 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Objective 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Objective 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Objective 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Objective 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Objective 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



Objective 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Objective 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Objective 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Objective 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Objective 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

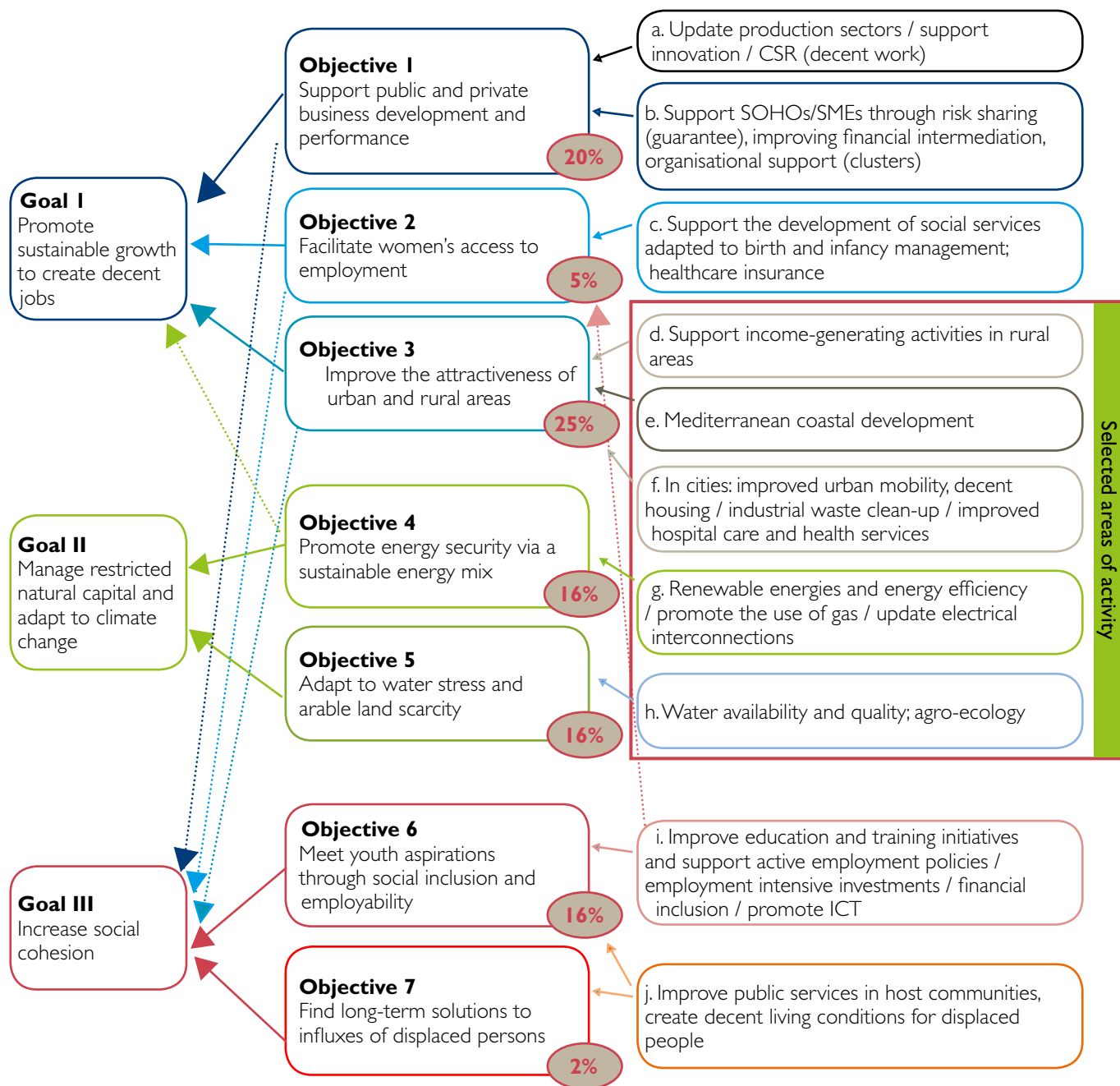


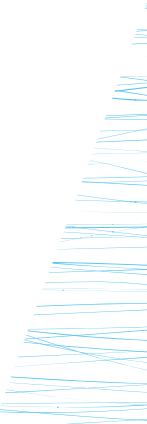
Objective 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Objective 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

APPENDIX 2: LOGIC DIAGRAM OF THE AFD "MEDITERRANEAN" DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL STRATEGY FRAMEWORK (CIR) 2015-2018







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