

Association Plan Bleu pour l'Environnement et le Développement en Méditerranée

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2014



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# Editorial

## 2014, a new start for Plan Bleu

At the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Istanbul in December 2013, Plan Bleu was asked to support the review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). Together with Malta (President of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - MCSD) and the MAP coordinating unit, Plan Bleu started work on the review in early 2014 by launching a broad consultation exercise as part of assessing MSSD 1.0 (adopted in 2005) and identifying themes for MSDD 2.0. This activity report is structured around the themes adopted by the MCSD Steering Committee in June 2014 in Malta after a broad consultation phase led by Plan Bleu:

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

Mediterranean ecosystems are subject to direct anthropogenic pressures (such as land-based pollution affecting marine environments, coastal development, degassing of tankers and more) and indirect anthropogenic pressures, via climate change in particular. The current Mediterranean climate and some development approaches are creating difficult situations: urban development makes flooding worse, irrigated agriculture drains water resources, abandonment of some rural areas makes them more vulnerable to fire, etc. This situation generates negative economic consequences in that a number of major economic sectors in the Mediterranean, such as tourism or fishing, depend on marine and coastal ecosystems working properly and being healthy, and on the beauty of landscapes. In this context, the role of Plan Bleu (see box right) is key for improving understanding of the issues at stake, how they connect together and the best way to deal with them.

## Outlook

In connection with the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the United Nations marine environment assessment, Plan Bleu is planning to collaborate with other Mediterranean institutions on Med2050, a sustainable development forecast for 2050 in the Mediterranean. This forecast will be structured around 4 contrasting scenarios defined by combining the following parameters: 1. implementation of ambitious environmental policies / downward trend in environmental policies; 2. economic integration / countries turning in on themselves. As with the work of the IPCC, Med2050 will be run by involving a large number of scientists and will require several years.

In the late 1970s, France undertook to create and support the Plan Bleu regional activity centre as part of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention. The centre's mandate is to shed light on environment and development issues in the Mediterranean. To this end, it studies solutions for encouraging more sustainable development in the region. The regional activity centre is currently managed by a not-for-profit association called "Plan Bleu pour l'environnement et le développement en Méditerranée" (Plan Bleu for the environment and development in the Mediterranean). Its members are local authorities, public institutions and individual experts.

## Plan Bleu's key missions:

1. serving as an observatory for the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
2. performing analyses of certain themes or systems and produce forecasts to provide regional players and decision-makers, in particular the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), with information on environmental risks and sustainable development issues;
3. supporting the development and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

## GLOSSARY

AMP (Adaptive Marine Policies)  
 AViTeM (Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories)  
 CEDARE (Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe)  
 COP (Conference of the Parties)  
 CPMF (Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests)  
 DG Env (Environment Directorate-General of European Commission)  
 EcAp (Ecosystem Approach)  
 EEA (European Environment Agency)  
 EMWIS (Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector)  
 ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy)  
 ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)  
 ERDF (European regional development fund)  
 ESA (Socio-Economic Analysis)  
 ETC (European Topic Centre)  
 EU (European Union)  
 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)  
 FFEM (French Facility for Global Environment)  
 GEF (Global Environment Facility)  
 GES (Good Environmental Status)  
 GWP-Med (Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean)  
 ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management)  
 IME (Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau)  
 IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)  
 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)  
 MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan)  
 MCSD (Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development)  
 MDG (Millennium Development Goals)  
 MED POL (marine pollution assessment and control component of MAP)  
 MedICIP (Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform)  
 MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)  
 MSSD (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development)  
 RAC (Regional Activity Centre)  
 SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)  
 SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System)  
 SEMC (Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries)  
 UfM (Union for the Mediterranean)  
 WDM (Water Demand Management)  
 WFD (Water Framework Directive)

## PARTNERS\*

Acclimatise and Climalia (England and Italy)  
 Carbonium (France)  
 Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)  
 CTFC - Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (Spain)  
 EFIMED - European Forest Institute (Spain)  
 France's development agency (AFD)  
 MAVA Foundation  
 Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation  
 Silva Mediterranea Committee (FAO)  
 Tour du Valat  
 UNEP GRID Geneva  
 University of Geneva  
 World Bank

*\* non-exhaustive list*



# Activities carried out in 2014

## ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

### ECAP

#### Ecosystem Approach

By Decision IG 17 / 6, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention undertook to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities following a roadmap in several steps, including initial assessment, review of the environmental monitoring programme, and implementation of a programme of measures with the aim of achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) for marine and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu's contribution focuses particularly on the interface between ecosystems and society. In 2014, Plan Bleu completed the **first ever economic and social analysis of the principal marine activities in the Mediterranean**: fishing, aquaculture, shipping, tourism and deep-water extraction of oil and gas, which were characterised (volume, turnover, jobs, value added, etc.) for the whole of the Mediterranean and the four main sub-regions. Plan Bleu also carried out an **exploratory study into the cost of degradation**, understood as the cost of damage to ecosystem services for human wellbeing. Various methods were compared, taking into account the significant challenges associated with the lack of relevant understanding and data for these estimates, in particular for non-European countries. In order to help Plan Bleu with this complex task, to encourage consistency with the overall EcAp approach and ensure a close link with Mediterranean countries, a Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA) was formed, including national experts appointed by the Contracting Parties, international experts and MAP member representatives.

