



THE BLUE PLAN, "CRADLE OF MEDITERRANEAN FUTURES"

Intervention Framework 2007-2015
Working Document



Blue Plan
Regional Activity
Centre

Sophia Antipolis,
February 2007

Intervention framework 2007-2015

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The Mediterranean area is an area in transition whose trends of development are still largely uncertain. Thus, the Blue Plan, in its most recent prospective report on environment and development in the Mediterranean, has stressed that even if the current trends in the region are non-sustainable, alternative scenarios are still possible. This intervention framework which is based on the orientations selected in the Strategic Orientations Document aims at promoting the adoption of such scenarios.

1. Overview of the main regional problems

The Mediterranean is distinct from other regions in the world by its own characteristics.

It is firstly an "Ecoregion" with strong geographic and historical characteristics and a natural and cultural heritage which is rich and diversified. It is also an area of contact, and at the same time of fragmentation between the North and the South where conflicts exist. It is finally an area for exchanges; its stability and prosperity will depend on the capacity of stakeholders to form a collective vision of a future which they will inevitably share.

1.1 Social problems

At the social level, the Mediterranean is currently going through a true demographic transition, characterized by ageing of the population in the North and ever increasing demand for jobs in the South. In the year 2000, the population of the 22 countries and territories bordering the Mediterranean was 427 million; it is expected that an additional 96 million will live in the region by the year 2025; of these 96 million, 32 million will live in the coastal areas and the total population in them would thus come to 174 million. However, these trends will affect differently the Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMC) from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMC). In fact, it will be in the latter that the greatest part of the demographic increase will take place; thus, the total population of these 10 countries will go from 234 million to 326 million, with a proportion of 22% of persons younger than 15 – a trend still strong even though going down. Similarly, the Mediterranean population will become more and more urban and concentrated in the coastal areas. These trends will of course have a strong impact on human development, which if measured according to the Human Development Indicator (HDI) gives, with a value slightly higher than 0.8 in 2004 an honourable place to the Mediterranean in the classification of the regions of the world. This however should not hide the marked disparity among countries, since the 8 countries members of the European Union or in the process of accession and Israel have an HDI higher than 0.8 and belong to the 63 countries with high HDI, whereas the rest with HDI lower than 0.8 belong to the countries with medium HDI.

1.2 Economic problems

At the economic level, the Mediterranean in 2004 represented approximately 13% of the world GDP expressed as purchasing power in constant 2000 prices, i.e. about \$ 4000 billion and a per capita GDP of nearly \$ 13000. However, these figures mask a reality which shows strong contrasts. The Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMC) contribute more than 83% to the regional GDP whereas the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMC) only 17%. The difference in the per capita income between these two groups of countries continues to be significant, since in the former the per capita income is higher than \$ 23000 whereas in the latter under \$ 6000.

On the other hand, with a regional growth estimated at 2.8% in 2004, the total Mediterranean performance is deceiving as against the results of the other regions of the world, even if the SEMCs with 6% growth do much better than the NMCs with 2.2%. The fact remains that the economies in the countries of the South and East of the region continue – with rare exceptions – to be handicapped by excessive specialization, a recurrent difficulty to absorb the many young people looking for jobs and to implementing the indispensable structural reforms to meet the challenges of an open globalized market. In this context, the coexistence of a powerful European sub entity which is becoming ever greater and more integrated on the one hand and on the other of a group of countries which actively trade with it but are still looking for structural ways to regroup in order to have a larger voice in regional affairs carries risks which are not totally absorbed by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, still in the making.

1.3 Environmental problems

At the environmental level, the Mediterranean is traditionally a region vulnerable to natural risks; seismic events are a regular and cruel reminder. The Mediterranean will however have to adapt also to upheavals due to the expected climate changes. The perspectives, outlined by the GIEC experts in the beginning of 2007 and more pessimistic than previous ones, since they do not exclude a rise in the average temperature of 4° C in the course of this century, are in this respect illuminating. If they were to be borne out, the impact on the Mediterranean, both spatial since the rise in sea level could substantially alter the coastline and in terms of social organization and economic specialization, would be especially serious. But beyond that, it is also the environmental cost of the models of development currently applied that would have to be more adequately measured and mitigated. The pressure on the natural marine and land resources due to the demographic increase, the growing urbanization, the development of coastal areas is in effect becoming ever stronger; the result for all Mediterranean countries is an ecological "imprint" greater than the bio-capacity of their respective territories. Moreover, the external negative impacts linked to the modes of transport promoted today, the energy sources favoured, and the various water uses are all very rarely taken into consideration.

2. The strategic orientations of the Blue Plan

In this context, the Document of Strategic Orientations (DOS) prepared in autumn 2006 proposed an updated version of the aim of the Blue Plan and described its four main strategic objectives.

The Blue Plan is an international centre which, in the framework of regional cooperation, is entrusted with producing information and knowledge in order to alert the decision makers and stakeholders to the challenges, both environmental and sustainable development-related in the Mediterranean; further, it is entrusted with drawing up scenarios for the future to assist in the decision making process.

In this context, it becomes obvious that the Blue Plan emphasizes :

- its international character and the integration of its interventions into a regional cooperation framework. The Blue Plan has currently the status of association under French law but it is at the same time a Regional Activity Centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is therefore at the service of the 21 coastal Mediterranean States which, every two years at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, can assess and orient its actions.

- the production of information and knowledge. The Blue Plan, unlike most of the Regional Activity Centres of MAP, does not aim at implementing a specific Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. Its mandate is to be the observatory of environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean and to draw up scenarios for the future; its mission is therefore especially to study cross-cutting issues and to assist all the stakeholders and decision-makers in the Mediterranean region.
- its field of competence . Even if environmental concerns are at the centre of its activities, the Blue Plan is also – within MAP – the main champion of sustainable development. In this respect, it puts special emphasis on the follow-up of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and on the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development..

2.1 Four objectives

1. To identify, collect and process on a permanent basis and in a continuous manner environmental but also economic and social information useful to stakeholders and decision makers

The 2005 Blue Plan Report, based on data collected and practices observed by the relevant services of the coastal states and the different Regional Activity Centres of MAP, highlighted the persistent degradation of the environment in the Mediterranean basin. This function of the Blue Plan relating to information, environmental but also economic and social, must continue with the same if not with greater intensity. In this connection, it should be pointed out that even if there are initiatives in specific fields (especially agriculture and water), other fields are not adequately covered (transport, energy, etc.). It is necessary thus to consolidate and regularly update the data that are scattered today.

To achieve this objective, the Blue Plan will contribute to :

- identifying and being aware continuously of the needs of decision makers in terms of environmental but also economic and social information ;
- collecting statistical data, environmental but also economic and social, which are recent, reliable and homogeneous at the level of countries ;
- promoting data processing which makes the information accessible, usable and comprehensible to the greatest possible number ;
- organizing the classification of information to render its interpretation and use easier.

2. To evaluate the interactions between environment and economic and social development in order to measure progress towards sustainable development

The evaluation of the interactions between environment and economic and social development is such as to have an impact on the type of development selected or adopted by the decision makers. In order to measure progress in this connection, the Blue Plan has in the fields of its competence opted for defining the methods, tools and indicators relevant to the various scales on the one hand and on the other for testing, using and disseminating such methods, tools and indicators. Therefore, it will :

- Identify the methods and tools which make it possible to assess the interactions between environment and economic and social development;
- participate in the definition of indicators mainly in order to illustrate and interpret such interactions;
- document these indicators and validate their reliability ;

- measure, on the basis of these elements and at regular intervals, the progress realized in taking into consideration sustainable development concerns, both at the level of countries and at the level of stakeholders.

3. To carry out analyses and prospective studies in order to build scenarios for the future and assist in decision-making

Without being prescriptive in terms of policies, the Blue Plan has produced and will continue to produce thematic, territorial and prospective analytical studies in order to build scenarios for the future and assist those men and women whose task or mission it is to make decisions. Its main aim is, on specific themes, to emphasize "good practices", i.e. those that have a clear positive impact on environmental quality or that bring to action the "sustainable development" dimension; further, to make them available to those men and women who are concerned and interested.

It will therefore

- produce sectoral, thematic and territorial analyses to inform and enlighten stakeholders and decision makers responsible for the future of Mediterranean countries;
- assess the long term effects of the various local, national or regional policies on environment and sustainable development in certain priority fields/sectors.

4. To disseminate and communicate the outputs and results in ways suited to the target groups

In order that information and knowledge produced can be disseminated, known and used, the Blue Plan will target four main partners: international organizations, the European Union, the States Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the national authorities and civil societies.

The Blue Plan will therefore :

- identify the target groups ;
- propose communication means suited to each target group ;
- plan the dissemination on the basis of an appropriate timetable ;
- assess their impact and relevance.

2.2 Priority themes

In terms of themes and areas, those that the Blue Plan presented in its Report on perspectives for environment and development, i.e. water, energy, transport, urban, rural and coastal areas, but also tourism which impacts upon all the others and which is dealt with, in a separate chapter, will continue being at the heart of the Blue Plan activities. Moreover, the ecosystems, especially forests, the marine environment, particularly that which is outside areas under jurisdiction, waste mainly urban will be studied specifically by the Blue Plan beginning in 2007; on the other hand, the hazards, both natural and industrial, the industrial emissions, which obviously require increased investments and the activities which have an environmental, but also an economic and social impact will be studied depending on the resources available.

Within the framework of these themes and areas of study, specific topics for intervention have been determined through reference to the *analysis grid*, presented in the document of strategic orientations, and related to the main problems linked with sustainable development and especially from the environmental point of view, with climate change. Therefore, for a specific theme or area, intervention by the Blue Plan means, on the one hand that the issue studied is in theory or practice linked with sustainable development and on the other that the Blue Plan has comparative advantages to study it and finally that the expected outputs would contribute to the strategic objectives.

2.3 Medium-term timetable

This intervention framework covers the period 2007-2015.

This 8-year period which goes beyond the classic context of Blue Plan activities planning and especially the 2-year cycles of meetings organized in the Barcelona Convention context was selected, in order clearly to include interventions in a medium-term timetable integrating the main relevant international and regional deadlines which are already fixed. 2015 was selected as a concluding year for this period, because the international community has adopted it for achieving the Millennium Goals. Secondly, it marks the current work cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the 10-year period devoted to water by the United Nations. Thirdly, it is the half-way point which will provide the opportunity to test the development of the scenarios elaborated by the Blue Plan in its most recent prospective study.

2.4 Blue Plan publications

Ever since the publication of its first prospective report on the Mediterranean basin in 1989, the Blue Plan has always favoured publications addressed mostly to environment specialists, researchers and planners of coastal states. This diversified production, generally considered by those involved in environmental cooperation in the Mediterranean as quality output, has not always reached the key stakeholders in sustainable development in the respective countries.

Therefore, the Blue Plan outputs must be disseminated in such a way as to make the most of the specificity of the studies and increase their visibility by the main stakeholders to whom such analytical studies are addressed.

It follows, that for the period 2007-2015, outputs will be structured around a limited number of publications appearing regularly. Moreover, and in order to take account of the economic conditions for the preparation of publications and of the possibilities offered by Internet, this medium will be used more in order to reach wider audiences and limit the costs of printing and dissemination. However, taking into consideration the limited access to Internet in certain Southern coastal states, some publications will be issued in CD-ROM or DVD form.

In order to meet the demand for regular information of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, a **Report on the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (RESD)** will be published every two years before the Conference of the Parties and will contain three main parts :

- analysis of the salient facts and the progress in environment and sustainable development made in all Mediterranean coastal states ;
- a thematic dossier reviewing the situation on an important issue for the Mediterranean with special analysis of the challenges faced ;
- statistical data and indicators.

The publication of the first such study, in French and English, is planned for the 3rd quarter of 2009 both in printed form and as a CD-ROM / DVD. This report, in addition to its dissemination through a publishing house, will be accessible through Internet (Blue Plan website).

Moreover, in 2015 there will be an evaluation of the scenarios developed by Blue Plan in its 2005 Report; a new prospective study will be carried to the 2020 horizon.

Further, the volumes of the two bilingual series (French/English) already published by the Blue Plan will from now on be disseminated at a regular rate :

- *The Blue Plan Papers / Les Cahiers du Plan Bleu* (about 50 pages) will come out at least twice a year and will either propose an in-depth study of a problem / method / cost evaluation

tool / scenarios in a specific field, or summarize the work of the Blue Plan which it deems useful to bring to the attention of people around the Mediterranean. These texts will be the responsibility of their respective authors, will not be re-edited, but will be readily available on line and also in printed form.

- *Blue Plan Notes / Les Notes du Plan Bleu* (4 pages) will continue appearing at least 6 times a year summarizing in a concise manner the main elements of a question and making it possible for the reader to form an opinion quickly. The notes will be available both on-line and in printed form. A version in Arabic is also being considered.
- *The monthly Newsletter* of the Blue Plan will, as of September 2007, be re-edited and disseminated electronically to the various Blue Plan partners.

The other types of Blue Plan outputs, *Study Reports, Proceedings of seminars and workshops*, which are usually lengthier, will be on the website and some will be published in CD-ROM / DVD form. Few may be selected and in a more concise form integrated into the Blue Plan Paper series.

Finally, in addition to its own series, the Blue Plan will continue developing scientific and editorial partnerships to produce and publish works, atlases or statistical compendia, as it has done in the past with UNESCO, the Mediterranean Action Plan, CIHEAM, Eurostat etc. In the same spirit, co-productions with the European Environment Agency are being envisaged.

3. Interventions selected

This framework contains interventions, both methodological and thematic on cross-cutting issues.

3.1 Review of the state of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean

3.1.1 Mediterranean Information System on Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD)

Blue Plan studies are based on data and information collected today as needed and stored in bases that are not readily accessible to those outside. The goal is to arrive at a better structure and rhythm of the collection of such data and information within a true Mediterranean Information System on Environment and Sustainable Development, open :

- to people in the Mediterranean region (and all other interested persons) through a web Interface (bilingual English/French),
- and obviously to the Blue Plan staff to further their work.

This initiative, along with the INFO MAP project with which it will be closely linked, complies with the recommendations of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

In order to meet satisfactorily and permanently the demands of its "clients", MISESD will be a multisource, flexible system continuously enriched with "reliable" information, but, in order to avoid waste of resources, it will target 3 types of information :

1. Geographical information;
2. Statistical data ;
3. Meta-data ¹ (Information on data).

¹ **Metadata, three broad categories:** (Source INSEE - *Courrier des statistiques* n° 93, mars 2000)

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

In terms of geographic information, all Mediterranean coastal states/entities will deal with geographic data which, depending on the nature of information, will be at different levels: national, catchment areas (for water-related matters), coastal / shore [Coastal regions (eq NUTS 2, NUTS 3), coastal towns (eq NUTS 5), sites, marine areas, but also specific areas for case studies (CAMP etc.) and hot-spots.

