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Editorial

Preparation of the Barcelona Convention COP 19 required significant work from Plan Bleu in 2015, particularly in order to promote the adoption of a new Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, prepared under the aegis of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

In particular, the new strategy was revised to include the issue of climate change as a priority for the Mediterranean. It was adopted during the COP 19 in February 2016 and corresponds fully with the activities carried out by Plan Bleu in 2015, which have the same aims of:

- Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas,
- Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development,
- Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean
- Supporting the transition to a green and blue economy, promoting the integration of sustainable development in Mediterranean public policies.

This work was carried out in close collaboration with the other regional activity centres and also helped develop new tools (the coastal risk index) for better anticipating coastal risks, which are made worse by climate change. The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) helped analyse the main marine activities in the Mediterranean in socio-economic and cost terms (degradation) for the first time. This work led to a guide containing recommendations in 2015, which is now available to all stakeholders.

Plan Bleu also prioritised an economic approach to the services provided by forest and aquatic ecosystems in the light of concerns about Mediterranean climate change and the need to make all stakeholders aware of the value of the region's resources for tackling it, adapting to it and mitigating its effects.

We have worked closely with the MAP and MEDPOL to continue activities concerning better environmental monitoring and protection and the implementation of an integrated marine strategy.

I am proud to present this 2015 Activity Report on behalf of Hugues Ravenel who led Plan Bleu until the end of December 2015. It provides a full report on Plan Bleu activities. The Plan Bleu team and myself do not simply wish to explain our contribution, but also the environmental and development challenges the Mediterranean must face up to in order to preserve a prosperous and acceptable future for all.

Anne-France Didier Director

Plan Bleu Mandate

vironmental and development issue

- Mediterranean Commission of
- Strategy for Sustainable Developmen

GLOSSARY

AIFM (International Association for Mediterranean Forests)

AMP (Adaptive Marine Policies)

COP (Conference of the Parties)

CPMF (Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests)

DG Env (European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment)

DG MARE (European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and

EcAp (Ecosystem Approach, general principle of the Barcelona Convention. MAP initiative for the integrated management of human activities that could impact marine and coastal environments)

ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy)

ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)

ESA (Economic and Social Analysis)

ETC (European Topic Centre)

EU (European Union)

FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation)

FGEF (French Global Environment Facility)

GEF (Global Environment Facility)

GES (Good Environmental Status)

IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Plan)

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organisations)

MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan)

MCSD (Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development)

MedECC (Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change)

MedICIP (Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform)

MED POL (the marine pollution assessment and control component of MAP)

MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

MSSD (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development)

QSR (Environment Quality Status Report)

RAC (Regional Activity Centre)

RED (Report on Environment and Development)

ReGoKo (Regional "Governance and Knowledge Generation" Project)

SCP (Sustainable Consumption and production)

SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)

SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System)

UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)

WFD (Water Framework Directive)

PARTNERS*

Acclimatise and Climalia (England and

AViTeM (Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories)

World Bank

PAP/RAC (Priority Action Programmes Regional Activity Centre)

Cofor International

CTFC - Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (Spain)

Malaga ETC (University of Malaga European Topic Centre on Spatial Information and Analysis)

Silva Mediterranea Committee (FAO)

EFIMED - European Forest Institute (Spain)

FGEF (French Global Environment Facility)

MAVA Foundation

MedSea Foundation

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

HCMR (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research)

MED POL (the marine pollution assessment and control component of MAP)

SCP/RAC (Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre)

Tour du Valat UNEP/GRID-Geneva University of Geneva

University of Thessaly, Greece

* non-exhaustive list

Activities carried out in 2015

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 in accordance with 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 focusses particularly on the interface between ecosystems and society (see the objectives opposite).

The projects described below each contribute to one or more of these objectives.

EcAp MED 2012-2015 Project - Economic and social analysis of activities

As part of this project coordinated by the MAP and funded by the EU, from 2012 to 2014, Plan Bleu completed the first ever economic and social analysis of the main 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. In order to help Plan Bleu with this complex task, encourage consistency with the overall EcAp approach and ensure a close link with Mediterranean countries, a Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis was formed, including national experts appointed by the Contracting Parties, international experts and representatives of MAP components. This group of experts met twice in April 2013 and June 2014 in order to present and validate the approach adopted by Plan Bleu. The most recent meeting also heard a presentation of the preliminary results of the three national pilot case studies (Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco) performed as part of the regional "Governance and Knowledge Generation" project (ReGoKo). In 2015, analysis was completed for Egypt; which joined the project later, along with the summary reports for national pilot studies.