The group's second meeting was held at Sophia Antipolis on 4 and 5 June 2014. Its purpose was to present the results of the ESA for the Mediterranean region, discuss experiences, methods and information and data available for ESA activities, and how to encourage ownership of methods and results at a national level. This with a view to preparing the following stages of the EcAp, and in particular the taking into account of the economic and social impact of measures to be adopted to achieve GES. In order to reinforce the synergy required between the different levels of analysis, the meeting also heard a presentation of the preliminary results of the three national pilot case studies performed as part of the regional "Governance and Knowledge Generation" project (ReGoKo). The reports produced were also approved by the 4th meeting of the EcAp coordination group in October and are now available online on the Plan Bleu website.

In order to prepare national action plans for achieving GES, ESA must also be developed at a national level. This has been done by European countries for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). It was therefore important to encourage this type of analysis for non-European Mediterranean countries. Plan Bleu offered to produce a recommendations document for these countries, based on the experience of European countries and pilot operations performed for four Southern Mediterranean countries as part of the ReGoKo project. This guide was prepared in 2014 and published in 2015 after approval by the 2015 EcAp coordination group meeting.

#### EcAp / MSFD synergy

For increased synergy, the MAP EcAp initiative and the European MSFD roadmaps are both based on Ecosystem Approach principles, and are therefore consistent with each other. Plan Bleu is involved in various European projects which aim to apply these principles across the Mediterranean: the PERSEUS research project, the IRIS-SES pilot project and the inter-regional Med-IAMER project.

#### Socio-economic evaluation of marine activities

The socio-economic evaluation of marine activities is one of the activities developed under the regional "Governance and Knowledge Generation" project – ReGoKo (more details below). It aims to raise the awareness of decision-makers with regard to the importance of Mediterranean marine economic activities and their connections with other ecosystems, and to contribute to the development of common evaluation methods. As part of this, national analyses were performed in four pilot countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. In 2014, these experiments, including both expert assessments and the organisation of a national workshop were completed for Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, and launched for Egypt.

Plan Bleu also contributed to discussions on the production of programmes of measures by working with the MAP Secretariat to respond to a European call for tenders. We await the decision. The issue of the interface between science and politics was discussed during the preparation of the next EcAp phase (2015-2018). In these areas, Plan Bleu draws in particular on the experience gained from its involvement in the PERSEUS European research project.

## PERSEUS

This project (2012-2015) aims to promote coordinated research efforts in order to characterise modes of pressure on the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in environmental and socio-economic terms, and to produce a working framework for the implementation of future measures and adaptive policies for achieving or maintaining GES.

Plan Bleu has a significant role in this important project (55 partners, €13 million funding), in particular with responsibility for tasks associated with stakeholders participation and the socio-economic evaluation of marine activities. Furthermore, Plan Bleu is responsible for the “Adaptive policies and scenarios” aspect which aims to develop a platform for creating measures in order to achieve GES in the Mediterranean.

Following completion of a number of steps with deliverables, 2014 saw the finalisation and initial demonstration of the platform, which is designed as a set of tools that can be viewed over the Internet.

Our current state of knowledge is a long way from covering the variable causal relationships between forces of change (drivers), pressures, the status of ecosystems, impacts on the services they provide and solutions or policies to limit these impacts. Against this backdrop of uncertainty, the platform emphasises that these policies need to be adaptive. They must be built so as to be able to resist future changes, while improving knowledge of the system concerned. Experience shows that this common sense approach is actually rarely deliberately implemented because of the additional work of consultation it requires between scientists, stakeholders and decision-makers, the difficulty of introducing uncertainty into both scientific expertise and political decision-making and the inertia of the regulatory system, which is generally not designed for assessment and adjustment.

The Adaptive Marine Policies (AMP) Toolbox was opened to the public in October 2014, tested by project stakeholder platforms and given an initial large-scale demonstration at the Black Sea Day in Istanbul in November.

These tests and demonstrations identified areas of improvement for the AMP Toolbox, which will be implemented in early 2015. It will then be presented at a number of events during 2015 until the final project conference in Brussels in December.