MISESD data will be annual; their temporal coverage, depending on needs and sources, may be extended. Therefore, and taking into consideration the needs for prospective studies, the year 1970 (or 1961 when the FAO series was launched and is the basis for the calculation of the environmental imprint) will be the starting point. The integration of prospective data such as those in the Blue Plan studies or the demographic projections of the Population Division of the U.N. will be integrated into the system.

Moreover, MISESD will aim at making accessible and comprehensible the information currently available in various formats. It will also be used for processing data through the GIS (Geographic Information System) for estimates, syntheses or predetermined requests.

Indicators

Data collected through MISESD may be used in various syntheses especially for geographic processing. Moreover, they will contribute to all indicator studies carried out by the Blue Plan.

Studies

MISESD will make available to the Blue Plan and associated experts basic information (and indicators) needed to carry out studies, especially prospective ones. It will bring the regional dimension to the main global problems, first and foremost to climate change.

Communication

Data and information collected through MISESD will be disseminated through a web interface; it will then be possible on the one hand to get information – following specific requests – in the form of tables, maps or diagrams and on the other to access predetermined outputs (sets of tables, maps, diagrams etc.) regularly updated. They will also be used for more classic publications, such as periodic statistical reports (basic data, focus on specific themes) or thematic atlases.

Timetable of outputs

MISESD will be developed in 2007 and 2008 then tested at Blue Plan level before being presented to the Parties to the Barcelona Convention at the end of 2009.

Administrative metadata. *This first category contains various types of information on locating data. For instance, there are the coordinates of the "source" at the origin of production and/or the dissemination of data, the timetable of publication of data, their periodicity, the form of dissemination (medium, acquisition mode), the provisional or definitive character, the degree of confidentiality, possibly the price attached, etc.*

Concepts and terminology. *This second category includes the definitions of the "bases" on which statistical research is carried out, i.e. the concepts which represent the phenomena that a statistical operation is called upon to measure and the terminology which describes the statistical variables.*

Statistical methodology. *This third category contains the documentation concerning the methodology used in order to carry out concretely a statistical operation and determine its "quality". In it we find the description of the mode in which a sample is made up, the description of a rectification method, instructions for collecting data, but also figures such as rate of non-response, measuring dispersion of estimates, measuring error etc.*

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2007	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Technical studies
2008	EU rotating presidency Slovenia/France	Development and subsequent availability of Blue Plan (testing phase)
2009	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Web interface on line (Intranet and Internet) Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean
2010	Review of the Millennium Development Goals at 2/3 point	<i>Blue Plan Paper</i> "How are the Mediterranean countries doing in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals?"
2011	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean
2012	Johannesburg+10	
2013	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean
2014		
2015	Review of Millennium Development Goals Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> "How are the Mediterranean countries doing in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals?"

Performance assessment

The assessment of the performance of the Blue Plan will be based on indicators and an external evaluation.

Indicators selected

The main documented indicators will concern the date of updating, the number of data, spatial coverage, temporal coverage, number of requests, number of links with other web sites.

External evaluation

An external evaluation will be carried out during the second semester of 2009.

3.1.2 Follow-up of the "performance" of countries in terms of sustainable development

The regular collection of data and information, environmental but also economic and social would make it possible to describe at a given moment a theme, a sector or an area, even to outline trends over time. But data consolidation and processing in order to determine the sustainability or not of development processes remain problematic and controversial. The Blue Plan aims at contributing to this reflection and at proposing tools and methods allowing the definition of development trends in the Mediterranean along two axes:

1. Continued use of indicators as tool for the follow-up of sustainable development;
2. Elaboration and implementation of methods to assess total performance of countries in terms of sustainable development.

Launched in 1997 with the set of "130 Indicators for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean" within the context of Agenda MED 21, the follow-up of sustainable development in the Mediterranean has since been the subject of many studies to identify relevant indicators and target priority themes. Currently, the Blue Plan emphasizes the 34 priority indicators in the Annex to the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) which aim at assessing its

implementation. However, it also intends to integrate such studies into a more general context (European and global) and, in this perspective, it will focus on sectoral strategies studied in other fora (especially the Commission for Sustainable Development) by defining and documenting additional indicators.

Moreover, beyond the classic use of indicators, the Blue Plan will produce and regularly disseminate a classification of Mediterranean countries on the basis of progress achieved towards the objectives of sustainable development. What is meant by this is to propose a way to measure countries' performance in sustainable development through a multi-criteria analysis in a two-step process, i.e.:

1. to prioritize the indicators according to the various problems of sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
2. to assign/ classify the countries in different categories demarcated by predetermined profiles.

This intervention area of the Blue Plan, horizontal by nature, will provide indicators to assess sustainability in each main area of sustainable development, environmental, economic and social.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

The calculation of indicators and trend analysis will be based on reliable, retrospective data from various sources and managed through MISESD. Information gathering will be carried out concomitantly with data collection needed for thematic studies on priority indicators and then on additional indicators.

Work on indicators will also identify gaps in data in the Mediterranean countries and promote collection and/or cooperation programs on capacity building in countries in terms of statistical data (MEDSTAT), geographic information etc.

The fact that there may not be immediate availability of information needed to calculate indicators should not be an obstacle to the selection process. In this case proxy indicators may be used.

Indicators

Blue Plan studies on indicators for sustainable development follow similar work at European and international levels. The participatory methods and the selection criteria used and applied by the Blue Plan in the Mediterranean context (MAP, MSSD) are largely borrowed from such work and lead to a selection of indicators coherent with those used in other fora and institutions.

The Blue Plan will produce every two years, on the occasion of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, a set of indicator files in order to follow progress made by countries in terms of sustainable development and MSSD implementation. In those files there will be a summary analysis, through tables, graphs and maps, of trends observed for each of the 34 priority indicators with specific reference to actions and MSSD objectives. There will be a double-entry reference of indicators (by problem and theme) in accordance with the DOS analysis grid.

Studies

Studies are a tool for multi-criteria decisions which traces the evolution of countries as against standard profiles, but also helps establish the relative position of countries; it facilitates the follow-up of their progress toward the objectives of sustainable development. They are being developed on the basis of a study on the dynamics of convergence (political, economic and social) of the Euro-Mediterranean countries toward good practice examples and will incorporate all priority indicators and possibly additional ones. It will lead to an evaluation or benchmarking system which would

help assess the distance that countries would have to cover in order to achieve convergence with reference examples in terms of sustainable development.

The first dissemination of results and the first version will come out in 2008.

Communication

The Blue Plan will favour communication via Internet with a regular updating of indicators and a summary presentation of progress achieved by the countries in terms of sustainable development. Dissemination will also contain a methodological aspect (methodology files, methodology notes). This work however will also be the subject of a specific two-yearly publication disseminated on the occasion of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

The Blue Plan will also organize workshops / training courses for technicians and decision-makers to strengthen capacity building in the Mediterranean countries in order to set up a process of follow-up for sustainable development at the national or local scale.

Timetable of outputs

Outputs will be the product of regular updateings and adjustments to the first reports and will be disseminated through the Internet via the MISESD and the Blue Plan website in conjunction with INFOMAP.

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2007	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report to MCSD on MSSD follow-up (priority sustainable development indicators, retrospective and state 0)
2008	EU rotating presidency Slovenia/France	Study: "How are the Mediterranean countries doing in terms of sustainable development?"
2009	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report to MCSD on MSSD follow-up (Priority SDIs) Contribution to the Report on European Environment and Sustainable Development (REESD)
2010		Report to MCSD on MSSD follow-up (Detailed assessment) Blue Plan Paper: "How are the Mediterranean countries doing, 5 years after the adoption of the MSSD?"
2011	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report to MCSD on MSSD follow-up (Priority SDIs) Contribution to REESD
2012	Johannesburg+10	Blue Plan Paper: "How are the Mediterranean countries doing, 10 years after Johannesburg?"
2013	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report to MCSD on MSSD follow-up (Priority SDIs) Contribution to REESD
2014		
2015	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Report to MCSD on MSSD follow-up (Detailed assessment) Blue Plan Paper: "How are the Mediterranean countries doing, 10 years after the adoption of the MSSD?"

Performance assessment

Indicators

Number of documented indicators, use of indicators in thematic studies and Blue Plan reports, number of reports, Papers and Notes produced and disseminated, number of links with other web sites.

External evaluation

An external evaluation will be carried out after Johannesburg +10 in the beginning of 2011.

3.2 Methods and tools for the territorial approaches

In order to get a clear view and arrive at concrete solutions for the problems connected with sustainable development, a territorial approach is necessary (ownership areas or project areas); indeed it is at this scale that the integration of policies and their ownership by local stakeholders and decision-makers can concretely take place. Even if the diversity and thus the variety of Mediterranean territories exclude any overly standardized approach, the territorial approaches of sustainable development (local Agenda 21 *inter alia*) respect common principles and call for tools and methods shared to a large degree.

The Blue Plan will continue developing such methods and tools so that the various stakeholders concerned will be in a position to:

- Comprehend the territory

On the basis of the analysis of the relationships among the constituent elements of the territory and of the dynamic processes at play, the Blue Plan will continue developing a method closely involving local stakeholders and shedding light on the complexity of the system, identifying major issues and problems and building a shared vision of the territory.

- **Measure progress towards sustainable development in the territory**

On the basis of indicator selection and for each indicator on the basis of the definition of sustainability thresholds, the Blue Plan studies will establish a clear picture of progress achieved or to be achieved by the territories in terms of sustainable development. The multi-criteria analysis, tested first at country level could also be transposed to territorial level.

- Carry out prospective analyses and **build visions for the future**

The method of developing scenarios favoured by the Blue Plan provides the opportunity for outlining alternative options to a trend scenario by analyzing past and present values of key indicators and formulating hypotheses on possible changes, either suffered or effected.

Reflection generated on the basis of such possible visions of the future make stakeholders and decision-makers more capable of understanding the challenges and risks associated with current trends and setting measurable medium and long-term objectives for progress.

These methods and tools currently developed under the title '*Imagine*', have been successfully tested within the framework of Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs) and can now be used in any territorial planning or development project. Therefore, they will continue being developed and disseminated to the various groups of users, especially those concerned with CAMP preparation, while at the same time they will take into consideration the specificities of the ecosystem approach currently promoted at international level and adopted by MAP. These methods and tools can also be used in training modules to be developed jointly with specialized institutions.

Furthermore, at territorial level, the Blue Plan will develop and use assessment tools :

- Economic, in order to evaluate especially the amenities as a result of natural resources and ecosystems, the various types of environmental impact of activities and the consequences of inaction (« letting things drift ») ;
 - Ecological, in order to get a better knowledge of the carrying capacity of natural environments ;
 - Social, in order to test the thresholds of social acceptability of the changes proposed.
- Finally, the Blue Plan will continue to favour exchanges of expertise and know-how. To accomplish this, it will integrate in its activities the objective of identifying good practices, especially on the basis of case studies carried out. Such good practices will be mentioned specifically (i.e. in boxes) in Blue Plan publications, listed in the inventory of site studies used in structuring regional workshops organized in the framework of Blue Plan thematic activities.

3.3 Thematic interventions

The subjects selected by the Blue Plan concern resources (water, energy), sectors (transport, tourism), ecosystems (forests), areas (coastal, rural and urban) and external issues (waste).

3.3.1 Water demand management

Water, an essential resource for humanity and ecological balance, is at the heart of sustainable development. Unequally distributed in time and space, its management in the Mediterranean is currently characterized by non-sustainable modes of production and consumption; the long-term consequences are too rarely taken into consideration, policies are mainly oriented toward demand and this means an increasing number of dams, water transfers and drilling. However such approaches are now reaching their limits and meet with increasing resistance in almost all coastal States at social, economic or environmental level. The Mediterranean States are now facing many challenges and the Blue Plan will strive to help them meet those challenges: how to manage sustainably the limited water resources, how to make sure that the populations that still do not have access to drinking water will get it and how to make users save water by adopting different behaviour patterns.

The first question would require policies for water demand management which would reduce losses and inappropriate uses and manage the resource with fairness while meeting the various needs: household needs, production needs (agriculture and industry) and the sound functioning of ecosystems. It is also likely that an increase in supply is needed to be secured through better water management (increase in exploitable potential and anti-pollution measures) or through non conventional methods of water supply (re-use of treated sewage and desalination of sea water or brackish water). The second question is linked with the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in terms of access to drinking water and sanitation. The third question calls for reinforcing partnerships between users and local water management organizations and launching awareness campaigns for users to save water.

The above elements make clear that the Blue Plan should renew its efforts on the theme of water demand management.

Water demand management and sustainable development

Environmental issues

The expected increase in average temperature in the next few years should mean for the Mediterranean regular droughts with severe impacts on environment and people. The South of the

Mediterranean could be hit by water scarcity, while heavy rain events would produce devastating floods. Prolonged periods of drought and a decrease in total summer rainfall would result in a significant decline of agricultural production in the region. Crops which consume a lot of water would be especially affected and could lose up to 40% of their yield.

Water demand management is an element of the adjustment strategy which the countries should as of now adopt. It would bring as of today total theoretical gains of 70 km³ on the total demand of countries of nearly 300 km³ (290 km³ in 2000) and abolish one fourth of the demand by the year 2025 (i.e. approximately 86 km³/year).

Water demand management would also favour taking into consideration environmental water demand which is needed to ensure ecosystem functioning and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, especially aquatic. Finally, water demand management, by limiting the volumes consumed by one single use, should contribute to reducing the volumes discharged, i.e. those that need treatment; thus, it would help combat pollution and protect the sea.

Economic issues

Economic activity in the coastal Mediterranean States is directly linked with water availability. However, the importance of the various consumption sectors are fundamentally different between the Northern Mediterranean countries and those of the South and East. In the latter, water is mainly used for agriculture and irrigation. Despite water scarcity, irrigation continues to represent up to 80% of the total demand in water. It has a significant impact on food production and creates jobs in the Mediterranean. Thus, new investments will be necessary to ensure food security and combat poverty. Concrete examples show that with a better water demand management, it is as of now possible to improve agricultural income by creating greater added value per m³ of water used for irrigation.

Social issues

The first Millennium Development Goal is to reduce by half the people that do not have access to drinking water and sanitation by the year 2015. However, this fundamental right could be seriously impacted by a growing pressure on limited water resources which become ever more polluted (in the Mediterranean 30 million people have no access to drinking water and 27 million do not have adequate sanitation). The poorest populations (rural and those living on the edge of cities) are the most affected by the lack of resources and lack of access to these resources. Considerable segments of Mediterranean societies face a true water gap.