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 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). It was therefore necessary to encourage this type of analysis for non-European Mediterranean countries. Plan Bleu produced a <u>recommendations document</u> for these countries, based on the experience of European countries and pilot operations performed for four Southern Mediterranean countries. This guide was finalised and distributed in 2015.

All reports produced under ESA have been validated by the EcAp Coordination Group and were presented as informative documents at the COP in February 2016. They are also available on the Plan Bleu website.



EcAp MED II 2015-2018 Project

This project is conducted by the MAP with the support of its components, and seeks to support critical points on the EcAp initiative roadmap, and more generally, help implement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) adopted by the COP 21. Plan Bleu contributes by coordinating the "Strengthen the science-policy interface» component to promote information exchange between scientists and decision-makers.

The following activities are planned for the 2015-2018 period:

- Identify the main gaps in scientific knowledge with regard to implementation of EcAp to organise regional scientific workshops focused on specific fields in order to draw on existing knowledge and the results of scientific projects on pre-determined issues associated with the implementation of EcAp;
- Encourage relevant scientific recommendations and results to be taken into account for drawing up EcAp documents prepared by the MAP Secretariat, in particular getting scientific experts to revise the Quality Status Report (QSR 2017) on the Mediterranean environment;
- Continue action by producing targeted communication media for better knowledge sharing and a specific scientific contribution to the development of national activities (monitoring and implementation plans) and sub-regional and regional policies.

Although signature of the project cooperation agreement was delayed, Plan Bleu organised the "Science - Policy Interface" action inception workshop on 15-16 December 2015 at its headquarters in Sophia Antipolis.

The workshop highlighted the key policy challenges which require more scientific information, in particular for monitoring, environmental assessment and the development of new measures...

PERSEUS. Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research for the Southern European Seas

On these topics, Plan Bleu has gained experience through involvement in the European research project, PERSEUS.

This project (2012-2015) was coordinated by the HCMR in Greece and aimed to promote coordinated research work in order to characterise the 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 played a significant role in this major project (55 partners, €13 million funding), in particular with responsibility for tasks associated with stakeholder participation and the socio-economic assessment of marine activities. Furthermore, Plan Bleu was responsible for the "Adaptive policies and scenarios" component, which aims to develop a platform for creating adaptive measures for achieving GES in the Mediterranean.

The adaptive nature of measures is one of the principles of the Ecosystem Approach, which recognises that 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 measures to limit these impacts. Measures must therefore be built so as to be able to resist changes, while improving knowledge of the system concerned, which is rarely the case in practice, and to justify the development of this unique tool.

Following completion of a number of steps with deliverables, 2014 saw the finalisation and initial demonstration of the platform, which is designed as a toolbox that can be viewed over the Internet. These tests and demonstrations identified areas of improvement for the AMP Toolbox, which were implemented in early 2015.

- Objectives of the "Science Policy Interface" action inception workshop, Sophia Antipolis, 15 16 Dec. 2015
 Agree on a list of key scientific gaps to be filled as a priority for the implementation of the planned Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP) being developed by UNEP/MAP as part of EcAp;

AMP Toolbox

levels, in five steps presented as a cycle. 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. See http://www.perseus-net.eu/en/about_the_apf_toolbox/indox/stml

IRIS SES, Integrated Regional Implementation Strategy in the **South European Seas**

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

In order to strengthen synergy between the MSFD and EcAp, Plan Bleu agreed to take part in this project on the Steering Committee alongside MED POL, with responsibility for the regulatory and socio-economic analysis of drivers and associated pressures involved in the definition of monitoring programmes.

ACTION MED, Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea

This other DG Env pilot project (2015-2016) is also coordinated by the HCMR in Greece and aims to strengthen the regional integration of marine environment monitoring programmes and programmes of measures for achieving GES in the Mediterranean. As an extension of its EcAp role, Plan Bleu is a partner of MAP, responsible for the economic assessment of programmes of measures. This project was reviewed in 2014 and launched in November 2015. Nevertheless, administrative difficulties have delayed the effective involvement of MAP, and therefore Plan Bleu, until June 2016.