## Adaptive Marine Policies Toolbox



The Adaptive Marine Policies (AMP) Toolbox guides its users through building programmes of measures for achieving GES in the Mediterranean marine environment on a number of levels, in five steps presented as a cycle (see fig.) For each step, the AMP Toolbox suggests resources for methods and knowledge as a description of the step, key activities to be performed, useful databases (current regulations, list of potential measures, relevant research projects, prospective analyses, adaptive policy experience, economic assessment of Mediterranean ecosystems) and various tools.

## IRIS SES

### **Integrated Regional Implementation Strategy in the South European Seas**

This DG Env (2014-2015) pilot project aims to study and propose a common integrated regional monitoring strategy for the Mediterranean marine environment as part of MSFD implementation. IRIS SES is directly aligned with the MAP objectives for the development of a regional monitoring strategy as part of EcAp implementation.

In order to connect these two, Plan Bleu agreed to participate in this project with responsibility for the regulatory and socio-economic analysis of drivers and associated pressures involved in the definition of monitoring programmes. The analysis was carried out in 2014 together with the socio-economic analysis performed under EcAp.

Furthermore, Plan has agreed to work with MED POL to facilitate the distribution of project results to the EcAp Monitoring Correspondence Group, which will be done in 2015.



## MED-IAMER

### **Mediterranean Integrated Actions to Mitigate Environmental Risks**

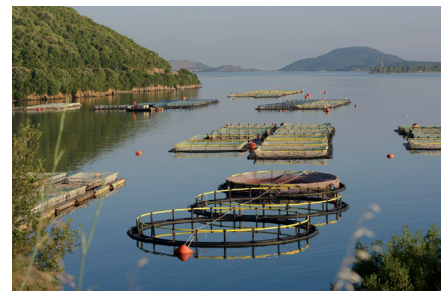
2014 was marked by the launch of the Med-IAMER project, funded by the ERDF for one year (June 2014-May 2015). The goal of this project is to identify marine and coastal pressures, map them, and propose integrated actions to mitigate the associated environmental risks. Plan Bleu is a partner in the project alongside the ETC of Malaga (Project Leader), AViTeM (Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories) in Marseille and the University of Thessaly in Greece.

Plan Bleu is primarily involved in the activity associated with the participation of players and has produced thematic sheets for the Adriatic-Ionian and Western Mediterranean ecoregions.

The themes dealt with are:

- fishing and aquaculture,
- tourism,
- shipping,
- marine protected areas,
- climate change and coastal development.

We are also analysing the legislative frameworks in these ecoregions.



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

## OPTIMISING THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY MEDITERRANEAN WOODLAND ECOSYSTEMS IN A CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE

As part of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), Plan Bleu is joint project owner of the regional cooperation project with the FAO aiming to “optimise the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change”. This project won funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) of €2.65 million for the period 2012-2015 and is being implemented in each of the partner countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey).

The project is structured around four themes. The following two are managed by Plan Bleu:

- assessment of the socio-economic value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- improvement of governance methods for woodland ecosystems at a territorial level.

Regional methodologies for these two components were adopted and published as technical reports (see publications), then methodologies adapted to the five pilot sites were implemented: the Chréa National Park in Algeria, the Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon, the Maamora Forest in Morocco, the Barbara Catchment Area in Tunisia, and Düzlerçamı Forest in Turkey. For this, Plan Bleu worked with partners who are members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests such as the CTFC (Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya), EFIMED (Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute), and Cofor International. Furthermore, a collaborative platform was set up for project players to exchange and share documents of interest to their research.

Plan Bleu also took part in the various organisation committees of the IV Mediterranean Forest Week (Barcelona, 17-20 March 2015). Plan Bleu is holding a session at the event on the theme of “Water and Forest: integrated management crucial to cope with global changes in the Mediterranean”.

Finally, Plan Bleu played an active part in the various MEDLAND2020 project workshops: “Design of a future common integrated land management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorisation”.

### Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF)



Plan Bleu has continued and increased its regional cooperation activities on Mediterranean woodland areas as part of the CPMF initiated in 2010.

### Workshop on the economic assessment of forest goods and services



This regional workshop was held in Tunis, from 2 to 5 June 2014, to encourage discussions between national teams and regional experts. It was organised alongside the halfway workshop for component 1 (managed by the FAO) to allow for synergies between components and maintain consistency in project results. In the same spirit of coordination between components, Plan Bleu took part in the component 4 halfway meeting held in Rome on 21 and 22 October 2014.

# ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

## MED-ESCWET

**Economic assessment of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands in the context of climate change in the Mediterranean**

In September 2014, the Med-ESCWET project was launched, after being initiated by Plan Bleu in partnership with the Tour du Valat. This project for the economic assessment of ecosystem services provided by wetlands in the Mediterranean in terms of climate change adaptation is set to run for 2 years and is co-funded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Mava Foundation (Total budget: €471K). Though many studies into the impact of climate change on ecosystems already exist or are currently underway, a lot more research on the role of ecosystems as an adaptation tool is still needed. Ecosystems such as wetlands have (1) a direct role in climate regulation, by reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions, and (2) a mitigating role on the effects of climate change by protecting us from floods, droughts and storms along the coast. Intact flood plains, for example, help to limit flood risks by storing up water then releasing it gradually into streams and rivers. Furthermore, the role of ecosystems as natural adaptation infrastructure for the storage and regulation of water transfers is still undervalued in countries outside the EU. Some data suggests that using natural capacity to absorb or control impacts in urban and rural areas could be a more effective adaptation method than focusing on physical infrastructure. It is essential to consider the climate “shock absorption” role played by ecosystems and to fully incorporate this dimension into policies aimed at adaptation and prevention of natural disasters.

The Med-ESCWET project therefore aims to encourage the climate “shock absorption” role played by wetlands to be taken into account in climate change adaption strategies in the Mediterranean.

In 2014, Plan Bleu started a feasibility study for 7 potential sites in the Mediterranean, with the support of a Wetlands Project Officer recruited for the project.



### Specific objectives of the project:

- Improve understanding of the services and benefits provided by wetlands for climate regulation in the Mediterranean context;
- Provide an economic valuation of these services, based on Mediterranean case studies, in order to facilitate decision-making with regard to climate change adaptation strategies;
- Promote the incorporation of ecosystem services into public policy calculations (satellite accounts as part of national accounts, public policy assessment, etc.);
- Contribute to the development of indicators to monitor ecosystem services provided by wetlands.



## CLIMVAR

### Integration of climate variability and change into Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategies

For the ClimVar project, 2014 primarily involved the monitoring of activities associated with indicators and the development of the Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP), as well as organising a workshop at Sophia Antipolis in November 2014. Plan Bleu brought in the University of Geneva and the UNEP/GRID Geneva for the technical development of the platform and moderation of workshops on building capacity for exchanging map data through the platform. The MedICIP development framework is the regional climate change adaptation framework initiated by MAP in 2011 and is part of Plan Bleu's more general strategy to take part in harmonising climate services in the Mediterranean.

As part of this project, 2014 also saw the launch of an activity of regional significance - the development of a coastal vulnerability index to climate change. It takes into account a number of climate parameters (sea level rise, storms, droughts, coastal flooding) and exposure parameters (type of coast and coastal erosion, population, land use) in order to identify coastal regions with varying levels of vulnerability. Risk and vulnerability maps will also be produced. Plan Bleu worked on this with Acclimatise, a company based in England that specialises in these issues, and its partners, in particular Climalia.

With regard to the assessment of social impacts and economic costs linked to climate change in coastal zones, Plan Bleu has continued to moderate national workshops in Croatia for the coastal county of Sibenik-Knin, and launched the first participatory workshop in Tunisia for the Kerkennah Islands. In these two demonstration sites, Plan Bleu is working with local moderators to apply the Climagine participatory method, drawn from the well-known Imagine method. Through these workshops, Plan Bleu assesses the socio-economic impacts of climate change on coastal areas and the role played by marine ecosystems to mitigate these effects, especially with regard to phenomena such as sea level rises, submersion and erosion. The Climagine method uses participatory workshops to identify environmental and socio-economic data to feed into a model. The DIVA (Dynamic Integrated Vulnerability Assessment) model is being applied at a county-wide level in Sibenik-Knin, Croatia by PAP/RAC and J. Hinkel's team, and the RiVAMP (Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Development Project) is being applied on the Kerkennah Islands by the UNEP/GRID team.



Monitoring climate variability and change in coastal zones: Regional workshop for technical validation of a core set of indicators, Sophia Antipolis, 20-21 November 2014



# TRANSITIONING TO A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

## WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Plan Bleu organised the **4th Regional Workshop on Water Demand Management (WDM)**, as part of the 2nd Mediterranean Water Forum (Murcia, Spain, 25-27 November 2014) in partnership with the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the Marseille Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). The overall objective was to support Mediterranean countries in developing and adopting Water Demand Management policies.

Around one hundred participants from 12 Mediterranean countries attended the workshop, including ministerial representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, representatives from catchment area agencies, Mediterranean networks in the water sector (e.g. CEDARE, GWP-Med, IME, EMWIS, UfM), water utilities and researchers.

The workshop followed on from the previous regional WDM workshops organised by Plan Bleu and its partners. In particular, this one provided an opportunity to present experience from Morocco and Spain with implementing Water Demand Management and to demonstrate the progress made since the previous workshops, as well as obstacles encountered. These presentations were followed by discussions on issues around pricing, what is being done with the water saved using localised irrigation techniques, the role of users and water quality, proving the high level of participant interest in sharing their respective experience in WDM. The summary report produced on the implementation of WDM economic instruments in the Mediterranean was also released. Finally, there was a session presenting the latest work of the Water Think Tank, of which Plan Bleu is a member, on Water Demand Management across a region.