The margins of progress to improve access to water as soon as possible concern the protection of resources upstream and the improvement of management as well as the mobilization of new resources. They also call for setting up compensation schemes to give the poorest segments access to water distribution services. The economic instruments of water demand management (tariffs, quotas, subsidies, tax measures etc.) can bring about a more efficient allocation of resources at sectoral and intersectoral level and improve access to water to those most in need. They can on the one hand bring about changes in the behaviour of various users and on the other contribute to the funding necessary for water management.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

The activities envisaged will focus on improving integrated water resource and demand management and will emphasize :

- Making the most, in the various countries, of studies carried out in the field of water demand management (national reports by the countries themselves, case studies on good practices, regional analyses, etc.) ;

- Assisting in the elaboration of the component “water” of the national strategies on sustainable development;
- Exchanging of expertise in the field of “good practices”;

Data

There are many mechanisms in place which contribute to the acquisition and management of data on water ; however, scattered and fragmented as they are, they cannot meet the increasing demand for knowledge on the quantitative and qualitative management of water resources.

Thus, the Blue Plan will, through MISESD, contribute to improving the level of current knowledge (territorial, temporal and socio-economic data) both at the national scale and at the level of catchment areas by organizing the collection of information and data relative to:

- water resources (renewable, non-renewable and non-conventional) and their use (types of demand, losses and effective uses),
- pressures of water uses on resources and the environment (quantities taken, overexploitation, degradation),
- hazards (floods, droughts, silting of dams, scarcity).

Such data would also be entered into an information system on water resources and uses in all Mediterranean countries (data base on water in the Mediterranean), the format of which is being defined in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and which should be i) regularly updated, ii) interactive with national and international systems and iii) accessible to all users (managers, public authorities, teachers, researchers etc.).

Moreover, the Blue Plan will assist the national partners in carrying out water calculations (physical and financial) at national level and at catchment area level to complete economic accountancy.

Indicators

Five priority and 14 additional indicators have been selected to follow-up the component « to improve the integrated management and demand of water resources » of the MSSD. The first campaign for the collection of indicators (2006-2007) will test their reliability and adapt them or even improve them.

Other follow-up indicators more widely relevant to the availability of water resources (including non-conventional water resources) will be defined in order to measure at regular intervals progress achieved (every two years), possibly in conjunction with the preparation of national reports and international publications.

Studies

The study programme of the Blue Plan linked with those proposed for the other themes focuses on :

- major themes concerning the big environmental challenges at world scale:
 - climate change : forecasts, risks and impacts on water resources and uses;
 - energy: projections of energy consumption in the field of water; the future of hydroelectric power, desalination and treatment of sewage ;
 - biodiversity: evaluation of needs in water and ecosystem protection (rivers, lakes, wetlands) ;
- economics and policies on water in the Mediterranean countries:
 - cost comparison between water saved and water used ;

- desalination and sewage treatment on the basis of renewable forms of energy ;
- impact of the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone ;
- future of virtual water in the Mediterranean region etc.

Communication

The Blue Plan will :

- Continue the exchange of expertise in good practices among countries (3rd regional workshop on water demand management in March 2007, 4th regional seminar in 2012) on the basis of :
 - national reports prepared by the countries themselves (with documentation of indicators) ;
 - case studies of good practices in the countries;
 - (prospective) analyses on priority themes carried out at regional scale.
- Produce synthesis reports addressed to countries, international organization, the EU to be disseminated through the series “*The Blue Plan Papers*”;
- Make the most of studies carried out in the countries, in order to reach beyond the Environment Ministries, those Ministries in charge of agriculture, water, tourism and especially the territorial authorities and civil society (Internet site, brochure for the public on the results of the various activities carried out etc.);
- Disseminate regularly summaries of works in “*the Notes of the Blue Plan*” series.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2007	3 rd regional workshop on water demand management (March, Spain) MCSD meeting (May, Turkey) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Follow-up report on the chapter “water” of the 2006-2007 biennium of the MSSD (based on the national reports and indicators, regional studies, case studies, conclusions and recommendations of the Zaragoza regional workshop). <i>Blue Plan Note</i> summarizing the report contents. <i>Brochure</i> by J. Margat: “The water of the Mediterraneans: status and perspectives”.
2008	Meeting of Directors of Water Boards (June) Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers responsible for water (1 st semester) EU rotating presidency Slovenia/France Zaragoza international exhibition	<i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on the results of activities in the field of water in 2006-2007 and more particularly the results of the Zaragoza regional workshop (2007) (to exhibit in a stand etc.) <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2009	5 th International Water Forum (Turkey) Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to biennial report on environment and development (indicators on water and more generally on “water availability”) Blue Plan contribution concerning water demand management in the Mediterranean (based especially on the results of the 2007 regional workshop)
2010	Review of MDGs at the two-thirds point Half-way point of decade of water	General follow-up report on water indicators as a contribution to MDG assessment <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2011	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to biennial report on environment and development (water indicators)
2012	4 th regional workshop on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean World summit on sustainable development	Synthesis report based on national reports and indicators, regional studies, case studies, conclusions and recommendations of the regional workshop <i>Blue Plan Note</i> , prepared on the basis of the abovementioned synthesis report to make better known in the countries the results of studies Preparation of the Blue Plan contribution based on the follow-up of MSSD indicators, national analyses (efficiency plans?), regional studies on the big

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
		environmental challenges (climate change, energy, biodiversity etc.)
2013	Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	<i>Blue Plan Paper</i> to focus on the results of the 4 th regional workshop Contribution to biennial report on environment and development (water indicators)
2014		<i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2015	End of "decade of water" Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Review of MDGs	Contribution to the biennial report on environment and development (water indicators) General follow-up report on water indicators (<i>inter alia</i> MSSD) as a contribution to MDG assessment

Performance assessment

Indicators

Number of national reports and regional studies prepared, number of case studies and good practices documented, number of workshops to exchange expertise and of participants, number of publications, meeting deadlines etc.

External evaluation

An external evaluation of Blue Plan activities on the theme of water will be carried out as of 2008.

3.3.2 Energy

Energy is at the heart of sustainable development; this is amply illustrated in the Mediterranean example where there is a sharply expressed interdependence between energy and natural resources, energy and global changes, especially climate change, energy related systems and long-term investments, energy security and volatile prices.

If the trends observed in the region in the last 30 years continue, energy demand in the whole Mediterranean Basin could increase by 65% between 2000 and 2025 and be met for the greatest part (87%) by fuel fossil derived energy in 2025. To follow along in the same lines would stress even further the specificities of the Mediterranean energy system which is currently characterized by great vulnerability, especially in prices and supply, inequality among countries in natural energy resources, in access and consumption among countries and by damages, at times irreversible, to environment and health. Obviously, this situation is not compatible with the objectives of sustainable development. This is why the Blue Plan will continue exploring possible solutions to the energy question through renewable sources of energy and especially through increased energy efficiency.

Energy and sustainable development

Environmental issues

According to OECD, energy related activities are responsible for more than half the emissions of greenhouse gases and therefore are at the centre of the study of climate change. In the Mediterranean, they currently contribute 7% to emissions at world level and if today's trends continue they could reach 9% in 2025.

Therefore, given the challenges of climate change, energy development in the region could move forward by, on the one hand promoting an energy system which would produce fewer

greenhouse gases and on the other adapting to the reality of climate change, especially the increase in average temperature. Renewable sources of energy and increased energy efficiency are part of the answer to the problem, since beyond the direct impact on climate change, they would also contribute to mitigating the environmental impact linked with the use of fossil fuels; this would mean slowing down the increase currently observed in maritime transport of hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean (today $\frac{1}{4}$ of world traffic) and also controlling the extension of infrastructures needed for such transport.

However, work on renewable energies and energy efficiency should not hide the impacts and hazards they represent, especially in terms of biodiversity. In particular, a precise evaluation should be made of the consumption of “traditional” energy (firewood, charcoal) which is the principal source of renewable energy but also a potential source of serious environmental damage. For instance, in Morocco, it is estimated that in rural areas the consumption of firewood entails overexploitation of the forests, which decrease by approximately 30000 ha/year, which in turn leads to desertification and soil erosion [Lahbabi, 1996].

Economic issues

The combination of unstable prices (with a tendency on the increase) and uncertain funding of investments needed for basic energy infrastructures could mean greater expenditure for energy and additional difficulty in ensuring access to essential energy services to a growing segment of the population. In this context, striving for a reduction in the cost of supply, in the carbon content and pollutants associated with economic growth, through increased energy efficiency and a balanced use of renewable sources of energy is a major challenge of sustainable development for all Mediterranean countries, especially those of the South.

However, these new orientations raise questions on the respective roles of the State, local authorities, private sector and citizens in developing large scale actions of energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy in ever more deregulated energy markets open to competition but always showing differences between the North and the South of the Mediterranean.

Moving to a more secure energy system, which would save energy and produce fewer greenhouse gases and pollutants, would have positive effects on the whole economy: it would bring about greater competitiveness, develop new industrial sectors, create export markets and jobs in forward-looking sectors to name but a few. In the long run, research and development in the new technologies of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency would be a key factor of progress.

Social issues

Epidemiological studies have been showing clearly the effects on human health of polluting gas emissions and particles in cities and around industrial zones. Recently the World Bank estimated that the number of deaths due to air pollution in Egypt exceeded 20000 with a total cost of more than 2% of GDP (for 1999). Moreover, in 2005, approximately 13 million people in the Mediterranean did not have access to electricity, while energy bills take up an increasing part of the family budget. In this context, actions aiming at energy efficiency should be used to fight poverty.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

Several projects and especially MEDSTAT¹ supported by the European Commission in which the Blue Plan participates have made energy data available ; MISESD will therefore aim at organizing collection and updating of:

- basic data on energy developments observed and forecast for the region (on an annual basis) : production, consumption (energy balance);

- detailed statistical information on renewable sources of energy;
- information on consumption statistics per sector;
- statistical information on inventories of greenhouse gases including details by sector for energy-related activities;
- data on pollution, waste and other types of nuisance linked with energy related industrial activities and transport of energy products;
- geographic information on energy installations and transport of energy products;
- general information on energy policies in the Mediterranean countries and detailed information on policies concerning renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency;
- additional basic statistical information needed for indicator calculation (e.g. sector production, surface taken by housing, kms travelled etc.).

Indicators

The Blue Plan, in close cooperation with the relevant statistics institutions (AIE/OECD, Eurostat, national institutes etc.) will prepare and propose):

- a follow-up framework for energy sustainability in the region:
 - Selection of indicators ;
 - Revision and documentation of indicators (including those in the MSSD) ;
 - Definition of a composite indicator;
- a follow-up framework for the evolution of energy efficiency (detailed by sector) ;
- an updated version of indicators through the use of basic data collected previously and completed with related data (population, GDP etc.);
- a presentation framework for indicators using diagrams, maps and benchmarking.

Studies

The Blue Plan, as a complement to the alternative scenario drawn up in its most recent report on environment and development in the Mediterranean, will prepare a new alternative prospective scenario (so-called « cut-off » scenario) which will integrate in depth the two issues of climate change and security of supply.

This scenario will be based on economic and geopolitical prospective studies, on demographic and environmental forecasts, all to be prepared upstream.

In order to draw up such a scenario, specific work will be carried out on:

- Energy efficiency and consumption;
- Energy efficiency in transport, building and services, since according to the Blue Plan scenarios, these three sectors, will grow apace in the next 20 years; especially in the South (explosion in mobility demand, an additional 100 million people living in cities, thus a lot of construction etc.);
- Behavioural patterns on energy consumption in order to go beyond the essentially technology-oriented scenarios proposed to-date by the Blue Plan;
- Evolution of the energy divide between the North and the South of the Mediterranean.

Moreover, concerning the diversification of supply and energy stocks, the Blue Plan will give greater emphasis to the study of the place and potential role of biomass, solar energy in the Mediterranean deserts, the role of big power companies in the large-scale development of alternative sources, as well as the place of nuclear energy in the Mediterranean.

Communication

In addition to the regular publication in the Blue Plan series of the results of thematic studies and its biennial contribution to the report on the state of environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, the Blue Plan will emphasize access through the Internet:

- statistical data and indicators updated annually;
- studies concerning the MSSD follow-up;
- information concerning the framework, state and challenges in the field of energy;
- all documents available on this theme.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert Workshop "Energy and sustainable development" Monaco, 29 and 30 March 2007 - MCSD meeting, 30 and 31 May 2007, Turkey Theme: "Climate change in the Mediterranean" - 15th session of UNCSD, New York, 30 April – 11 May 2007; Theme: "Climate change, energy resources for sustainable development, atmospheric pollution and industrial development" - Meeting of Expert Committee OME renewable sources of energy and sustainable development. Theme: "Financing renewable energies and energy efficiency", Egypt, 14 and 15 May - Spring 2007 – Euro-Mediterranean Energy Ministers Meeting - UMET 6 – Summer 2007 - AIE Renewable energy conference, Maghreb, summer 2007 - World Energy Congress, Rome, 11-15 November 2007 - 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change and 3rd Meeting of the Members of Kyoto Protocol, 3-14 December 2007 - Rotating EU Presidency Germany / Portugal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 national studies on progress concerning alternative sources of energy and energy efficiency at national level. Study on economic issues related to the trend scenario in the last Blue Plan report - Follow-up report on the "energy" chapter of MSSD; - Report on recent energy developments in the Mediterranean and on trend projections <i>Blue Plan Note on "Regional Developments concerning renewable energies and energy efficiency"</i> - UNEP/MAP MTS publication with the contributions of all national/regional experts who worked on the MSSD Energy follow-up Study on taking into consideration in the ADP renewable energies and energy efficiency. Thematic study on "Climate change and energy in the Mediterranean"

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2008	Rotating EU presidency Slovenia / France	<i>Blue Plan Paper</i> putting the focus on energy-related activities 2006-2007. <i>Blue Plan Note</i> Thematic study on "Impact of diversification of energy supply and stocks on the national economies and on the state of the Mediterranean environment" Publication on Energy and Sustainable Development indicators
2009	- End Kyoto negotiations post 2012 - Regional Energy Workshop - Contracting Parties Meeting to the Barcelona Convention - Rotating EU presidency by Czech Republic / Sweden	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> Thematic study on "Sustainability analysis in the sector of energy" Contribution to the Chapter "Energy" of a new Blue Plan report including new scenarios
2010	MDG Review World Energy Congress Rotating EU presidency Spain / Belgium	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> Annual updating of follow-up indicators concerning the sustainability of the energy system A thematic study on energy
2011	Blue Plan Regional Workshop Rotating EU presidency Hungary / Poland	Thematic studies on " The importance of energy flows (production, transformation, distribution and exchanges) for the environment, health and economy " Updating of follow-up indicators concerning the sustainability of the energy system <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2012	End of first phase of Kyoto commitments (2008-2012) Rotating EU presidency Denmark / Cyprus	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> New Blue Plan alternative scenario to be presented in the biennial 2013 report. Annual updating of follow-up indicators concerning the sustainability of the energy system
2013	Blue Plan regional Workshop Rotating EU presidency Ireland / Lithuania	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> Annual updating of follow-up indicators concerning the sustainability of the energy system Thematic studies on " After petroleum: impact on the energy industry, the state of the environment and the final consumption of energy "
2014	Rotating EU presidency Greece / Italy	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> Annual updating of follow-up indicators concerning the sustainability of the energy system
2015	Review of Millennium Development Goals Blue Plan regional Workshop Rotating EU presidency Latvia / Luxemburg	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> Annual updating of follow-up indicators concerning the sustainability of the energy system

3.3.3 Transport

The Mediterranean has always been an area for exchanges and high mobility. Transport, a formidable instrument of freedom (through the development of automobiles) and of economic development², puts nevertheless ever increasing pressures on the environment: increasing greenhouse gas emissions which bring about climate change, consumption of space to develop infrastructures, degradation of air quality because of polluting emissions in the atmosphere, sound pollution, discharge of pollutants in the marine environment, road fatalities etc.