MED-IAMER, Mediterranean Integrated Actions to Mitigate **Environmental Risks**

The Med-IAMER project (2014-2015) is coordinated by the University of Malaga European Topic Centre on Spatial Information and Analysis (Malaga ETC) and is one of the 14 projects for an integrated maritime approach, which have been approved under the MED 2014-2020 programme. It came to an end in May 2015. The goal of this project was to identify marine and coastal pressures, map them, and propose integrated actions to mitigate the associated environmental risks. Plan Bleu was a partner in the project alongside Malaga ETC (Project Leader), AViTeM (Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories) in Marseille and the University of Thessaly in Greece. Plan Bleu coordinated the stakeholder consultation activity and summarised the results of the Med-IAMER project through thematic sheets for the Adriatic-Ionian and Western Mediterranean ecoregions. The final deliverables are available on the Plan Bleu website.

Legislative frameworks in these ecoregions were also analysed. A strategic document with recommendations was produced following the project and presented at the final conference on the "Challenges for the Integrated Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean Sea» (Barcelona, 26 May 2015), which Plan Bleu attended.

WESTMED, Support for the development of a maritime strategy in the Western Mediterranean sub-sea-basin

This project (2015-2017) arose from a call for tenders by the European Commission (DG MARE), won by the consortium led by the Ecorys consulting firm, for preparing an integrated maritime strategy for the Western Mediterranean, then, in a second conditional phase, developing an action plan and implementing it. The project concerns Western Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Malta, Italy, Monaco, France, Spain, and also Mauritania, Portugal, the United Kingdom / Gibraltar).

The integrated maritime strategy is a tool promoted by the MAP, particularly as part of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The project was processed in 2015 and started at the end of the year. Plan Bleu's role is to contribute to the contextual document using results from the socio-economic assessment carried out for EcAp and to take part in the work of the Barcelona Convention and dialogue with stakeholders. A first workshop with stakeholders will be organised by Plan Bleu in March 2016.



Topics covered by the Med-IAMER project:



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 CHANGES

As part of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), Plan Bleu is joint project owner of the regional cooperation project with the Silva Mediterranea Committee (FAO) aiming to "Optimise the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change". This project won funding of €2.65 million from the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) for the 2012-2016 period and is being implemented in each of the partner countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia,

The project is structured around five components. The following three are managed by

- I. assessment of the socio-economic value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- 2. improvement of modes of governance for woodland ecosystems at a territorial level;
- 3. strengthening of coordination and sharing of experience between Mediterranean stakeholders via the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).

Five pilot sites (Chréa National Park in Algeria, Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon, Maamora Forest in Morocco, Barbara Catchment Area in Tunisia, and Düzlerçami Forest in Turkey) were selected. For each component, methodologies were implemented and the national results were published in reports available on the Plan Bleu website. From 27 to 29 October 2015, a regional results feedback workshop was organised in Nice to encourage experience sharing and continue discussion about the methodological approach. This workshop brought together 30 people, including the focal points from the partner countries, the thematic advisors, the national experts responsible for the studies on the pilot sites and the Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea, the FAO's committee on Mediterranean forestry issues, which is joint Project Owner.

For this project, Plan Bleu partnered with CPMF members such as the CTFC (Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya), EFIMED (Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute), and Cofor International, etc.

Furthermore, a collaborative platform was set up for project players to exchange and share documents of interest to their research.

Mediterranean Forest Week

Plan Bleu attended and organised a joint session with EFIMED, entitled "Forest and water: an integrated management crucial to cope with global changes in the Mediterranean", during the 4th Mediterranean Forest Week, which took place in Barcelona from 17 to 20

In addition, the integration of forestry issues and land ecosystems into the MSSD was assessed during a fringe event.

Plan Bleu continues to play an active role in organising these forest weeks. The next event will be held in Morocco in March 2017 on the theme of restoring Mediterranean landscapes.

labal Moussa Biosphere Reserve, Lebanor



Chréa National Park, Algeria



Barbara Catchment Area, Tunisia



Düzlerçami Forest, Turkey



Maâmora Forest, Morocco



International representation for forestry issues

Plan Bleu attended the 27th international biennial conference by IUFRO Research Group 7.01, "Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change on Forest Ecosystems", entitled "Global Challenges of Air Pollution and Climate Change to Forests", which was held in Nice from 2 to 5 June 2015. Plan Bleu prepared a poster for this event, presenting the preliminary results of Component 2 of the FGEF project "Assessment of the economic and social value of the goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems".