The summary of this workshop presented during the 2nd Mediterranean Water Forum highlighted the usefulness of the economic approach to WDM, current barriers to the implementation of WDM economic instruments and its limited impact on water savings in the Mediterranean despite significant potential, especially in the irrigation sector. It also restated the positive impacts of WDM such as the mobilisation of financial resources, its contribution to the recovery of water and sanitation services costs, and the improvement of irrigation water efficiency and agricultural added value.

Work will now continue with an emphasis on deciding what to allocate to different water uses and improving groundwater management.

### 4th Regional workshop on Water Demand Management, Murcia, 25-27 November 2014



#### Workshop objectives:

- Share knowledge and analyses from the CMI programme on the economic approach to WDM;
- Disseminate solutions and WDM best practice identified and facilitate regional cooperation in this area;
- Identify the potential contribution of this work to the implementation of the “Water” component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the achievement of targets MED 1.14 and MED 1.25 adopted during the 6th World Water Forum;
- Promote the Mediterranean approach at an international level.

# GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## REVIEW OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MSSD)

### Context and scope of the MSSD review

The MSSD was adopted in 2005 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and provides an integrative reference policy framework to support the definition of environmental policies by Mediterranean countries. This strategy is a regional response to the global agenda for sustainable development, and takes into account the Agenda 21 principles from the Rio Conference (1992) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Furthermore, the MSSD includes the principles of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership with a view to increasing solidarity and reducing disparities between developed European countries and emerging North African countries. It takes into account North-South inequalities, the need for economic convergence and the importance of supporting political and socio-economic transitions in SEMCs - approaches that are proving to be even more important in the current post-Arab Spring context.

The MSSD offers a reference framework but is not legally binding. It is simple, informative and flexible enough to cover the diversity of the Mediterranean and adapt to national situations. It sets clear and realistic objectives and plans for achievable actions and the monitoring thereof. It is structured around four priority objectives – the economy, society, the environment and governance - nine challenges and seven priority actions areas: water, energy, transport, tourism, agriculture and rural development, urban, sea and coastal development. The strategy provides monitoring information based on 34 priority indicators for periodic regional assessments.

At the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 18 – Istanbul, December 2013), the decision was made to review the MSSD in the light of the results of Rio+20 (2012) and alongside the United Nations intergovernmental process which aims to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2016. The final Rio+20 document “The Future We Want” also emphasised the green economy as part of ending poverty and adopted a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. One of the questions to be dealt with regarding the relationship between the MSSD and the SDGs relates to the field of application of the two projects: while Mediterranean countries have decided to focus the MSSD on the environment, the SDGs will cover all three sustainable development pillars.

### Key points:

- Official launch of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development review, Malta, 14 February 2014
- First stakeholder consultation phase based on the Consultation Document, 10 April - 9 May 2014
- 15th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, Malta, 11-12 June 2014: provisional structure and vision recommended
- Stakeholder Newsbrief no.1, July 2014
- Consultation workshop for the “Transitioning towards a green economy” thematic working group, Marseille, 30 September 2014
- UNEP/MAP Secretariat attendance at the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) conference, Rome 6-7 November 2014
- Consultation workshops for thematic working groups 1,2,3,4 and 6, Sophia Antipolis, 19-20 November 2014
- Conference on the Review of the MSSD, Malta, 17-18 February 2015

Another major challenge is to suggest ways of guaranteeing the efficiency of MSSD 2.0 (2016-2025) and ensure ownership by stakeholders and regional and national decision-makers. The initial MSSD was developed via a participatory process so that it could be adapted to a national level, but MSSD 1.0 (2005-2015) remained relatively unknown due to lack of involvement from MAP and the RACs in encouraging ownership by the countries concerned. Most of them now have national sustainable development strategies which do not necessarily refer to the approach agreed at a regional level. The review process therefore focuses specific attention on regional institutions, in particular members of the MCSD and institutions officially accredited as MAP partners. This makes it possible to expand the partnership framework and consolidate MAP relationships with other regional bodies. The MSSD review process also seeks to open up to other players with skills in sustainable development. It aims to secure MAP initiatives and instruments, and develop connections with other regional strategic frameworks, in particular those run by the EU and the UfM.

### **MSSD review consultation process**

The MSSD review is being led by the MCSD with the support of the MAP Secretariat and Plan Bleu. MAP and Plan Bleu are providing the technical work, with the support of the other RACs.

The MSSD review follows a three-phase programme with various stages. During the first phase (1st and 2nd quarters of 2014), the process was officially launched and a consultation document was drafted. The second phase (3rd and 4th quarter of 2014) involved the drafting of the preliminary version of MSSD 2.0 based on various consultations and operating feedback. Phase 3 (year 2015) is the final consultation phase prior to approval where MSSD 2.0 is distributed to the various MAP system players (MCSD, RAC, national focal points, accredited partners, etc.) for comment. Finally, MSSD 2.0 will hopefully be adopted at the COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention to be held in February 2016 in Greece.