While other regions of the world (particularly the European Union) are starting to study this contradiction, the development of transport chains, especially through the liberalization of

² In several Mediterranean countries transport represents a non-negligible part of economic activities. Thus, in 2000 the sector of transport and communications came to 10.7% of GDP in Syria, 9.3% in Egypt, 6.7% in Algeria, 6.1% in Morocco, 10.9% in Tunisia.

commercial exchanges, is carried out in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries without the necessary regulatory instruments, either environmental or social.

In order to set up regulation mechanisms at the regional scale presupposes a common vision of the impact of transport development in its current form. This vision must provide answers mainly to questions such as:

- Can one discern a decoupling between economic development and transport development?
- What is the environmental, social and economic impact of transport in the Mediterranean? Which are the most relevant indicators to follow such impacts? What is their value?
- How will these indicators develop?

To answer these questions, it is necessary to have data on emissions of greenhouse gases from the transport sector, the cost estimate of congestion, the part of transport-related expenses in the family budget, areas covered by transport infrastructures and level of noise pollution linked with transport. The Blue Plan aims at contributing to the collection of such data and thus help set up a true system to monitor transport in the Mediterranean.

There are of course relevant initiatives, such as the large-scale regional programmes funded mainly by the European Union (MEDA – TEN T, Euro-Med Transport Project *inter alia*) to evaluate the margins of progression of the competitiveness of the Euro-Mediterranean chains of transport; the Euro-Mediterranean statistics cooperation programme MEDSTAT which collects in a homogeneous form basic statistics on flows and equipment; the work by REMPEC which collects certain types of information on pollution of the Mediterranean by hydrocarbons; the CEMT which produces for the Western Mediterranean specific analyses which from time to time integrate the environmental aspect. But beyond all this, the region needs a true mechanism for the analysis and prospective of transport. The Blue Plan will formulate it in order to organize a permanent watch on the link transport/environment and sustainable development.

Transport and sustainable development

Environmental issues

Obviously transport is central to environmental issues. In fact, transport is the origin of 30% of CO₂ emissions, approximately one third of particle emissions and of ever increasing sound pollution. The construction of infrastructures takes up ever larger areas, even if in the Mediterranean the pace has remained moderate when compared to that in certain European countries. Nonetheless, impact on demand for building materials, the level of polluting discharges from construction sites, the irreversible artificialization of certain scarce open areas and the waterproofing of soils need to be studied very carefully. In the sea, operational hydrocarbon pollution from ships remains significant and the quantity of residues from ballast waters represents annually the equivalent of 150000 tons of hydrocarbons. The Blue Plan must make a long-term investment to study these very sensitive questions which are still not fully understood or quantified due to the diversity and variability of information sources.

Economic issues

According to the Blue Plan scenarios, the progressive liberalization of exchanges among the different countries around the Mediterranean should lead to a substantial increase in regional but also intra-national traffic with great emphasis on road transport. This latter is indeed favoured today for cargo transport, taking into consideration the nature of products moved and the low internalization of environmental and social costs. The same is true for travelling, especially given the fact that increasing numbers of people settle in the periphery of towns. The resulting costs of congestion have been estimated for some Mediterranean cities; it is expected that the costs will increase but the proportions still need to be calculated.

Social issues

The part that transport costs take up on the family budget varies widely from country to country (between 19% in Israel and 4% in Egypt in 2000 for instance); however, it is on the increase in both the North and the South. Over the 1984-2000 period the average increase was 3.7%/year for the whole Mediterranean (3.9% in the North and 3.3% in the South and East). This trend is hardly "sustainable", since the socioprofessional classes that are mostly affected by the increases belong in most cases to the middle class whose purchasing power is diminishing.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

The lack of data on moving merchandise and people is crucial. For the Northern Mediterranean countries, the data are available, even if a lot of investigative and analytical work is needed in order to obtain them and make them comparable. For the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean states it is absolutely necessary to carry out specific studies. The results should be correlated with estimates obtained from indirect sources (customs, mirror analyses, expert opinions, road counts, energy balance).

Concerning environmental impacts, the use of standard coefficients will be similar to that used in the methodology of the Report on Environment and Development. They will enrich the Blue Plan data base.

In terms of economic and social data, the Blue Plan will continue its collaboration with its long-term partners (NESTEAR, Ecomar, RED consultants).

Indicators

The availability of data on movements will be a determining factor in comprehending developments by means of indicators. A series of 8-10 indicators, most already used in the 2005 Blue Plan report on environment and development in the Mediterranean, will be documented for the publication of each report. The scale will be national and the data will concern the year N-1. The main indicators will concern:

- Indicators on evolution of movements and traffic:
 - Traffic of persons and movement of goods, persons in traveller-km and goods in tons-km
 - Evolution of traffic and its composition, distribution in various modes of transport etc.
 - Traffic flexibility / GNP
- Indicators on environmental, economic and social impact of mobility:
 - Climate change: CO₂ emissions
 - Atmospheric pollution: COV emissions, Nox and particles
 - Noise pollution: number of persons affected by a noise source higher than 55 dB linked with transport
 - Congestion: financial cost of loss of time due to congestion as a percentage of GDP
 - Area covered by transport infrastructures: in hectares and as a proportion of the total surface of the country
 - Mortality due to traffic accidents
 - Tonnage of hydrocarbons and polluting products discharged in the Mediterranean by ships
 - Part of travel expenditure in family budgets.

Studies

The Blue Plan, in order to understand better certain issues linked with the economic calculations of external factors, will study in depth the methods of assessment of certain complex indicators on which scientific opinions still differ (e.g. cost of congestion, tons discharged in the sea). Moreover, questions such as de-coupling traffic increase / GDP increase, the various types of impact of the construction of transport infrastructures on coastal areas, or the epidemiological follow-up of the effects of certain hazards linked to transport will all be studied regularly in depth.

Communication

The work carried out by the Blue Plan will be reflected in the publication every two years of a chapter on transport in the biennial report on the state of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. For a handy reference, a small volume with updated indicators (using the same methods and sources) of the chapter on transport will be published starting end 2007.

Every year, a specific study on transport-related issues will be published in the series « *Blue Plan Notes* »

Timetable of expected outputs

	International and regional timetable	Outputs
2007	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on the chapter "Transport" of the Report on Environment and Development - Methodological study on complex indicators
2008	- Beginning of MCSD biennium on transport and urban issues - EU rotating presidency by France (2 nd semester)	- Documentation of complex indicators - Study on de-coupling in the transport sector - <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2009	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Euromed Transport Forum	- Synthesis report on the activities of the biennium - <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on transport in the Mediterranean
2010	Beginning of UNCSD biennium on the theme of transport Euromed Transport Forum	- <i>Blue Plan Note</i> - Impact study of transport infrastructures on coastal areas
2011	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Euromed Transport Forum	- Impact study of transport-related hazards on health - <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2012	Johannesburg+10	
2013	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Euromed Transport Forum	- <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on transport in the Mediterranean
2014		
2015	Review of MDGs	

Performance assessment

Indicators

Number of indicators and countries covered, number of persons and institutions interested in the report, number of enquiries launched in the countries to fill gaps in data, meeting deadlines etc.

External evaluation

The external evaluation of the work of the Blue Plan in the field of transport will be carried out in 2012.

3.3.4 Tourism

Tourism in the Mediterranean is a dynamic sector in terms of growth, job creation, foreign currency import and covering the balance of goods and services.

Thus in 2005, the Mediterranean countries received 246 million international tourists, i.e. 30,5% of the world international tourism. In the 1995-2004 ten-year period, certain Mediterranean countries have had a very strong average annual increase of international arrivals, e.g. Croatia (20% per year), Syria (15,7%), Egypt (11,7%), Algeria and Turkey (10,1 %) ³.

By the year 2025, national and international tourism in the Mediterranean countries could reach 637 million, of which 312 million in the coastal regions alone ⁴.

These few figures illustrate the extent of pressure from tourism on environment and natural resources, but also the potential for economic and social development that it represents. This is the reason why tourism is the subject of many studies both by the Blue Plan which is interested in the long-term relationships between tourism and environment ⁵, and by UNEP which in the Marrakech Process framework ⁶ has set up a working group ⁷ led by France on sustainable tourism. Tourism is also obviously at the heart of the concerns of the European Union and by definition of the World Tourist Organization.

The Blue Plan will thus continue studying this sector and especially its relationship with environment to determine whether it can be sustainable in the future.

Tourism and sustainable development

Environmental issues

Tourism involves ever increasing greenhouse gas emissions and is therefore one of the factors contributing to climate change. Emissions are obviously due on the one hand to transport from the place of residence to the place of destination and on the other to fossil fuel energy consumption linked with lodging and installations. But if tourism has an impact on climate change, the reverse is also true. Sea-level rise which intensifies beach erosion, increased frequency of extreme meteorological phenomena such as heatwaves, the increase in surface water temperature causing eutrophication peaks would all influence the choice of tourist destinations in the future.

At the same time, the links between tourism and biodiversity are strong, since the former can contribute to **loss of biodiversity** by promoting the artificialization of both the land and marine areas, the degradation of outstanding sites (trampling, picking, anchoring), the introduction of non-indigenous species (ornamental plants, pets); however, tourism, through the resources that it generates, can also contribute to the protection of biodiversity and the preservation of its attractiveness.

Finally, since Mediterranean tourism is largely sea-related, its impact on water quality, which is itself an attracting factor, must always be the focus of attention.

³ Source : WTO 2006

⁴ Source : RED, Blue Plan, 2005

⁵ Scenarios Tourism BP-89, Volume 1995, Antalya 1998 Workshop, 1999 MCSD Recommendations, Dossier MAP TRS n°159 2005, etc.

⁶ UNDESA and UNEP

⁷ led by France

Economic issues

Tourism contributes very significantly to economic **growth** but less to the **distribution of income** generated by it. However, and this will be a challenge in the years to come, tourism under certain conditions can bring about equitable development at local level, revitalize enclosed areas (small islands) and regenerate traditional activities (agriculture, fishing, crafts, BTP).

Moreover, tourism continues to **create many jobs** directly and indirectly, even if tourist-related jobs are often low-skill and low-pay.

Social issues

Tourist development, because it promotes the supply in drinking water and electricity, sanitation and waste collection, can promote **access for all to essential services**. However, for this to happen, it is necessary to think in terms of sustainable development, otherwise it will mean enclaves of prosperity which would do very little to reduce disparities and social inequalities still strong in all Mediterranean countries.

Activities related to strategic objectives

The relevant analysis scales concern the equivalent NUTS1 (country), the equivalent NUTS3 (department, province, willaya, governorate etc.) and destination which does not always correspond to administrative entity such as the equivalent NUTS5 (commune, municipality, district etc.).

Data

WTO is the main provider of data at world level; at national level it is the national institutes of statistics; there is a recurrent difficulty however in obtaining detailed information for the various destinations.

Therefore, with certain notable exceptions, international tourism is better known than domestic tourism, especially in the South and East of the Mediterranean. That is why the Blue Plan will help fill this gap, while continuing to document its data bases currently available, which for certain parameters cover more than thirty years.

Some activities (cruising and yachting especially) will require specific studies on the basis of investigations.

Indicators

The MSSD priority indicators will be developed (identification, testing, calculation, updating) to follow progress toward sustainable development.

Moreover, additional indicators, some of which can be borrowed from organizations specializing in the field of tourism (WTO, IFEN, AEE, WTTC etc.), will be identified then developed.

Furthermore, the ecological imprint will be developed for the field of tourism (by type of consumption and production. Updating of existing ratios⁸ (e.g. litres of water per night) or the definition of new ratios (e.g. percentage of waste recycled per night) will be treated in specific studies.

⁸ *All ratios are not indicators. However, they are indispensable for the quantification of the pressures of tourism on the environment and natural resources. Ratios are half-way between data and indicators and they can be classified under the heading "indicators".*

Studies

The Blue Plan, in order to explore possible ways in which tourism can better contribute to sustainable development, will carry out, in cooperation with various partners, especially UNEP, WTO and OECD, the following studies:

- State of progress realized by the sector in terms of the recommendations of the MCSD (1999) ;
- Prospective analysis of pressures of tourism on the environment and natural resources as a function of the modes of production and consumption;
- Determination of tourist carrying capacity in the protected areas;
- Inventory of good practices, analysis of stakeholder systems, inventory of case studies (destinations);
- Analysis of economic channels and the conditions for a fair redistribution of profits;
- Analysis of possible innovations (property, economic, fiscal instruments).

Communication

Concerning tourism and depending on the groups targeted, the Blue Plan will disseminate information by means of :

- Syntheses disseminated through the series *Blue Plan Notes* (e.g. nautical tourism)
- Diagrams and tables on the website (e.g. matrix origin / destination)
- Organization of at least three regional workshops for public and private stakeholders.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International and regional timetable	Outputs
2007	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on the tourism chapter of the Report on Environment and Development (RED) - Questionnaire preparatory to the 2008 Workshop
2008	EU rotating presidency Slovenia / France	- State of progress 1998-2008 toward sustainable development - Regional workshop (exchange of expertise, good practices, case studies)
2009	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> - <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on nautical tourism, yachting and cruising
2010	MSSD+10 (point 2.7)	- Study on domestic demand - Documentation of priority and additional indicators and contribution to REESD
2011	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Marrakesh Process	- <i>Blue Plan Papers</i> on the typology of tourist pressures in the Mediterranean - Regional workshop - Contribution to REESD
2012	Rio+20 ; Johannesburg+10	- Study on redistribution of benefits from tourism
2013	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention UNCSD (Tourism)	- <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on tourist innovation - Presentation of the Blue Plan study on the sustainability of tourist products - Regional workshop
2014		- Study on the sustainability of tourist demand
2015	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- Contribution to REESD - <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on the sustainability of tourism in the Mediterranean

Performance assessment

Indicators

Number of documented indicators, participation in regional workshops, number of studies carried out and disseminated publications.