Plan Bleu attended the 14th World Forestry Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 11 September 2015, on the theme of "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future". This event provided an opportunity to bring together the international forestry community in order to meet the common goal of looking for ways to reverse the trend of forest degradation and deforestation. Plan Bleu participated by:

- I. The distribution of Plan Bleu publications on the Mediterranean Forests Stand. This is the first time that there has been such a stand at a World Forestry Congress. The AIFM was responsible for the stand and Plan Bleu took part in order to speak up for Mediterranean forests at an international level. This stand was a place for sharing information, ideas and experiences in order to improve communication on the issues and challenges facing Mediterranean woodland ecosystems and the actions required to ensure a sustainable future for our forest resources. Methodological guides on participatory governance and the socio-economic assessment of goods and services were distributed, a poster was displayed, and more.
- 2. Organisation and participation in the "International Forests and Water Dialogue". This event was held from Tuesday 8 to Wednesday 9 September 2015 and saw the finalisation and launch of the five-year action plan for forests and water. This plan was drawn up by a group of experts and partner organisations such as FAO and IUFRO. It calls for action in the fields of science, policy, economy and forest practices. During this event, Plan Bleu presented Forest and Water issues in the Mediterranean and took part in the creation of the international Forest and Water network. Plan Bleu Note n°30 "Forest and water: an integrated management crucial to cope with global changes in the Mediterranean region" was distributed.

Plan Bleu also attended the Biodivmex prospective workshop as part of the Mistrals programme, which was held in September 2015 at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence. A presentation was given, entitled, "Could socio-economic assessment of the goods and services produced by forest ecosystems in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean help preserve biodiversity?"

Plan Bleu was represented at the 3rd European Forest Week held in Engelberg, Switzerland in November 2015 to present an overview of Forest and Water issues in the Mediterranean.

Plan Bleu also attended the 8th international Ecosystem Services Partnership conference, held in Stellenbosch in November 2015. The conference theme was "Ecosystem services for nature, people and prosperity", with a special focus on dialogue between the public and private sector, by demonstrating how the concept of ecosystem services can be used to encourage the preservation of nature, improve revenue and involve businesses. Plan Bleu was represented through:

- I. A presentation on the theme of "Economic assessment of ecosystem services. A tool for sustainable development in the Mediterranean" in the "Mediterranean" B5 Working Group.
- 2. Two posters, on the "Economic assessment of forest goods and services" and "Optimising forest goods and services in a context of global change".

Finally, Plan Bleu took part in the final FORESTERRA workshop in Lisbon in November 2015, with the distribution of a poster on the economic assessment of forest goods and services.

14th World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa, 7 - 11 September 2015







8th international ecosystem services partnership conference, Stellenbosch, November 2015



ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY ISSUE 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 Tour du Valat. This project for the economic assessment of ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands for adaptation to climate change 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: €47 I K). Though many studies into the impact of climate change on ecosystems already exist or are currently underway, a lot more research into the role of ecosystems as an adaptation tool is needed. Ecosystems such as wetlands have (1) a direct role in climate regulation, by reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions, and (2) a role of mitigating the effects of climate change by protecting us from floods, droughts and coastal storms. Intact flood plains, for example, help to limit flood risks by storing up water and 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 the 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 "cushioning" role played by ecosystems and to fully incorporate this dimension into policies aimed at adaptation and prevention of natural disasters.

The Med-ESCWET project on the "economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands in terms of climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean" seeks to promote this ecosystem-based adaptation approach and to facilitate its integration into national climate change adaptation policies. In order to raise awareness among decision-makers of the importance of wetlands for climate change adaptation, the project includes the economic assessment of these services so as to inform the decision-making process.

A feasibility study conducted in 11 Mediterranean wetlands helped the Steering Committee select four pilot sites and an associated ecosystem service in May 2015:

- Etang de Vic (France) for coastal protection
- Yeniçaga Lake (Turkey) for carbon sequestration
- Lake Burullus (Egypt) for carbon sequestration
- Lonjsko Polje Plain (Croatia) for flood management.

Three kick-off workshops were organised from August to November 2015 for the French, Egyptian and Turkish sites. These workshops sought to:

- Inform the pilot site's stakeholders of the Med-ESCWET project: activities to carry out, methodology, expected results, current state of progress;
- · Present the project's collaborative ties with other organisations involved and establish synergies with other potential ongoing initiatives;
- Validate the results of the feasibility study on this pilot site;
- Gather stakeholder expectations.

Following these workshops, more detailed data collection was carried out in order to complete an inventory of the ecosystem services provided by each pilot site and to launch biophysical assessment, which was required prior to economic assessment.





