UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System

Institutional, Regulatory and Implementation Framework for Transformative Change Towards Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

Meeting of Mediterranean Parliamentarians and Stakeholders on the occasion of the 14th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD). “Launching a new Decade of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean”. Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, Rabat, 17 December 2019
The UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention System

Albania  Algeria  Bosnia Herzegovina  Croatia  Cyprus  Egypt
France  Greece  Israel  Italy  Lebanon  Libya
Malta  Monaco  Montenegro  Morocco  Slovenia  Spain
Syria  Tunisia  Turkey  The European Union
The Mediterranean region is home to more than 510 Million ~ 7% of world population. Projected growth in 2050: ~ 120 Million

- Young and rising in Southern and Eastern Med countries (SEMC), stable and ageing in Northern Med countries (NMC)
- Urban with a predilection for the coast: 70% live in urban areas; one in three “Mediterraneans” lives near the sea
- Coastal concentration exacerbated by tourism in the coastal zone and summer
The Mediterranean (1% of the world’s ocean surface) hosts 18% of the world’s known marine species

- **Biodiversity in the Mediterranean** is subject to mounting pressures
- **Marine litter** mostly composed by plastics: concentrations extremely high (>100,000 microplastic items/km²) (up to 64 million particles/km² at the sea surface).
- **Overfishing**: 78% of Mediterranean and Black Sea fish stocks are fished at unsustainable levels.
- **Non-indigenous species (NIS)**: presence of more than 1,000 NIS has been recorded.
- **Pollutants**: Main pollutants in the sea are nutrients, heavy metals, POPs, pesticides and hydrocarbons.

Figure: Estimation of annual specific plastic flows (kg/M³) rejected by watersheds into the Mediterranean Sea. Flows calculated based on Lebreton et al. 2017 (Source: Weiss et al. 2019)
Growth in key sectors is increasing pressures on Med ecosystems


- **Agriculture**: Quantities of fertilizers and pesticides used are above global averages.

- **Fishing and aquaculture**: aquaculture production quadrupled (x4) in 20 years (~30,000 fish farms); capture landings decreased.

- **Extractive industries**: +200 offshore oil and gas platforms; possible expansion with new discoveries (Levantine basin).

- **Transport**: The Mediterranean is one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes.
The Mediterranean region is warming 20% faster than the global average (BAU scenario: +2.2°C temperature rise by 2040)

**Impacts**: Coastal flooding, diminished food and water security, mass deaths of marine species, increased wild fires, non-indigenous species, reduction in bodyweight of fish, increased mortality of aquaculture species, etc.

- **Impacts on marine life**: Marine heatwaves more frequent and intense.
- **Major risks for Mediterranean societies and economies**.
- **Decline in summer precipitation**: between -10% and -30% in a 2°C scenario.
- **Sea level rise**: 0.45m to above 2m by 2100.
- **Water and food security**: increased wild fires, reduction in bodyweight of fish.

Figure: Historic warming of the atmosphere, globally and in the Mediterranean Basin. Annual mean air temperature anomalies are shown with respect to the period 1880-1899, with the Mediterranean Basin (blue) and the globe (green) presented with and without smoothing (Source: Data from Berkeley Earth available at [http://berkeleyearth.org/] (Cramer et al, 2018))
Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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- The MSSD is a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

- The MSSD is an adaptation of international commitments to regional conditions, in the context of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.
Thank you

Ms. Tatjana HEMA
Deputy Coordinator