External evaluation

The external evaluation of the Blue Plan activities on tourism will be carried out in 2010.

3.3.5 Forest Ecosystems

The Blue Plan aims at a more in-depth evaluation of the contribution of forest ecosystems to the sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Indeed, forested areas, which for the most part produce renewable resources, play a crucial role in the everyday life of people around the Mediterranean, since they are constantly interacting with agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, crafts, urbanism and leisure activities. They contribute to the development of various activities and jobs in rural areas where they help fight poverty. Finally, they participate in the regulation of global phenomena, especially climate through the absorption of CO₂ and are involved in the water cycle (catchment areas) and the strategies concerning wood and non-lignous products (sylviculture), soils (protection from erosion, fight against desertification), biological diversity and Mediterranean landscapes.

Unfortunately, today ever faster developments no longer allow for the renewal of forest cover and have serious environmental consequences. The great concentration of people in the coastal areas and subsequent urbanization, mass tourism, consumption increase at a high rate and intensive agricultural practices are all at the root of ever increasing demands vis-à-vis forest resources. It is urgent therefore to refocus the current trends by pursuing a greater integration of forest policies in land development policies.

To optimize the answers that the forests can bring to the various expectations concerning sustainable development in the Mediterranean, public and private stakeholders must share a prospective vision on:

- the demands concerning the various potential uses of these resources, by evaluating their capacity to meet them in a sustainable development perspective,
- the ways and means (institutional, human and financial) to refocus these demands to make them compatible among themselves and adapted to availability of resources,
- the value of uses (active or passive) of forested areas in the region and the direct or indirect beneficiaries of such uses, in a way that the sum total of forest functions, services and products can be appreciated by decision-makers and financing experts, in relation to the cost of actions needed to mobilize them.

Forest ecosystems and sustainable development

Environmental issues

The Mediterranean forests cover approximately 70 million hectares. They are made up of about 290 arborescent species, 200 of which are exclusive or *inféodé(?)* to a large extent. More than 60 are currently considered rare, vulnerable or threatened. Forests are the main well for carbon dioxide and the conversion of agricultural land to forest constitutes a real potential for the absorption of atmospheric CO₂ (great absorption potential of young trees) and therefore abatement of climate change.

The evolution of areas has shown a contrast in recent years depending on the region. In the North, agriculture has been undervalued, pasture land diminished which means larger areas colonized by pioneer plants, especially conifers, followed by maturation of pre-forest structures to the detriment of open spaces and plots of grass. In the South and East, where pressures from overgrazing, overexploitation of firewood and marginal land under crop are still very strong, forest structures degrade and lose their characteristics, the species preferred by flocks become scarce, erosion develops and can lead to desertification.

Moreover, the increased number of forest fires has become a very serious cause of the regression of forest ecosystems. In the Northern Mediterranean countries, the progression of brushwood in the abandoned areas has increased the risks of fires starting and progressing, unless costly mechanical clearing of undergrowth is carried out in order to protect inhabited areas. More than 95% of forest fires are of human origin; their number has doubled since the 70s and it stands now at 50000 incidents per year. Fighting forest fires costs annually more than one thousand million euros, but 600000 hectares of Mediterranean forests still burn every year.

Economic and social issues

One of the essential characteristics of the region is the importance of arid, semi-arid and dry zones which cover 156 million hectares around the Mediterranean and form the transition toward the vast deserts of the South and East. For the 109 million people living in these areas, mostly rural and poor, the risk of desertification is a major environmental and socio-economic problem. More than half of the Mediterranean basin is today affected by this phenomenon of impoverishment of natural resources and the people that live on them.

In order to break the spirals of degradation and poverty, the development strategies currently in place aim at the diversification and synergy of the various forms of development for these areas (multifunctional integrated development), in order to achieve a better distribution of jobs and the use of resources in time and space. In such development schemes the integration of tree and shrub culture can be a success factor for :

- agricultural production, by protecting soils from erosion and enriching them with humus (curtain shelters, windscreens, trees scattered around the farm),
- extensive animal breeding, as a reserve for fodder in periods of drought (fodder trees and bushes),
- the production of domestic energy (firewood, charcoal) and timber (poles, wood frames etc.),
- crafts and commerce (fruit, tannins, gums, resins, oils, fibres, medicinal plants, honey etc.),
- "green" tourism.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

The data used will be essentially those provided by FAO to Blue Plan within the framework of existing partnership agreements. They will be integrated in MISESD.

Indicators

To evaluate the performance of the forest sector in terms of sustainable development, a common set of indicators adapted to the Mediterranean contexts will be formulated on the basis of analytical work which will:

- identify, in each country, the data and indicators currently in use and the difficulties encountered;

- clarify the additions and improvements needed to reinforce the relevance, coherence and reliability of indicators;
- assess the feasibility of such additions and improvements;
- prepare, on the basis of the feasibility study, a standard national checklist and recommendations to develop and interpret indicators.

These indicators will reflect the criteria used at global level for the understanding of sustainable management of forests, especially the extent of forest resources, the health and vitality of forests, the productive functions of forests, the biological diversity, the protective function of forests, the socio-economic advantages and needs and the regulatory and institutional framework.

On the basis of studies carried out in the context of the Teheran Process for the countries with little forest cover and also of those carried out by the Blue Plan and the Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel, the indicators will account for:

- the evolution of forested areas,
- the intensity of forest exploitation,
- the evolution of developed forested areas,
- the evolution of protected forested areas,
- the variation of forested areas degraded by fires,
- the phenomenon of overgrazing in forests.

Studies

Case studies (territorial prospective)

At the scale of territories identified as representative and illustrative, case studies will be carried out to contribute to the reflection on the following issues:

- contribution of forest ecosystems to the conservation of biodiversity;
- economic and financial tools (economic value of forested areas, payment for services rendered and good practices in agriculture, silviculture and animal husbandry, cost-benefit analyses etc.) ;
- tools for the mobilization and responsabilization of stakeholders in the field;
- integrated and participatory approaches, integration of territorial activities in forest management;
- development and management of areas around cities.

Regional prospective analyses

At regional level, the following themes will be analyzed in prospective studies:

- forest ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity;
- correlation between climate change and Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- fight against desertification and poverty;
- financing (structures, procedures) of policies and projects.

Communication

Summaries of case studies and regional analyses will be presented in the form of guides or reference manuals of good practices (sustainable management, governance) which will be especially disseminated to stakeholders in the field.

On the basis of all this and in partnership with the other concerned regional organizations, a forum will be developed to exchange and share expertise in the sustainable management and governance of forests.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International and regional timetable	Outputs
2007	UN Forum on forests FAO forest Committee and Committee Silva Mediterranea Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- Two case studies in the countries
2008	UN Forum on forests	- Three case studies in the countries - Study on economic development of forests - <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2009	UN Forum on forests FAO forest Committee and Committee Silva Mediterranea Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention World Congress on Forests (Argentina)	- Case studies in countries - Expert work on indicators and proposal of the common set - Study on the absorption capacity of the Mediterranean forest ecosystems - <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on Mediterranean forest ecosystems
2010	UN Forum on forests	- Three case studies in countries - Design of exchange platform - <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2011	UN Forum on forests FAO forest Committee and Committee Silva Mediterranea Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention International year of forests	- Documentation of indicators - Summary report on activities carried out concerning forest ecosystems
2012	UN Forum on forests Johannesburg + 10	- Setting-up of exchange platform - <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on forest ecosystems and the risks they incur
2013	UN Forum on forests FAO forest Committee and Committee Silva Mediterranea Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- <i>Blue Plan Note</i> - Regional thematic study
2014	UN Forum on forests	- <i>Blue Plan Paper</i>
2015	UN Forum on forests FAO forest Committee and Committee Silva Mediterranea Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Review of the Millennium Development Goals	- Regional thematic study

Performance assessment

Indicators

The following indicators will be used to assess activities :

- number of associated institutional partners
- number of sources of financing
- annual budget
- number of case studies
- number of countries involved in research on indicators
- number of invitations to present papers.

External evaluation

Activities will be evaluated every two years by a follow-up committee made up of members of the Committee on Forests *Silva Mediterranea*.

3.3.6 Coastal Areas

The Mediterranean coast is the interface Land / Sea and the centre of multiple conflicts of use; it strongly attracts people and their activities and has a great environmental value; it is 46000 km long, of which 19000 km alone for the islands. In 2000, in the Mediterranean coastal areas lived 143 million people, 175 million tourists (domestic and international) visited and they offered 270000 berthing places in 750 pleasure ports.

Coastal areas are therefore at the centre of concern in terms of sustainable development in the Mediterranean; in the near future it is likely that there will be a specific Protocol to the Barcelona Convention on integrated coastal zone management. Being the Southern frontier of Europe, the Mediterranean coast and Sea are part and parcel of sectoral strategies (transport, tourism, fisheries, integrated development of coastal zones etc.) and fall under the scope of EU directives (Water, Natura 2000 etc.). Obviously they are particularly affected by the European initiative "Horizon 2020" which aims at intensifying the efforts considerably to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean by the year 2020.

In this context, the Blue Plan will contribute to developing the reflection on the future of coastal areas by continuing to analyze future pressures and their impacts and to identify new ways for integrating the coastal areas in the process of sustainable development.

The Blue Plan will carry out this work in partnership with the MAP Regional Activity Centres, the relevant UN Agencies / Programmes, the EU bodies, the scientific community and civil society.

The coast and sustainable development

Environmental issues

The coast, where activities and people are concentrated is, like other areas, a producer of greenhouse gases, therefore a factor of climate change. However, at the same time it is vulnerable to the anticipated impact of such change, especially in terms of sea-level rise, increased frequency of extreme meteorological phenomena (storms and storm waves, heatwaves) and heating of surface water. Moreover, its artificialization, the introduction of non-indigenous species (through shipping, aquaculture, plants and pet animals), land-based and marine pollution, overexploitation of living marine resources all have a direct impact on both land and marine biodiversity which it concentrates and which is becoming ever poorer.

Finally, the activities carried out in the coastal areas can, depending on their nature and extent, contribute to the protection of the sea or inversely to its pollution. In this connection, the activities aiming at depollution, stabilization of the artificialization of coastal areas, the rehabilitation of degraded areas, the protection of ecosystems and in general, the sustainable management of coastal zones and associated catchment areas have generally a positive effect on the state of the sea.

Economic issues

The coastal area is generally speaking an area of growth, **but the distribution of benefits at the spatial level appears unequal especially if compared to the hinterland.** Certain activities concentrated on the coast are even increasing at a fast rate, like tourism, marine aquaculture and shipping. These activities which currently create jobs will continue to promote rural exodus particularly in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

Social dimension

At the social level, the coastal areas exacerbate the trends observed at the level of countries and represent challenges which are different in the North from those in the South and East. In the latter, the spectacular increase in urban populations, in the number of young persons and those without jobs will most certainly raise the question of accessibility to essential services (water, sanitation) and adequacy of health and education services.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

The Mediterranean coast is a highly cross-cutting issue, an area where problems converge, and stakes and challenges raised; it therefore needs a systems approach, which would guarantee a global comprehension of the phenomena and processes taking place in this area which is limited, precious and very much sought after all at the same time. That is why each theme (water, energy, transport, tourism, etc.) must also be studied at coastal level.

Taking into consideration the Blue Plan experience, two scales of analysis seem particularly relevant: the NUTS3 equivalent (department, province, willaya, governorate etc.) and the NUTS5 equivalent (commune, municipality, district, etc.), whereas the collection of data and/or studies at national level, NUTS0 equivalent would only be useful for providing a framework for coastal issues. However, the detailed analysis of certain processes, like the mutations in the use of coastal areas implies that reasoning will be carried out at the scale of the coastal land strip (i.e. 0 to 1km, or 0 to 10km from the coastline) or at the scale of specific sites classified by type (outstanding sites, hot-spots etc.).

Data

Without trying to be exhaustive (which is impossible), the collection of data should be as complete as possible to cover all the activities concentrated on the coast and based on long, retrospective series.

In addition to spatial data which, by using various relevant scales, would provide the characterization of the specific geography of coastal areas, MISESD will have to collect for the coasts:

- socio-economic data on the characteristics of the populations on industrial sites, infrastructures of shipping, power plants, tourist bathing facilities and installations, fisheries and aquaculture etc.;
- environmental data on coastal erosion, land use, water, bathing water quality, marine and land biodiversity, ecosystem quality, technology-related risks.

Moreover, it will be necessary to get information on policies concerning the coast and the tools for management and planning available.

Indicators

Three groups of **indicators** will be developed to follow progress of the coastal areas toward sustainable development:

- Specifically coastal and marine indicators which are currently being specially studied by the Blue Plan;
- Thematic indicators concerning the coast (water, energy, transport, etc.);
- Indicators specific to the sites studied.

Studies

The Blue Plan, in order to develop reflection on the future of coastal areas, to continue the prospective analysis of the pressures and their impact and the identification of possible ways to integrate the coasts in a sustainable development process, will, in cooperation with various partners, particularly MAP, prepare:

- A **typology** of coastal areas based on pressures and threats;
- A **prospective analysis of the impact of climate change** (quantification of areas, activities and populations exposed, costs to adapt infrastructures and installations to ward off the sea, pro-active policies);
- Assessment of **the economic value of coastal ecosystems** primarily in order to quantify economic losses due to their degradation;
- A prospective analysis of economic growth and jobs by sector;
- An inventory of **industrial** sites (by type and number of jobs) located on the coasts, estimates of discharged pollutants and technological risks;
- Follow-up and prospective analysis of **land use** in the coastal areas (in conjunction with EEA and the Joint Research Centre),
- Follow-up and prospective analysis of **natural resource use** (marine and coastal),
- Assessment of **progress in combating pollution** of coastal waters, also of clean production processes and of nature protection;
- Analysis of relevant policies.

Within the framework of the 2020 initiative, the Blue Plan will moreover participate in the 7th Framework Research Programme of the European Union and contribute to the work of AEE, especially as concerns the publication of the report on the European coastal zones.