- Promote the incorporation of ecosystem services into public policy calculations (satellite accounts as part of national
- (satellite accounts as part of national accounts, public policy assessment, etc.);
 Contribute to the development of indicators for monitoring the ecosystem services provided by wetlands





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

In 2015, activities were finalised for the Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP), the final Climagine workshops held in Croatia and Tunisia and finalisation of the methodology for developing a coastal risk index. Plan Bleu renewed its contract with the University of Geneva and UNEP/GRID Geneva for the development of a more userfriendly interface for MedICIP. 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 and in the light of climate change, a coastal risk index was developed in 2015. Several climate variables (increase in sea level, storms, droughts, coastal flooding) and exposure parameters (type of coast and coastal erosion, population, land use) are taken into account when calculating this index, which is used to identify coastal regions facing variable risks. Risk and vulnerability maps were produced at regional level for 11 countries and at local level for the Tétouan region in Morocco. To this end, Plan Bleu worked with a specialist company named Acclimatise, based in England, and with Climalia and the MedSea foundation. As part of MedCOP 21, a regional workshop was held in Marseille to present the method and results to representatives of the II countries taking part in the ClimVar project.

Plan Bleu moderated national workshops in Croatia for the coastal county of Šibenik-Khin and the final participatory workshops in Tunisia for the Kerkennah Islands on assessment of the social impacts and economic costs of climate change in coastal areas. With the support of local moderators, Plan Bleu implemented the Climagine participatory method (from Imagine) on these two demonstration sites. Through these workshops, Plan Bleu assesses the socio-economic impacts of climate change on coastal areas and the role played by marine ecosystems in mitigating these effects, particularly the phenomena of sea level rise, flooding and erosion. The Climagine method is unique as it can identify environmental and socio-economic data during participatory workshops which feed into a vulnerability assessment model (DIVA - "Dynamic Integrated Vulnerability Assessment" and RiVAMP - "Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Development Project"). In both studies, recommendations were made for strategic actions, with the aim of supporting the development of integrated coastal zone management plans.



Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia





MEDCOP21, Mediterranean civil society forum for climate

As part of preparation for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015 (COP21/CMP11), the Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur Region held MEDCOP21, the Mediterranean Civil Society Forum for Climate on 4 and 5 June 2015 at the Villa Méditerranée in Marseille. This event brought together 500 state and civil society representatives from all Mediterranean countries. It sought to emphasise the common commitment to adaptation and the fight against climate change and to help establish a positive Mediterranean agenda via concrete and shared proposals. Plan Bleu actively contributed to the technical committees at this major Mediterranean event. It helped prepare Workshop | "Sustainable Cities and Territories" (moderator) and Workshop 4 "Resilience to Climate Change", and coordinated Round Table 4 "Mediterranean Strategy and Commitments". Hugues Ravenel took part in Round Table 4 and Julien Le Tellier coordinated Workshop 1.

MEDCOP21, Marseille, 4-5 June 2015



COP21 - United Nations Convention on Climate Change

As part of COP21, which was held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, Plan Bleu presented the Med-ESCWET project that it coordinates, which seeks to promote the climate "cushioning" role played by wetlands in the Mediterranean. Two presentations were given at the "France - IUCN Partnership" Pavilion in Le Bourget on Wednesday 2 December and Monday 7 December, in partnership with Tour du Valat.

Plan Bleu also organised two round tables on the MedECC initiative (network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change), which was integrated into the Positive Mediterranean Agenda during MEDCOP21 in June 2015. The first round table was held in Le Bourget on 4 December and the second at the Grand Palais on 5 December. MedECC is a "Sciences - Societies - Decision" interface mechanism that seeks to develop scientific assessments and guidelines on trends, impacts and responses to climate change in the Mediterranean. MedECC is part of a flagship initiative proposed by the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025).

Finally on 7 December, Plan Bleu took part in the session "Mediterranean forests and us facing climate change" as part of the "Optimising the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change" project, funded by the French Global Environment Facility. The session took place at Le Bourget, in the "Naturebased Solutions" pavilion in the "Climate Generations" area. The film, "Mediterranean forests" was shown followed by an audience discussion.

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO A **GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY**

SUPPORTING "A BLUE ECONOMY FOR A HEALTHY **MEDITERRANEAN"** (green economy in a blue world)

This 18-month project (June 2015-December 2016) on measuring, monitoring and promoting an environmentally sustainable economy in the Mediterranean is funded by the MAVA Foundation.