During the initial phase, in January 2014, a small group was formed including the Maltese Presidency of the MCSD, the MAP Secretariat and Plan Bleu, with a view to continuous management of the project. In February 2014, following the official review launch, a working group was created, made up of RAC representatives. This working group has improved the integration of regional strategic frameworks and MAP instruments in order to strengthen links with the MSSD.



**Launch of the MSSD review process,  
Malta, 14 February 2014**



**Consultation workshop for working  
groups n°1, 3, 4 and 6, Sophia Antipolis,  
19-20 November 2014**

In March 2014, the priority was to finalise the “Consultation Document” which was distributed to 6,000 contacts who were invited to take part in this first consultation (April - May 2014). In May 2014, the answers and comments were analysed and summarised for the MCSD Steering Committee meeting.

In June 2014, the MCSD Steering Committee meeting recommended a vision and structure focussed on six cross-cutting themes/objectives (see insert).

Following the vision and structure recommendations, thematic working groups involving experts and stakeholders defined the content of the revised strategy themes via a collaborative process. Members of the MCSD, national focal points and MAP partner institutions, together with the main stakeholders in the region were invited to participate or appoint experts to contribute to the thematic working groups. Over 400 people were selected this way. At the same time, a team of six thematic experts and an advisor were mobilised to support the work of the thematic working groups. This process included an online consultation in three stages (October – November 2014) and thematic workshops (September and November 2014). Contributions dealt with priority questions and issues, strategic orientations and their connections with the SDGs, and finally the key actions and initiatives recommended at national and regional levels.

Phase 3 of the MSSD revision, which is set to start in 2015, involves a broad consultation process on a preliminary version of the strategy, with two key meetings in Malta in February and in Morocco in June. The Malta conference will allow discussion of the preliminary version of the strategy with around a hundred participants. The second preliminary version will be subject to the approval of the MCSD which will meet in Morocco from 9 to 11 June 2015. Morocco will then take on the rotating Presidency of the MCSD. The third stage of the process will end with the submission of the MSSD for approval by the Contracting Parties during the ordinary meeting planned for February 2016 in Greece (COP 19).

#### Six cross-cutting themes:

- Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas
- Promoting natural resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development
- Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities
- Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean
- Transitioning towards a green and blue economy
- Developing governance in support of sustainable development

#### Provisional vision proposed:

A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.



## REGOKO

### Regional Project – Governance and Knowledge Generation

The ReGoKo project aims to promote the integration of environmental issues into the sector and development policies of its beneficiaries (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia), through the generation of innovative knowledge on environmental issues and the organisation of training courses, seminars and conferences which use this knowledge to build the capacity of the key players at a local, national and regional level.

Plan Bleu is the implementing agency for this project, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with the World Bank as the executing agency.

The first two years of ReGoKo project implementation (2012-2013) focussed primarily on defining project operating procedures, defining about twenty activities around 5 working areas – Observation, Evaluation, Regulation, Participation and the Green Economy, and launching the first activities.

2014 was an important period for the project with, in particular:

- implementation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the water sector strategy in Lebanon,
- research into the socio-economic evaluation of marine activities in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia (cf. EcAp project),
- and the organisation of nine local workshops for the participation of local players in environmental management in Morocco and Tunisia.

Other important activities were launched in 2014, including a series of environmental audits in the stone and marble sector in Palestine, development of an environmental map in Tunisia, the development of environment and sustainable development observatories in Morocco and Tunisia and environmental audits of industrial companies in Lebanon. Furthermore, a strategic environmental planning activity for Egypt was defined in 2014 and will be implemented in 2015. The ReGoKo project will end in 2015.

**Project website:** <http://regoko.planbleu.org/en>

#### Activities

##### Observation:

- Development of observatories and environmental and sustainable development indicators (MA, TN)
- Implementation of a national geographical system for the environment – environmental map (TN)

##### Evaluation:

- Evaluation of environmental impact assessment systems (MA)
- Supporting industrial pollution abatement – environmental audits (LB)
- Socio-economic evaluation of marine activities (regional)
- Regional training on environmental assessments (regional)
- Strategic environmental assessment of the new water sector strategy (LB)
- Assessment of the burden of disease linked to the environment (EG, MA)

##### Regulation:

- Meeting of the Mediterranean prosecutors network against voluntary marine pollution by ships in conjunction with MARPOL (regional)
- Creation of the website for the Mediterranean prosecutors network against voluntary marine pollution by ships in conjunction with MARPOL (regional)
- Inventory and mapping of industrial sources of pollution (PS)
- Strategic environmental planning support (EG)