Communication

Concerning the coasts and depending on the groups targeted, the Blue Plan will carry out the following communication activities :

- Summaries published in the series *Blue Plan Notes* (e.g. protected land and marine areas);
- Setting up an inventory of studies on sites (added to annually);
- Preparation and continuous updating of an Atlas Environment / Development of the Mediterranean coast;
- Contribution to the study of the state of the environment and development of the coast;
- Participation in EEA / MAP publications;
- Organization of workshops and training seminars for prospective analysis of the coastal areas (exchange of expertise, methods and tools);
- Contribution to the website (diagrams and tables);
- Contribution to the publication of a Report on Environment and Development (RED) every 15 years.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2007	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	<i>Blue Plan Note</i> on the chapter "Coasts" of RED

Date	International timetable	Blue Plan Outputs
2008	EU rotating presidency by France (2 nd semester) Horizon 2020 (hot spots)	- Study on a typology of coastal areas - Study on "climate change and the coast" - Test of sustainable development indicators for coasts - Setting up of inventory of sites - Seminar for exchange of views on inputs of the "Imagine" method into CAMPs
2009	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- Inventory of sites (follow-up of sites included and addition of new ones) - <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on "climate change and coasts"
2010	MSSD+10 (point 2.7) EU ICZM Strategy (Integrated coastal zone management)	- Study on the economic value of coastal ecosystems - Participation to the EEA report on European coasts - Workshop / training seminar on coastal prospective analysis
2011	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Atlas Environment / development of the Mediterranean coast Inventory of sites (follow-up of previously included sites and addition of new) <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on "Coast, growth and jobs"
2012	Rio+20 ; Johannesburg+10 Horizon 2020	<i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on the analysis of progress of the coast toward sustainable development (in conjunction with the Climate and Biodiversity Conventions) Workshop / training seminar on coastal prospective analysis
2013	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Inventory of sites (follow-up of those previously included and addition of new) <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on "Coast and technology-related risks"
2014		Workshop / training seminar on coastal prospective analysis <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on "Coast and land use"
2015	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention MSSD (2.7) solid waste and sanitation; fisheries and aquaculture UNCSD (marine resources) Review of Millennium Development Goals	Updating of the Atlas Environment / development of the Mediterranean coast <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on "Coast and natural marine and coastal resources" Inventory of sites (follow-up of those included and addition of new ones)

Performance assessment

Indicators

The following indicators will be used to assess activities:

- number of indicators selected and documented;
- number of national reports, regional analyses and case studies prepared;
- number of participants in workshops and seminars on restoration of works;
- annual mobilized budget.

External evaluation

The external evaluation will be carried out in 2012.

3.3.7 Rural areas

In approximately 10000 years, human activity has progressively transformed the landscape around the Mediterranean into a complex mosaic of gardens, fields, vineyards, olive groves and other fruit trees, pastureland, semi-natural forests, scrubland and garrigue, dry grassland etc. This evolution has been slow and gradual, since the rural areas are those with a very slow change rate.

However, in the last few decades, the Mediterranean rural areas have been radically changed. The regional divide between hinterland and agricultural plains sought after for their fertility, with the ensuing loss of vitality and socio-economic marginalization of whole regions in the North and in the South, rural poverty in several countries of the South and East as well as degradation of the environment and landscapes are the main symptoms of a "crisis" suffered by the rural areas. It is acute since it affects wealth priceless values and causes many risks and great instability. In addition to the vital ecologic cycles and the aggravation of poverty and the risks that ensue, the crisis threatens the biodiversity and exceptional landscapes at world level and beyond that the identity even of the region and the various valuable skills (landscapes, traditions, products). It is also a serious crisis on account of its economic repercussions, since environmental degradation, poverty, rural exodus and the marginalization of a number of territories weighs heavily on national economies. Thus, given the phenomenon of globalization and the liberalization of trade in agricultural products now being negotiated, the difficulties for several vulnerable rural territories of the South and the East could still grow.

However, the rural Mediterranean areas are also areas of the future. This is seen in the clear but belated "rural renewal" which characterizes today many rural territories of the developed countries of the Northern rim, as well as in a certain recent progress in agriculture, in the North, in the South and in the East of the Mediterranean. The rural renewal is linked with the mobilization of local stakeholders and professionals and the implementation of policies adapted to the situation. It is stimulated by the forging of new relationships with the city to meet new demands (leisure, living, quality products etc.). This development leads to a widening gap between those rural areas under urban influence, those structured by the "rural poles" and the "isolated" rural enclaves.

In this context, the question of the contribution of the rural areas to sustainable development in the Mediterranean is raised; the following issues should be considered:

- sustainability of natural resources,
- social welfare of rural populations,
- agricultural modernization through the rehabilitation of family farms and the diversification of activities in rural areas,
- territorial development (competitiveness and attractiveness for the Northern countries, new policies of rural development for those in the South),
- capacity-building of stakeholders,

Rural areas and sustainable development

Environmental issues

Rural areas are an emission source and a well of absorption of greenhouse gases. Thus, agriculture represents 9% of the total emissions of greenhouse gases and is the main source of methane and nitrogen protoxide emissions. But, along with sylviculture it contributes to the absorption of greenhouse gases. Rural areas are therefore closely involved in climate change; they are also profoundly affected by the expected impacts of such change, especially in terms of increased irregularity of the precipitation regime (greater desertification, water scarcity and irrigation restrictions in the summer season, erosion problems, landslides etc.).

Furthermore, the ways, in which the rural Mediterranean areas are managed, have direct consequences for the biodiversity they possess. In the Northern Mediterranean countries, urban sprawl and the abandonment or non-management of the mountainous regions frequently lead to degradation of landscapes, loss of productive capital and biodiversity and increased vulnerability to hazards (particularly floods and fires). Similarly, the agricultural models followed have resulted in a very large increase in productivity but at the price often of increased pollution of the waters and soils and loss of fertility. European Community policies, especially the *Leader* programme and the

Natura 2000 network-aim in the EU member states at mitigating such impacts; however still a lot needs to be done in order to ensure a truly sustainable development for these areas.

In the South and East, considerable pressures continue to be put on natural resources and this leads to deforestation, desertification, rapid silting of dams, irregular run-offs and the irreversible loss of biodiversity.

Economic issues

Lack of water and quality land resources along with the strong demographic increase is at the root of the growing deficit in the trade of agricultural products and the large-scale imports of cereals. The on-going progress in agriculture, which could result in an increase by almost half of the farming production in the South and East by the year 2025, will not on the whole improve the rate of self-sufficiency. So today the rural areas of the Mediterranean regions of the EU on the one hand, and of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries on the other, show a significant discrepancy in agricultural production, income and living standard.

In the North, agricultural workers have massively decreased in the past few years (decrease by 74% of agricultural populations between 1960 and 2000), while in the South and East, despite rural exodus and emigration, agricultural populations increased by 10 million in 40 years (reaching 70 million in 2000). Farming therefore continues to play in these countries a decisive social and economic role; it is characterized by a strong duality, still growing, of a modern type of agriculture and a plethora of small subsistence enterprises which tend to become extinct.

Thus, local development policies will need to focus and exploit (also to assess from an economic point of view) the specific advantages of the rural Mediterranean areas (landscape diversity, Mediterranean diet, quality products, etc.). In this context, a progressive and asymmetrical approach to the liberalization of agricultural trade at the Euro-Mediterranean level could mitigate somewhat the effects of this liberalization, especially for the vulnerable rural regions of some Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

Social issues

The major fact in most of the Southern and Eastern developing countries is rural poverty, in economic terms, in education and basic services. In order to combat poverty and desertification and promote the development of national economies, there is a need for concomitant progress in infrastructures and basic services, agricultural modernization, diversification of rural economy (tourism, food industry, crafts, services with emphasis on small towns, industry); moreover, clarification of the rights and rules of access to natural resources is essential. The implementation of such a scenario, which the Blue Plan will develop, implies a significant evolution of policies and modes of administration toward decentralized approaches to rural sustainable development, specific to territories but integrated, that will mobilize both local actors and professionals.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

MISESD will update and make available the data currently collected by the Blue Plan as follows:

- Environmental data: land use (including areas under crop, forested areas), desertification, erosion and salinization, protected areas,
- Economic data: added value and income from products in rural areas, diversification of activities other than agriculture,
- Social data: demographics, rural exodus, conditions and quality of life in rural areas, local governance and role of women etc.

Indicators

In order to evaluate the contribution of rural areas to sustainable development in the Mediterranean, a common set of indicators adapted to the Mediterranean context will be defined and documented periodically :

- Follow-up indicators for the chapter "To promote agricultural and rural sustainable development" of the MSSD (currently 4 priority and about 15 additional indicators to be defined or clarified),
- Follow-up indicators more specifically for the territorialization of policies and rural development actions, as well as local governance.

Progress will be measured every two years, especially in order to include results in the Blue Plan biennial report on "Environment and Sustainable development in the Mediterranean".

Studies: examples of studies to pursue and/or launch

Regional prospective analyses

At the regional level, the following themes will be the subject of prospective analyses:

- Integration of territories in the policies of rural development in the Mediterranean: this study which will aim at putting rural development at the heart of territorialization which is close and responsible to it will be in two parts: i) a typology of national approaches to show their diversity and relevance (comparative regional analysis with a study of the legal, political and economic territorial approaches) and ii) a presentation of case studies (with methodology adopted, identification of good practices and difficulties encountered) for a better understanding of the challenges and problems of territorialization of sustainable development;
- Economic assessment of services rendered by the rural Mediterranean areas: what is the contribution of rural areas to the presentation and valorization of environmental public property (preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, combating desertification, prevention of natural catastrophes, absorption of atmospheric CO₂ etc.) ? ;
- Rural areas and urban areas: control of urban development and preservation of agriculture around the cities (in response to a growing demand of society);
- Rural areas, rural development and tourism: what policies and what approaches to promote revitalization of the hinterland through "sustainable" tourist development, while mitigating the pressures on coastal areas? etc.

Case studies

At the scale of territories identified as representative and illustrative, case studies will be carried out to show how national or regional strategies of rural development can be translated into:

- practical steps of local actions,
- concrete policies of incentives and mobilization of stakeholders.

These case studies will be a comparative reference guide of "good practices" in terms of sustainable rural development at the local scale (local actions, mobilization of stakeholders etc.).

Communication and exchange of good practices

The Blue Plan will ensure:

- The dissemination and valorization, at the regional and national level, of the various studies and works carried out: regional analyses, national reports, reference guide of "good practices" of sustainable rural development at the local scale;

- The regular dissemination in the series "*Blue Plan Notes*" of compendia for the public at large;
- The organization of a regional workshop (2008) and the valorization of the work carried out in the 2007-2008 biennium through a joint CIHEAM / Blue Plan publication (*Mediterra 2009*) and of a seminar for the presentation of this publication (2009).

Timetable of outputs

Date	International and regional timetable	Outputs
2007	MCS D Biennium "Agriculture and rural development" New EU policy on rural development (FEADER) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Definition of additional indicators Launching of regional analyses, national surveys and case studies Contribution to the Blue Plan biennial Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on the chapter "Rural areas" of RED
2008	CSD Biennium "Agriculture and Rural development" EU rotating presidency Slovenia / France	Preparation of the interim activities report of the MCS D biennium (<i>Mediterra 2009</i>) Regional workshop (presentation and discussion of interim report)
2009	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Publication and regional seminar for the presentation of the report <i>Mediterra 2009</i> (jointly with CIHEAM) Contribution to the Blue Plan biennial Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2010	Review of the Millennium Development Goals at the two-thirds point	Follow-up report on indicators of sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean in correlation with the Millennium Development Goals
2011	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to the Blue Plan biennial Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2012	Johannesburg + 10	<i>Blue Plan Paper</i> with a summary of work carried out on indicators, national reports, regional analyses and case studies
2013	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to the Blue Plan biennial Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2014		
2015	Review of the Millennium Development Goals Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to the Blue Plan biennial Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Contribution to the evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals <i>Blue Plan Note</i>

Performance assessment

Indicators

The following indicators will be used to evaluate activities:

- number of institutional partners associated,
- number of countries involved in the study of indicators,
- number of national reports, regional analyses and case studies carried out,
- number of participants in workshops and seminars for restoration of works,
- annual budget.

External evaluation

The external evaluation will take place in 2010.

3.3.8 Urban areas

The future of the Mediterranean basin in the 21st century will be played out mostly in the urban areas. Today, two out of three people around the Mediterranean live in an urban environment; about 2025 they will come to more than 72%, i.e. nearly 380 million people, more than a third of which in the coastal areas. Most of the increase will occur in the Southern and Eastern countries; the urban population in these countries will go from 145 million in 2000 to 243 million in 2025.

In the Northern Mediterranean countries, the evolution in cities in the past 30 years has been characterized by a major change; unprecedented spatial extension of the built up areas and at the same time very little demographic growth (0.7% between 1970 and 2000). This phenomenon was made possible by the dispersion of activities and the spectacular increase in motorized mobility. Travelling by car increased at impressive rates; people travelled ever faster and especially ever farther. At the same time, these developments had undesirable consequences, such as urban sprawl, explosion of vehicle traffic, damage to the environment near and further afield, while corrective policies, often costly were being adopted in a context of urban planning which had become unmanageable.

In the South and East of the Mediterranean, developments were also characterized by the continuous sprawling of the outlying urban areas; however, here the natural demographic increase was quite substantial (3.6% per year). By 2025, these countries will have 100 million new inhabitants in the cities. The levels of motor car ownership are still rather low⁹ but growing significantly, whereas mass transportation is going down substantially in terms of modal distribution, in most of the cities and the outlying urban areas. Global prospective models on person mobility and the modal distribution of travelling to the year 2050¹⁰, show that the countries of North Africa and the Middle East will see mass motorization around 2010-2020.

Both in the North and in the South with urban sprawl, the fragmentation in the cities is growing; in the large urban areas, everyday life and environmental quality vary widely from one neighbourhood to another and this type of inequality is added on to, more often than not, discrepancies in income or access to work. Underprivileged districts are plagued by socio-economic problems, environmental problems, problems of access to transport, to housing, to water, of bad sanitation, vulnerability to physical catastrophes etc.

The Blue Plan has dealt with a number of these issues in the chapters on Urban areas and Transport in its 2005 report on environment and development, then launched a more detailed study of mobility in some large agglomerations. The Blue Plan will now continue in this course and study in-depth two major issues in terms of sustainable development.

- On the one hand, the question of mobility in the sprawling urban areas, where the challenges concern the sustainability of the whole planet. What will the future of mobility be in the next twenty or thirty years? How are the challenges of environment and sustainable development taken into consideration in urban planning and planning of transport? What are the measures taken to contain the spatial extension of cities? What are the challenges faced by public authorities to combine successfully urban and transport policies at the scale of big cities? What are the financing mechanisms to fund mass transport investments ?
- On the other hand, the question of unequal access to services in fragmented urban areas which is linked with the Millennium Development Goals; here the challenges concern the sustainability of our societies.

Each one of these themes will be studied in depth for 3-4 years, in two phases geared to the international timetable: urban mobility (2007-2010); access inequality to services (2011-2015).

⁹ In 2003 motorization rate of 124 cars per 1000 inhabitants in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, as against 590 cars per 1000 inhabitants in the Northern Mediterranean countries.

¹⁰ A. Schafer, MIT, 2000

Urban areas and sustainable development

Environmental issues

In a context of fast urbanization in the South and dominant urban sprawl in the North, the type of spatial growth of cities in the next 30 years will determine their energy consumption and their emissions of greenhouse gases in the second half of the 21st century. The quantity of emissions will differ widely depending on whether the cities of the South will converge toward the model of a city sprawled out with many centres and long distances which favour the use of cars (Côte d'Azur), or toward the model of a dense, one-centre city with a structured urban development and favouring the use of mass transport (Barcelona). In the urban areas, the answer to the global problem of climate change will have to be linked with urban growth compatible with the objectives of sustainable development and the problems especially of urban development and transport.