It aims to identify indicators, select tools and recommend that politicians promote the blue economy, which is defined as a sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region for the assessment and protection of ecosystems. It is implemented by three Mediterranean Action Plan Regional Activity Centres: the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/ RAC) and Plan Bleu, with the participation of the main stakeholders within an Advisory Board.

The three components are being implemented by the three MAP Regional Activity Centres:

- Define and monitor an environmentally sustainable economy: Plan Bleu
- Support the implementation of an environmentally sustainable economy: SCP/RAC
- Promote and integrate an environmentally sustainable economy: PAP/RAC

Plan Bleu organised the first Advisory Board meeting on 7-8 July 2015 at the Plan Bleu offices in Sophia-Antipolis (France).

The project contributed to the <u>SwitchMed Connect</u> event that took place in Barcelona from 29 to 30 October 2015 on experience sharing for social and economic innovations in the Mediterranean.

A framework study was used to define the concepts more precisely along with the issues and sectors for which the indicators for a blue economy dashboard in the Mediterranean will be specified and calculated.

This dashboard will be developed in 2016 and could contribute to the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation dashboard.

COP21, Paris, 30 November-11 December 2015







Ist meeting of the Consultative Committee, Sophia Antipolis, 7-8 July 2015



PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN **MEDITERRANEAN PUBLIC POLICIES**

A REVISED MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE **DEVELOPMENT FOR 2016-2025**

Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve economic and social development

At their 19th ordinary meeting (COP19) in Athens, Greece, from 9 to 12 February 2016, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the new Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025).

The Strategy is formulated taking into account the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which put particular focus on the green economy in a context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. MSSD 2016-2025 aims to contribute significantly to the long-term sustainable development vision of the Mediterranean region, especially within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Review of the 2005 MSSD was led by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), with the assistance of the Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention (Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan - UNEP/MAP) through its Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre and the support of the other MAP components (RACs).

The Strategy was developed through an inclusive process in which all member states and stakeholders in the region had the opportunity to participate. In 2015, the main stages in this participatory process were as follows:

- January 2015: draft version of the MSSD 2016-2025;
- 17-18 February 2015: Conference on the revision of the MSSD in Malta comments and opinions from stakeholders, supplemented by written comments received subsequently;
- 9-11 June 2015: 16th meeting of the MCSD in Morocco approval of the MSSD revised draft;
- 9-12 February 2016: Adoption of MSSD 2016-2025 at COP19 in Greece.

MSSD 2016-2025 is based on the principle that socio-economic development needs to be harmonised with the environment and protection of natural resources. It emphasises that investing in the environment is the best way to ensure long-term sustainable job creation: an essential process for the achievement of sustainable socio-economic development for the present and future generations.

The MSSD vision answers the need for a proper development direction: **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.

MSSD 2016-2025 addresses key areas impacted by human activity, from the marine and coastal environments, using an ecosystem-based approach and planning tools such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), to urban settlements and the rural and agricultural systems. It also focuses on climate change, which is expected to impact severely the Mediterranean. The Strategy also introduces emerging approaches that help in turning political will into reality, e.g. a Green economy approach combined with Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

The Strategy follows a structure based on six objectives that lie in the interface between environment and development. They were chosen to provide scope for an integrated approach to address sustainability issues. The first three objectives reflect a territorial approach, while the other objectives are cross-cutting, focusing on key policies and fields.

Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)



The six objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025

- support of sustainable development

A set of strategic directions was formulated for each of the six objectives. The strategic directions are complemented by national and regional actions, as well as flagship initiatives and targets. The actions aim at providing guidance and inspiration for the most effective implementation of the Strategy. Not all countries may have the necessity or the resources to undertake all the proposed actions; the proposed actions need to be adapted to national needs.

Lastly, a strategy depends on its delivery mechanism: MSSD 2016-2025 looks into the means for financing its implementation and measuring its effects, as well as the governance prerequisites. A comprehensive monitoring system is also necessary through the establishment of a dashboard of sustainability indicators populated for the Mediterranean.

MONITORING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MSSD 2016-2025

This activity is addressed in Paragraph 3.3 of MSSD 2016-2025, entitled "Towards a monitoring system and a regional dashboard on the implementation of the Strategy".

A comprehensive monitoring system and relevant indicators are necessary for the implementation of the Strategy, according to two requirements:

- I. Monitoring the implementation of the actions recommended in the Strategy: the level of implementation and gaps in the objectives in terms of actions (for example, the number of countries complying with an action);
- 2. Monitoring the progress of sustainable development issues: the sustainability dashboard in relation to the objectives in terms of sustainability (for example, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions).