##### Participation:

- Participation of local players in environmental management (MA, TN)

##### Green economy:

- Attendance of beneficiary representatives at the Marseille 2012 Green Economy Conference (regional)
- Supporting industrial pollution abatement – environmental audits, Part II (LB)
- Supporting industrial pollution abatement in the stone and marble sector (PS)

## SEIS

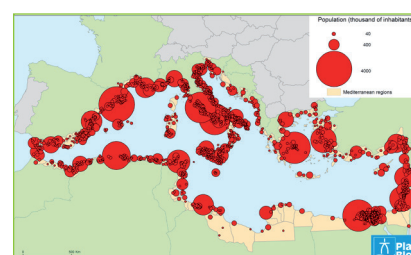
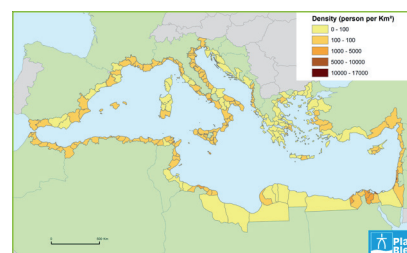
### Shared Environmental Information System

The SEIS project in the Mediterranean involves promoting the expansion of the European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to the Mediterranean countries, and in particular the ENP-South partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), initially around the priorities of the “Horizon 2020” initiative for reducing pollution in the Mediterranean by 2020.

This is a project funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and implemented jointly by the EEA (European Environment Agency) and UNEP/MAP with the support of Plan Bleu under short-term contracts (SSFA ) with the MAP. This project is based on 3 pillars: content (data and indicators), infrastructure (information systems) and governance (participation of national institutions).

Work in 2013 was focussed on organising national workshops in 8 countries which aimed to improve information sharing for calculating 6 indicators (2 for municipal waste, 2 for wastewater and 2 for industrial pollution). In 2014, the report - “Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report - toward shared environmental information systems” published jointly by the EEA and UNEP/MAP - was finalised for evaluation halfway through Horizon 2020 (report published in French, English and Arabic).

In 2014, Plan Bleu's contribution involved the definition and analysis of indicators and more specifically, for municipal waste, a context and pressure analysis. In late 2014, Plan Bleu also coordinated a set of missions on improving information flows within countries with the EEA and MAP. Finally, Plan Bleu attended a number of SEIS project meetings for Horizon 2020 (Review, Monitoring and Research - RMR sub-group) and MEDPOL (pollution indicators, focal points) and the definition of phase 2 of the SEIS project which will involve increased sharing of environmental information for current Horizon 2020 indicators and new indicators associated with the MSSD review. Phase 2 should start in mid-2015 and end in 2019.



# Communication

## EVENTS

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Workshops on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) / MedCIP platform and setback zone calculation, Istanbul, 7-9 October 2014

Monitoring climate variability and change in coastal zones: Regional workshop for technical validation of a core set of indicators, Sophia Antipolis, France, 20-21 November 2014

### FOREST

Regional workshop on the economic valuation of forest goods and services: support for on-site studies implementation, Tunis, 2-5 June 2014



### GOVERNANCE

8th Project Steering Committee meeting of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation Project Marseille, 26-27 March 2014

9th Project Steering Committee meeting of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation Project, Marseille, 8-9 October 2014

### REVIEW OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MSSD)

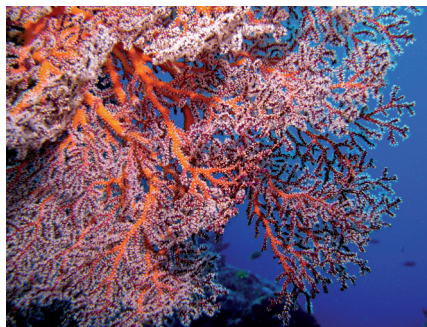
Launch of Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development review process, Malta, 14 February 2014

Consultation Workshop on Green Economy - MSSD Review Thematic Working Group TWG 5, Marseille, 30 September 2014

MSSD Review: Consultation workshop of working groups 1 (sea and coasts), 2 (natural resources, rural development, food), 3 (climate), 4 (sustainable cities and ICZM) and 6 (governance), Sophia Antipolis, 19-20 November 2014

### SEA

Second meeting of the Correspondence Group on the Economic and Social Analysis, including outcomes of the National pilot cases of the Regoko Project, Sophia Antipolis, 4-5 June 2014



Interactive session "Coastal and maritime pressures in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin: Stakeholders' consultation" in the framework of Med-IAMER project, Termoli, Italy, 29 October 2014 (organized during the seminar "What Future for Fisheries in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin?")