Economic issues

The European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) declared recently that the measures taken to mitigate congestion in the downtown areas of cities were rather effective, but that on the other hand the problems of traffic in the rest of the urban areas were growing.

Therefore, traffic congestion remains crucial for cities and has a serious impact on economic activity, the organization of time and health. The INFRAS/IWW¹¹ study calculated the *cost of congestion* for the EU at 35 thousand million euros for the year 2000; the Blue Plan has estimated this cost for all the Mediterranean countries at approximately 41 thousand million dollars for the year 2000 with great discrepancies among countries (14 thousand million dollars for France, 1.6 thousand million dollars for Turkey, 0.4 thousand million dollars for Egypt); the strong general trend however is on the increase (+16% per year between 1995 and 2000).

Urban mobility and transport services should also be considered in a framework of globalization, deregulation and opening of service markets to the private sector, in a socio-economic context which at times is uncertain.

In the South and East of the Mediterranean, the poor services offered by the public bus and coach companies for suburban or intercity travel and the degradation of these services as against the increasing needs for travel have led most countries and big cities to start opening up these markets to the private sector. According to case studies carried out in 2000 by the Blue Plan in 6 large urban areas, travel in public or private buses seemed on the way to becoming a minority mode in mass transport (rates varying between 20% at Casablanca and 1% in Beirut); at the same time minibuses and collective taxis (formal and informal) carried an increasing part of urban and suburban travel.

Social issues

The expansion, often unplanned, of urban areas, raises in an acute fashion an issue central to sustainable development, that of providing services and access to them. Concerning urban transport, they are an essential component of the quality of life in the city and accessibility to the city for the people living in the central areas and those in the periphery. This raises the question of the extent of services offered by mass transport which is generally concentrated in the centre, while the suburbs and outlying areas are served badly or not at all.

The question of more sustainable urban transport is linked with steps to control traffic in the outlying areas and periurban connections; at the same time by improving the situation in the parts where service is bad or non-existent, we can make transport a tool to combat exclusion from the city.

¹¹ INFRAS/IWW (2000). External costs of Transport: Accident, Environmental and Congestion Costs in Western Europe.

Activities concerning strategic objectives

Data

Concerning mobility, the lack of data on travel and the use of the various modes of transport in urban areas is a big obstacle. In certain cities of the South and East, the data available may be out-of-date, since surveys which are indispensable in order to obtain reliable data may go back 10 or even 20 years. Therefore, the Blue Plan will collect recent data where they exist and encourage new surveys, with the assistance of specialized institutes (INRETS, Certu) or bilateral cooperation. The central objective is to contribute to the production of shared information on the trends of mobility which would be used for diagnostic analyses, then for the formulation, implementation and follow-up of policies, in a continuous and permanent process.

Indicators

In order to grasp effectively the trends of mobility by means of indicators, the availability of data on travel will be a determining factor. A series of 8-10 indicators, most already used in the 2005 Blue Plan Report on environment and development in the Mediterranean will be documented at different times. Great attention should be paid to the question of the scale to be adopted for sprawling urban agglomerations. The main Blue Plan indicators are :

- Indicators on the evolution of travel: number of daily journeys, origin and destination of travel, distances travelled, modes of transport used etc.
- Indicators on urban densities, energy consumption in cities and urban transport
- Indicators on impacts :
 - Climate change: CO₂ emissions, part of urban and suburban transport
 - Congestion : financial cost of time wasted because of congestion as percentage of GDP
 - Public and private transport: respective performance of urban transport systems, formal and informal, in terms of areas serviced, quality of services, rate of occupation and pollution caused.

Studies

The Blue Plan will continue carrying out case studies on urban mobility for a better understanding of evolutions at local level; the approach will combine environmental concerns and the long term, at the scale of the extended city or even that of the urban region. These case studies will be based on the collection of recent data on travel in the urban areas which are expanding.

A comparative study on trends at work in all the urban areas studied, on the basis of case studies and the results of workshops in the cities, will be finalized in 2009 and published in the series Blue Plan Papers.

The Blue Plan will also prepare a typology of cities based on densities and transport.

Communication

In the urban areas studied, small workshops of short duration will be organized for technical staff and politicians, experts, elected officials and civil servants at local level in order to discuss the questions of inadequate control of urbanization and lack of coherence between urbanism and transport; also in order to exchange views on the ways to promote mass transport systems and all its components including low-technology. The results of these workshops will be discussed at a *regional forum* on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean to be organized in 2009. Its conclusions will be presented in 2010 in New York on the occasion of the Commission for Sustainable Development on this theme.

Moreover, a thematic dossier on urban mobility and climate change, which will enrich the 2009 Blue Plan report on environment and sustainable development, will also be prepared.

Finally, the studies on these themes will be the subject of short notes for the public at large, to be published in the series the *Blue Plan Notes* and disseminated to key ministries and stakeholders in the fields of Transport and Urban Development.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International and regional timetable	Outputs
2007	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- <i>Blue Plan Note</i> on the chapter "Urban areas" of RED. - Selection of follow-up indicators on urban mobility and climate change - Three case studies on urban mobility, workshops
2008	- Beginning of MCSD biennium on the themes of Urban areas and Transport - EU rotating presidency Slovenia / France	- First synthesis of case studies - Framework note of the MCSD - Three case studies on urban mobility, workshops
2009	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Euromed Transport Forum	- Regional forum on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean - Synthesis on urban mobility in the Mediterranean, typology of cities - <i>Thematic dossier</i> (urban mobility and climate change) in the Blue Plan biennial report
2010	Beginning of UNCSD biennium on the theme of Transport Euromed Transport Forum	- Blue Plan Paper on urban mobility in the Mediterranean including the conclusions of the 2009 regional Forum - <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2011	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- Launching of activity on fragmentation in cities and inequality of access to services - Case studies on inequality of access to services in fragmented urban areas
2012	Johannesburg+10	- Regional workshop on inequality of access to services - Synthesis on fragmentation of cities and inequality - <i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2013	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	- <i>Thematic dossier</i> (inequality of access to services) in Blue Plan biennial report
2014		<i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2015	- Review of Millennium Development Goals - Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to the evaluation of Millennium Development Goals <i>Blue Plan Paper</i>

Performance assessment

Indicators

Number of urban areas studied, interdisciplinary composition of local teams mobilized, number of workshops and participants, technical publications and publications for the public at large, respect of deadlines etc.

External evaluation

The external evaluation will be carried out in 2012.

3.3.9 Municipal waste management

The Blue Plan will study the management modalities of the waste collected and treated by local authorities (municipal waste).

Since the mid-seventies, municipal waste has become a major concern in the management of urban areas in the Mediterranean countries. The question concerns most particularly household waste which is collected and treated by the municipalities or by companies on their behalf.

The volume of such waste has practically trebled in 30 years and it will continue to grow, since the projections of the Blue Plan for the year 2025 give a production figure of 1036 kg/inhabitant/year in the Northern Mediterranean countries (approximately 566 kg/inhab/year in 2000), while for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries the figure is 587 kg/inhab/year (282 kg/inhab/year in 2000). This increase in tonnage has been accompanied in recent years by a modification in the composition of waste. Over a long period (1980-1998), the organic fraction has decreased everywhere. It has gone from 38 to 29% in France, from 43 to 32% in Italy, from 60 to 44% in Spain, from 62 to 47% in Greece, from 85 to 64% in Turkey.

In terms of management, there is a great prevalence of uncontrolled landfills, especially in the South and East, where the rates of collection may vary between 0% (in rural areas) and 90-100% in the big cities. In the North and particularly, in the member states of the EU, recycling and controlled landfills are increasing, but the gradual closing down of uncontrolled landfills (legal or not) remains a major challenge.

In the longer term, the challenge lies both in the reduction in volume of produced waste and its reuse and also in recycling. According to Blue Plan estimates, a determined action in this direction could mean at the level of all Mediterranean countries a reduction in the production of wastes of the order of 150 million tons and financial gains of approximately 3.5 thousand million dollars.

Thus, the Blue Plan will contribute to giving answers to the following questions: Is there a change of direction in terms of producing municipal waste? Are some Mediterranean countries beginning to decrease their production of municipal waste? What are the measures and policies adopted in the territories to promote recycling, reuse and reduction? How can one ensure their duplication in other Mediterranean territories ?

In addition to municipal waste, construction waste also appears as a serious challenge, both in terms of volume and in terms of infrastructures to put in place. The Blue Plan will carry out a preliminary study on estimates of production and possible channels of collection, treatment and use.

Municipal waste management and sustainable development

Environmental issues

Uncontrolled landfills can contribute to environmental contamination (soil, water, air, etc.). Run-off waters in particular frequently contain a load of toxic matter from household wastes (leachates) which then empty into the surface and underground hydrographic systems. Uncontrolled landfills also generate emissions of nitrogen and methane oxides from pockets of anaerobic fermentation. These pockets trapped underground can be dangerous if they come into contact with a flammable source.

The Blue Plan therefore considers essential to contribute to a better management of municipal waste, in terms of the environmental parameters of sustainable development.

Economic issues

At the economic level, closing down the uncontrolled landfills will require heavy investments that the World Bank currently assesses at several tens of thousands of millions of dollars at the regional scale. Mobilization will be all the more difficult since the bodies responsible for municipal waste in the Mediterranean are for the most part communities which have technical and financial rarely means commensurate with the needs. Turning over the task to private service providers who

will make the necessary investments is a solution which is resorted to more frequently as time goes by; this is obviously a new market with heavy financial outlays.

Social issues

In the poor neighbourhoods of the large cities of the South and East, there are informal systems for the collection and treatment of waste which generate jobs and income for the poorest members of society. If the "rationalization" of the sector of municipal waste continues, these informal activities will disappear and with them a large part of jobs also. For those responsible for the specific territorial entities, this is a non-negligible social challenge which the Blue Plan would like to study in greater detail.

Activities concerning the strategic objectives

The activity proposed consists in organizing exchanges of expertise among communities on the themes of reduction of waste at source and recycling of municipal waste. In the first phase small workshops at community level would be organized for local elected officials, technicians, university professors and NGOs. Then, a regional forum would offer the opportunity to present and share the experiences observed to draw the best practices to be disseminated widely. Prior to the exchange of expertise, the data available to the Blue Plan should be updated.

Data

The lack of data on the production, collection and treatment of municipal waste is a crucial question. For the Northern Mediterranean countries, the data are available, even if a lot of investigation and analysis work is necessary in order to obtain and compare them. For the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, the available data are rare, hardly comparable among countries, therefore not of great use. Thus, the collection of data and necessary information has to be organized by mobilizing the official public sources but also the grey literature and the private sources. This work goes a great deal beyond what is available in official statistics. It means especially the comparison of data from different sources and the verification of the quality of data by experts. It will be carried out on the basis of a compilation of data already available to the Blue Plan and to the National Statistics Institutes; also through a comparison of the methods and definitions used to arrive at the data with the definitions and methods used at international level.

Indicators

Among the priorities the Blue Plan will include the production of indicators, such as production of municipal waste per capita over relatively long periods, the proportion of each type of treatment in the countries, the costs of treatment and collection per ton and the proportion of controlled landfills versus the non-controlled.

Studies

Three studies will have to be launched as soon as possible in order to grasp better where the Mediterranean communities stand in terms of waste management: an exhaustive eco-status of the various channels of collection, treatment and use of municipal waste in a Mediterranean context, the control tools available to the communities when they cede the collection and treatment services to external service providers and the impact of local taxes on the production of municipal waste. At the same time, there will be a preliminary estimate of the volume of construction wastes and a survey of the methods of collection and treatment in force in the Mediterranean countries.

Communication

The proceedings of the regional forum scheduled for 2009 will be the subject of a volume in the series *Blue Plan Papers*.

Furthermore, interesting experiences and the main conclusions of studies will be published in the series the *Blue Plan Notes* and disseminated to the ministries and key stakeholders in the fields of Transport and Urban Development.

Timetable of outputs

Date	International and regional timetable	Outputs
2007	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Updating of data on waste RED
2008	EU rotating presidency Slovenia / France	Three case studies
2009	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Two case studies Organization of a regional forum Contribution to REESD
2010		<i>Blue Plan Note</i>
2011	Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Contribution to REESD <i>Blue Plan Paper</i> on "Channels of management of municipal waste in the Mediterranean"
2012	Johannesburg+10	

5. Performance assessment

Indicators

Number of indicators and countries covered, number of persons and institutions showing an interest in the report, number of investigations launched in the countries to fill the gaps in terms of data, respect of deadlines etc.

External evaluation

The external evaluation will be carried out in 2011.

4. Partnerships

4.1 UN Institutions

The Blue Plan, as a Regional Activity Centre of MAP, will firstly develop closer links with the institutions connected with the UNEP Programme.

In collaboration with the other Regional Activity Centres, and particularly MEDPOL, REMPEC and RAC/SPA which deals with protected areas, the Blue Plan will firstly consolidate the data collected and therefore available. Secondly, it will focus on the identification and selection of relevant indicators in terms of sustainable development. In this connection, the work carried out in 2006 on coastal indicators jointly with PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and MEDPOL will be a useful example to follow.

Concerning communication, it will be with INFO/RAC that the Blue Plan will forge closer links with the double aim to benefit from the former's competences and avoid overlaps.

However, closer links should also be developed with MAP's Coordinating Unit so that its position and role of interface can on the one hand give greatest visibility to the work of the Blue Plan and on the other promote new partnerships between the Blue Plan and the institutions that are active in the field of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Moreover, it is also with the other agencies and institutions of the UN family that the Blue Plan will have to build partnerships for the medium term.

With FAO, whose support of the Blue Plan initiated within the framework of the *Silva Mediterranea Committee* must take a more permanent form in order that the work scheduled on forest ecosystem management can be organized and supported.

With UNDP, which with two regional bureaux sharing the follow-up of the coastal Mediterranean states can facilitate the broadening of the scope of Blue Plan partners to include non-exclusively environmental stakeholders.

Finally, with the World Bank, which as a central player in the METAP programme will follow the economic studies carried out by the Blue Plan, particularly in terms of the use of goods and services derived from the ecosystems and of the costs linked with the degradation of the environment, in other words inaction in this area.

4.2 European institutions

The joint work programme agreed upon in the end of 2005 between the Commission of the EU and MAP sketches the general framework of the partnership being built up with the Blue Plan. It provides especially for the contribution of the Blue Plan to the reflection and work launched by the Commission on the main themes tackled by the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development and the setting up of a medium term collaboration, in order to present at regular intervals a report on the state of Mediterranean environment. It was launched in 2006 and will continue to develop beginning with 2007. Moreover, the Blue Plan will have to make better known to the various Directorates General of the Commission the nature and content of its thematic/systems analyses in order to promote their ownership by all the actors concerned.