The aim is to develop a dashboard for sustainable development that presents a limited set of indicators chosen among the most representative and accessible (can be measured with the available data).

On the fringe of the 16th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Marrakech, 9-11 June 2015), Plan Bleu organised a session on monitoring the implementation of MSSD 2016-2025, with discussion on the monitoring process and the resulting dashboard.

Selecting and populating the dashboard indicators and developing this dashboard will be included in future activities, particularly in 2016.

REGOKOFORTHEINTEGRATIONOFSUSTAINABLEDEVELOPMENT IN SECTORAL POLICIES

The "Regional Governance and Knowledge Generation" (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 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 project was launched in January 2012 and ended in October 2015. It implemented 15 activities around 5 working areas: Observation, Evaluation, Regulation, Participation and the Green Economy.

2015 was an important period for the project, particularly with the <u>final project conference</u> organised on 29 and 30 September 2015 and the creation of the final project report presenting the main results.

Over 800 political leaders, representatives of ministries of finance, planning and sector policies, environmental players (academics, scientists, NGOs), local authorities and 652 private companies benefitted from the project by directly participating in the activities financed.



MSSD 2016-2025



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Through the two components, "Governance" and "Knowledge Generation", the ReGoKo project helped integrate environmental issues into Mediterranean sectoral policies, at local, national and regional level. In addition, the activities carried out under the ReGoKo project are in line with the new Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025, thereby facilitating its implementation, particularly for Objective I Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas and Objective 6 Improving governance in support of sustainable development.

Project information and results can be viewed on the project website: http://regoko.planbleu.org/

SEIS, Shared Environmental Information System

The SEIS project in the Mediterranean involves promoting the expansion of the European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to 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 project is 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. The project is based on 3 pillars: content (data and indicators), infrastructure (information systems) and governance (participation of national institutions).

After an initial phase in 2013-2014, resulting in the publication of a report co-produced by the EEA and UNEP/MAP, "Horizon 2020 Mediterranean Report - Toward shared environmental information systems" for the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation (report published in French, English and Arabic), Plan Bleu helped define the second phase (2016-



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REGOKO ACTIVITIES

- strategic environmental assessment the new water sector strategy (LB) Assessment of the burden of disease

Communication

MAIN EVENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Workshop on the presentation and validation of a methodology for a regional and local risk assessment of Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean region, Marseille, France, 3 June 2015

5th Steering Committee Meeting final event of the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM Projects, Athens, 3-4 November 2015

WATER, WETLANDS

Ist Steering Committee meeting of the Med-ESCWET project, Sophia Antipolis, France, 28 May 2015

Kick-off workshop of the Med-ESCWET project at the Etang de Vic pilot site, Hérault (France), Montpellier, France, 17 August 2015

Kick-off workshop of the Med-ESCWET project at the Lake Burullus pilot site (Egypt), Alexandria, Egypt, 14 September 2015

Kick-off workshop of the Med-ESCWET project at the Yeniçaga Lake pilot site (Turkey), Ankara, Turkey, 10 November 2015

FORESTS

4th Steering Committee meeting of the regional project funded by FFEM on Mediterranean forests, Rabat, Morocco, 26-31 January 2015

4th Mediterranean Forest Week, Barcelona, 17-20 March 2015

Side Event "International Forests & Water Dialogue" as part of the XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban (South Africa), 7-11 September 2015

Regional Workshop on socio-economic assessment and participatory governance of pilot forest ecosystems, Nice, France, 27-29 October 2015

GOVERNANCE

10th Steering Committee meeting of the Regional - Governance and Knowledge Generation Project, Marseille, France, 29-30 April 2015

Final results seminar of the Regional - Governance and Knowledge Generation Project (ReGoKo), Antibes, France, 29-30 September 2015

COASTS

Brainstorming and knowledge sharing workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, organised in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Antibes-Juan Les Pins, 24 September 2015

SEA

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Ist Advisory Board Meeting of the project "A blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean", Sophia Antipolis, France, 7-8 July 2015

Inception workshop "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean: strengthening the science-policy interface", Sophia Antipolis, France, 15-16 December

REVIEW OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MSSD)

Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, Malta, 17-18 February 2015

16th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), Marrakech, Morocco, 9-11 June 2015