### TOURISM

Workshop on tourism transition in the Mediterranean region, Marseille, 25 June 2014



### WATER

Regional workshop on water demand management in the Mediterranean, Murcia, Spain, 25-27 November 2014

## PUBLICATIONS

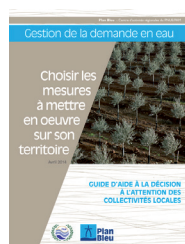
### PLAN BLEU PAPER

Approche économique de la gestion de la demande en eau en Méditerranée. Plan Bleu Paper n°15, November 2014. (French)



### METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE

Water demand management: selecting the measures to implement in your region. A decision making support guide for local authorities. April 2014 (French and English)



### NEWSLETTER

MSSD Review - Stakeholder Newsbrief, n°1, July 2014. (French and English)

### TECHNICAL REPORT

Scoping study for the assessment of the costs of degradation of the Mediterranean marine ecosystems. September 2014. (French and English)

Economic and social analysis of the uses of the coastal and marine waters in the Mediterranean: Characterization and impacts of the Fisheries, Aquaculture, Tourism and recreational activities, Maritime transport and Offshore extraction of oil and gas sectors. September 2014. (French and English)

Services écologiques rendus par les zones humides en matière d'adaptation au changement climatique. April 2014. (French)

Participatory governance for the multifunctional management of Mediterranean woodland areas. April 2014 (French and English)

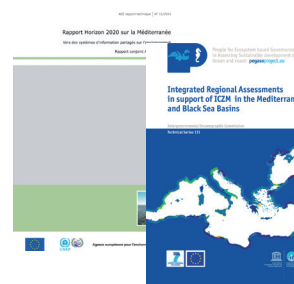
Methods and tools for socio-economic assessment of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems. March 2014. (French and English)



### CONTRIBUTIONS

Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report - Toward shared environmental information systems Joint EEA-UNEP/MAP report, 2014 (French and English)

Integrated regional assessments in support of ICZM in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins. UNESCO-IOC, 2014. (English)



### ARTICLES

#### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECONOSTRUM

- The commercial benefits of safeguarding forests for future generations (French and English)
- Forestry actors take on climate change (French and English)
- SEIS: towards a better system for sharing environmental information in the Mediterranean (French and English)
- A range of possibilities for water sustainability open to stakeholders (French and English)
- A strategy for a sustainable Mediterranean region (French and English)
- Lebanon assesses the environmental impact of its water strategy (French and English)
- We aim to create a sustainable development scoreboard for the Mediterranean (French and English)

# Governance

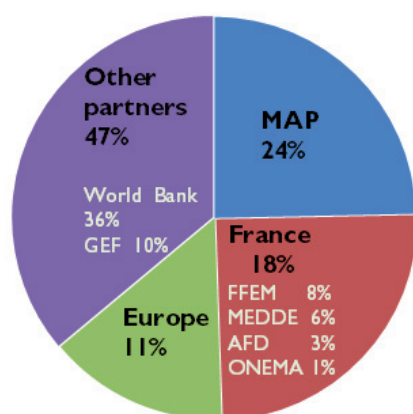
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### RESOURCES

In 2014, our total operating income was around €2.3 million.

Plan Bleu also raised contributions in kind to the amount of around €449K of which €375K involved the release of staff and premises and €74K were volunteer contributions (members of the Bureau).

Dividing up the various financial contributions by source shows four main sources of funding:



### USE OF RESOURCES

Financial resources and contributions in kind used represent a total amount of €2.7 million, distributed as follows:

Activities	2 234 659 €	82 %
Administrative staff	315 338 €	12 %
Operating costs	165 324 €	6 %

### PLAN BLEU TEAM

#### Sophia Antipolis premises

Balavoine Juliette, Wetland\*  
 Bourlioni Nelly, Forest ecosystems, biodiversity\*  
 Bourdeau Christiane, Secretariat\*\*  
 Dubreuil-Imbert Céline, Water  
 Duclerq Marion, Forest ecosystems, biodiversity\*\*  
 Dulbecco Sandra, Secretariat  
 Giraud Jean-Pierre, Indicators and information systems  
 Jöhr Isabelle, Executive assistant\*\*  
 Lafitte Antoine, Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)  
 Legros Dominique, Head of thematic unit\*\*  
 Olinger Aurélie, Accounting  
 Ravenel Hugues, Director  
 Rousseaux Hélène, Website and library  
 Rousset Natalie, Climate change\*\*

#### Marseille premises

Le Tellier Julien, Territorial approach  
 Sauzade Didier, Sea, ecosystem approach  
 Tode Lina, Governance and water

\* coming in 2014

\*\* leaving in 2014

### BUREAU MEMBERS

Lucien Chabason, Chairman  
 Jean de Montgolfier, Secretary-General and Treasurer  
 Christian Avérus, Vice-Chairman  
 Thierry Lavoux, Vice-Chairman  
 Sandrine Maljean-Dubois, Vice-Chairman  
 Aldo Ravazzi Douvan, Vice-Chairman