ClimVar Workshop, Marseille, 3 June 2015



4th Mediterranean Forest Week, Barcelona, 17-20 March 2015



Inception workshop "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean: strengthening the science-policy interface", Sophia Antipolis, France, 15-16 December 2015



MAIN PUBLICATIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Risk Management in the Mediterranean. Climate services: a decision support tool for adaptation, June 2015. Plan Bleu Note no. 27 (French, English)

Towards a multi-scale coastal risk index for the Mediterranean, September 2015. Plan Bleu Note no. 28 (French, English)

A systemic and prospective sustainability analysis within the Šibenik-Knin County (Croatia), September 2015 (English)

Strengthening the Knowledge Base on Regional Climate Variability and Change: application of a Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index at Regional and Local Scale in the Mediterranean, septembre 2015 (anglais)

Expérience tunisienne pour faire face à la Variabilité et au Changement Climatique en Zones Côtières, October 2015 (French)

Integration of climate variability and change into ICZM strategies: Contribution to the updating of the integrated management plan for coastal zones of the Kerkennah archipelago, December 2015 (English, French, Arabic)

FORESTS

Forest and water: an integrated management crucial to cope with global changes in the Mediterranean region, August 2015. Plan Bleu Note n°. 30 (French, English)

Socio-economic assessment of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Methodological guide: factsheets and tools, June 2015 (English)

Participatory governance for the multifunctional management of Mediterranean woodland areas. Methodological guide: factsheets and tools, June 2015 (English)

GOVERNANCE

Environmental and social assessments in Mediterranean - Sourcebook, October 2015 (English, French, Arabic)

Les accords multilatéraux sur l'environnement (AME) et les référentiels d'action au Sud et à l'Est de la Méditerranée. Rapport préliminaire, December 2015 (French)

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Guidelines for economic and social analysis of Mediterranean marine ecosystems, June 2015. Technical Report. (French, English)

Economic and social analysis of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean? September 2015. Plan Bleu Note no. 29. (French, English)

REVIEW OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Stakeholder Newsbrief n° 2 - February 2015



ARTICLES

In partnership with Econostrum

Open source environmental data in the Mediterranean - 20/01/2015 (French, English)

A toolbox for better management of the marine environment - 13/02/2015 (French, English)

Look after the Mediterranean and it will look after you - 07/04/2015 (French, English)

Towards a green economy in the Mediterranean - 26/05/2015 (French, English)

Wetland areas cushion the impact of climate change in the Mediterranean - 22/06/2015 (French, English)

Coming soon, a Mediterranean coastal risk index - 15/07/2015 (French, English)

For the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests - 24/08/2015 (French, English)

Promoting a Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean Region - 28/09/2015 (French,

The Mediterranean - «Blue gold» under pressure - 17/11/2015 (French, English)

Integrated management of natural ecosystems a priority - 15/12/2015 (French,

POSTERS

Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) - février

Assessment of socio-economic value of good and services provided by Mediterranean forest - mai 2015

Climate change in the Mediterranean region: some maps on the major stakes - juin 2015

Optimizing the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes - septembre

Establishment of MedICIP: Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform octobre 2015

Socio-eoconomic value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest - octobre 2015

Climagine: a participatory approach to allow discussions between stakeholders regarding adaptation to climate change at local level octobre 2015

Economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands in terms of adaptation to climate change novembre 2015

Plan Bleu resources

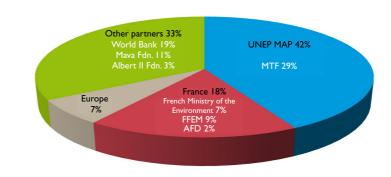
FINANCIAL INFORMATION **RESOURCES**

In 2015, our total operating income was approximately €2.1 million

Plan Bleu also raised contributions in kind of approximately

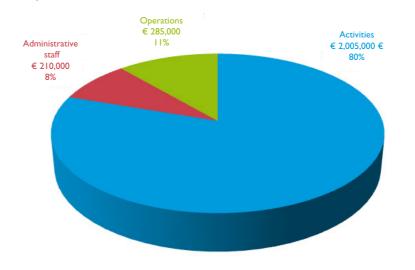
€405K of which €334K involved the release of staff and premises and €71K were volunteer contributions (members of the Bureau).

The breakdown of the various financial contributions by source shows four main sources of funding



USE OF RESOURCES

The financial resources and contributions in kind used represent a total amount of €2.5 million, distributed as follows:



TEAM

Sophia Antipolis Site

Marseille Site

MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

PLAN BLEU

Sophia Antipolis Site





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