With the European Environment Agency, the long-standing cooperation with the Blue Plan will have to continue, beginning in 2007, in a more structured framework based on an agreement currently being negotiated between MAP's Coordinating Unit and the Agency. For the Blue Plan this will mean joint or shared work with the Agency on collecting data and building and documenting indicators which will make possible primarily the follow up of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development and of prospective studies.

With the European Investment Bank, the Blue Plan will help focus the Bank's intervention and investment strategy, through prospective thematic studies, particularly in the fields of tourism, water, transport and energy.

4.3 Bilateral institutions

If, at the institutional level, there are old and profitable partnerships between the Blue Plan and the various Environment Ministries of the Coastal states, in which obviously most of the Blue Plan focal points work, it is also towards non exclusively environmental stakeholders that the Blue Plan must turn in order to widen its audience. On the one hand, because the latter, particularly Ministries of finance, transport, energy and agriculture have the heavy responsibility to take into consideration

sustainable development in developing public strategies and policies, and on the other because they mobilize and manage large budgetary and/or extra budgetary resources.

However, it is also to local authorities that the Blue Plan must turn. Territorial authorities are becoming the main stakeholders of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, like the French Region Provence Alpes Côtes d'Azur whose top official currently presides over the political bureau of the 47 regions represented in the intermediterranean commission of the conference of the European peripheral, maritime regions. It is important in this context to promote and implement the territorial form of the developments anticipated by the Blue Plan. It also seems relevant that such developments guide the cooperation among regions and their investment strategies. The Blue Plan, in addition to its renewed partnership with the three French Mediterranean regions and the local authorities of the town where its headquarters are, will define and disseminate its work in accordance with the needs expressed by the various territorial authorities.

Finally, the Blue Plan will have to pay particular attention to bilateral institutions in charge of cooperation and development especially in the member states of the European Union. Such institutions are the main stakeholders of Mediterranean development, since they are both consultants to governments or agencies in the countries where they intervene, and sponsors of development projects. Building a permanent partnership with the French Agency for Development and its various European partners is in this context a strategic option.

4.4 Non-institutional stakeholders

The preferential links that the Blue Plan since its inception has by tradition and need forged with civil society stakeholders will have to be promoted and strengthened.

Firstly, with the academic community. At the interface between researchers and politicians, the Blue Plan will reinforce its links with universities, research centres and laboratories and their networks, which are active and working in its field of competence. The Blue Plan will formalize in each one of its intervention sectors new medium-term partnerships with the academic community, like the partnerships it has realized with the Centre International des Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes, the Université d'Été de la Méditerranée, and the one being negotiated with the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences.

Then with private stakeholders. By adopting practices which respect the principles of the World Pact or resulting from an action of Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER), private stakeholders and especially businesses can modify the trend scenarios outlined by the Blue Plan and thus contribute in a determining and accelerated fashion to the sustainable development of the territories in which they operate. Similarly, in anticipation of the medium and long term developments outlined by the Blue Plan, business can bring about innovations and realize investments which will create jobs and bring in profits. It is therefore essential that the Blue Plan make its analyses and studies more widely known to such private stakeholders, while it integrates in its studies their strategies and specific constraints. This is a goal for the Blue Plan to achieve by forging links with the relevant thematic business networks or their expression such as the Mediterranean Energy Organization.

Finally with the organizations of civil society. Whether strictly environmental or with a broader scope of intervention, civil society organizations, both as actors of development and as initiators of public debate, are partners with whom the Blue Plan must reinforce its links. The variability and diversity of their competence, audience and means will lead the Blue Plan to turn first to the international non-governmental organizations with broad interests such as WWF, IUCN and the Mediterranean groups of associations.

Annex : summary table of outputs

Date	International timetable	Productions										
		MISESD	ISD	Water	Energy	Transport	Tourism	Ecosystems	Coastal areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Waste
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3rd regional workshop on GDE (March, Spain) ▪ MCSD meeting (May, Turkey) ▪ Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention ▪ Expert workshop on "Energy and sustainable development follow-up of MSSD" Blue Plan, 29 and 30 March 2007 ▪ 15th session of the UNCSO, New-York, 30 April-11 May 2007 ; theme "climate change, energy resources for sustainable development, atmospheric pollution and industrial development" ▪ Expert Committee meeting OME ER and sustainable development. Theme : "financing of RE and URE" Egypt, 14 and 15 May ▪ Spring 2007 – Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Energy Ministers ▪ UMET 6 – summer 2007 ▪ AIE Conference, Renewable energy Maghreb, summer 2007 ▪ World energy congress, Rome, 11-15 November 2007 ▪ 13th conference of Parties to the Convention on Climate change and 3rd meeting of members to the Kyoto Protocol, 3-14 December 2007 ▪ MCSD Biennium "Agriculture and RD" ▪ New EU policy on RD (FEADER) ▪ UN Forum on Forests ▪ FAO Forest Committee and Committee Silva Mediterranea ▪ EU rotating presidency Germany / Portugal 	Technical Studies	Report to the MCSD on the MSSD follow-up (priority ISDs, Retrospective and State 0)	<p>Blue Plan Note summarizing the report contents</p> <p>Follow-up Report of chapter "Water" of the 2006-2007 MSSD biennium (based on national reports and indicators, regional studies, case studies, conclusions and recommendations of the Zaragoza regional workshop).</p> <p>The water of the Mediterraneans: situation and perspectives, Volume by J. Margat</p>	<p>Blue Plan Note on "evolutions in the region in terms of ER and energy efficiency" (ER and URE)</p> <p>Publication UNEP/MAP MTS with all national and regional contributions of experts who worked on the follow-up of MSSD Energy.</p> <p>Follow-up Report of chapter on "energy" of the MSSD</p> <p>A report on recent energy developments in the Mediterranean and trend projections</p> <p>10 national studies on progress in terms of RE and URE at national level.</p> <p>Study on economic issues linked with trend scenario in the last Blue Plan report</p> <p>Study on taking account of RE and URE in the APD</p> <p>Thematic Study on "Climate change and energy in the Mediterranean"</p>	<p>Blue Plan Note on chapter "Transport" of RED</p> <p>Methodological Study on complex indicators</p>	<p>Blue Plan Note on chapter "Tourism" of RED</p> <p>Questionnaire preparatory to 2008 workshop</p>	Two case studies in countries	Blue Plan Note on chapter "Coastal areas" of RED	Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Note on chapter "Rural areas" of RED Definition of additional indicators Launching of regional analyses, national expertise and case studies	Blue Plan Note on chapter "Urban areas" of RED Selection of follow-up indicators on urban mobility and climate change Three case studies on urban mobility, workshops	Updating of waste data RED
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting of water directors (June) ▪ Euro-Mediterranean water Ministers (1st semester) ▪ EU Rotating Presidency Slovenia/France ▪ International Fair Zaragoza ▪ Launching of MCSD biennium on themes of Transport and Urban Areas ▪ CSD Biennium "Agriculture and RD" ▪ UN Forum on Forests 	Development, availability to Blue Plan (test phase)	Study : « How are the Mediterranean states doing in terms of sustainable development ? »	<p>Blue Plan Paper to use the results of the activities on "water" 2006-2007 and particularly the results of the Zaragoza regional workshop (2007) (exhibit in a stand etc.)</p> <p>Blue Plan Note</p>	<p>Blue Plan Paper on making use of activities on energy 2006-2007</p> <p>Blue Plan Note</p> <p>Thematic Study "Impact of supply diversification and energy stocks on national economies and the state of the Mediterranean environment"</p> <p>Publication on indicators Energy and Sustainable Development / priority theme N°1</p>	<p>Blue Plan Note</p> <p>Study on decoupling in the transport sector</p> <p>Documentation of complex indicators</p>	Review of 1998-2008 progress toward SD Regional workshop (exchanges of expertise, good practices, case studies)	<p>Blue Plan Note</p> <p>Three case studies in countries</p> <p>Study on economic use of forested areas</p>	<p>Study on coastal zone typology</p> <p>Study on "climate change and coastal areas"</p> <p>Testing of Coastal Sustainable Development Indicators</p> <p>Putting together a site inventory</p> <p>Seminar for exchanges on the input of the Imagine method to CAMPs</p>	Preparation of interim report on MCSD biennial report (Mediterra 2009) Regional workshop (presentation and discussion on interim report)	First synthesis of case studies Framework note on MCSD Three case studies on urban mobility, workshops	Three case studies

Date	International timetable	Productions										
		MISESD	ISD	Water	Energy	Transport	Tourism	Ecosystems	Coastal areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Waste
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th Global Water Forum (Turkey) End Kyoto negotiations post 2012 Regional Blue Plan Workshop (energy) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum UN Forum on Forests FAO. Committee on forests and Committee Silva Mediterranea World Forest Congress (Argentina) EU rotating presidency Czech Republic / Sweden 	Web interface on line (intranet and internet) REESD	Contribution to REESD Report to the MCSD on the MSSD follow-up (priority ISDs)	Contribution to REESD (water indicators and more generally "water availability") Contribution on water demand management in the Mediterranean (based especially on the 2007 regional workshop results)	Contribution to Chapter "Energy" of a new Blue Plan REESD with new scenarios Blue Plan Note Thematic study: Sustainability analysis of the energy sector	Blue Plan Paper on Mediterranean transport Synthesis Report on activities of the biennium	Blue Plan Paper Blue Plan Note on nautical tourism pleasure craft and cruising	Blue Plan Paper on Mediterranean forest ecosystems Case Studies in countries Expertise on indicators and proposal for common set Study on absorption capacity of Mediterranean forest ecosystems	Blue Plan Note on "Climate change and coastal areas" Site inventory (follow-up of old sites and addition of new)	Blue Plan Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Note Publication and regional seminar to present Mediterra 2009 Report (jointly with CIHEAM)	Thematic dossier (urban mobility and climate change) in Blue Plan REESD Synthesis on urban mobility in the Mediterranean, city typology Regional Forum on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.	Contribution to REESD Two case studies Regional Forum
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Millennium Development Goals at the two-thirds point Half-way point of water decade World energy congress Launching of UNCSD biennium on the theme of Transport Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum MSSD+10 (point 2.7) EU ICZM strategy Opening of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade Zone UN Forest Forum EU rotating presidency Spain / Belgium 	Blue Plan Paper « how are the Mediterranean states doing in terms of the Millennium Development Goals? »	Blue Plan Paper « How are the Mediterranean states doing, 5 years after the adoption of MSSD? » Report to the MCSD on the MSSD follow-up (detailed status)	Blue Plan Note General follow-up Report on water indicators as a contribution to review of Millennium Development Goals	Blue Plan Note Thematic Study Annual updating of follow-up indicators on the sustainability of the energy system	Blue Plan Note Impact Study of transport infrastructures on coastal areas	Documentation of priority/additional indicators and contribution to REESD Study on domestic demand	Blue Plan Note Three case studies in countries Design of exchange platform	Study on economic value of coastal ecosystems Participation in EEA report on European coastal areas Workshop /training seminar on coastal prospective	Follow-up Report on indicators of sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean in correlation with MDGs	Blue Plan Paper on urban mobility in the Mediterranean and including the conclusions of the 2009 regional Forum Blue Plan Note	Blue Plan Note
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Blue Plan regional workshop (energy) Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum UN Forest Forum FAO. Committee on forests and Committee Silva Mediterranea International year of forests EU rotating presidency Hungary / Poland 	REESD	Contribution to REESD Report to the MCSD on the MSSD follow-up (priority ISDs)	Contribution to REESD (water indicators)	Blue Plan Note Thematic Studies on the "Importance of energy flows (production, transformation, distribution and exchanges) for the environment, health and economy" Annual updating of follow-up indicators on the sustainability of the energy system	Blue Plan Note Impact Study of transport related hazards on health	Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Papers on typology of tourist pressures in the Mediterranean Regional workshop	Synthesis report on activities carried out concerning forest ecosystems Documentation of indicators	Blue Plan Note on "Coastal areas, growth and jobs" Atlas Environment / Development of Mediterranean coastal areas Site inventory (follow-up of old sites and addition of new)	Blue Plan Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Note	Launching of activities on fragmentation of cities and inequalities in access to services Case studies on access inequalities to services in fragmented urban areas	Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Paper on "Channels of municipal waste management in the Mediterranean"
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th regional workshop on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean World Summit on sustainable development (Johannesburg + 10) End of first period of Kyoto commitments (2008-2012) UN Forest Forum EU rotating presidency Denmark / Cyprus 		Blue Plan Paper « How are the Mediterranean States doing 10 years after Johannesburg ? »	Blue Plan Note , based on synthesis report for the use of the results of work in the countries Synthesis report based on national reports and indicator regional studies, case studies, conclusions and recommendations of regional workshop Preparation of Blue Plan contribution based on the	New alternative scenario contained in the chapter "Energy" of the Blue Plan 2013 REESD Blue Plan Note Annual updating of follow-up indicators on the sustainability of the energy system		Study on redistribution of profits from tourism	Blue Plan Paper on forest ecosystems and hazards they face Launching of exchange platform	Blue Plan Paper on analysis of progress of coastal areas toward sustainable development (in correlation with the Conventions on Climate and Biodiversity) Workshop /training seminar on coastal prospective	Blue Plan Paper presenting a synthesis of work carried out on indicators, national reports, regional analyses and case studies	Blue Plan Note Synthesis on fragmentation of cities and inequalities Regional workshop on access inequalities to services	

Date	International timetable	Productions										
		MISESD	ISD	Water	Energy	Transport	Tourism	Ecosystems	Coastal areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Waste
				follow-up of MSSD indicators, national analyses (efficiency plans?), studies carried out at regional scale on the big environmental challenges (climate change, energy, biodiversity etc.)								
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Blue Plan regional workshop (energy) Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum UN Forest Forum FAO. Committee on Forests and Committee Silva Mediterranea EU rotating presidency Ireland / Lithuania 	REESD	Contribution to REESD Report to the MCSD on the MSSD follow-up (priority ISDs)	Contribution to REESD (water indicators) Blue Plan Paper to use results of 4th regional workshop	Blue Plan Note Thematic Study on the them "Beyond petroleum and its consequences for energy industry, state of the environment and final consumption of energy" Annual updating of follow-up indicators on the sustainability of the energy system	Blue Plan Paper on Mediterranean transports	Blue Plan Note on tourist innovation Presentation of Blue Plan study on the sustainability of tourist products Regional workshop	Blue Plan Note Regional thematic study	Blue Plan Note on "Coastal areas and technology-related risks" Site inventory (follow-up of old sites and addition of new)	Blue Plan Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Note	Thematic dossier (access inequalities to services) in Blue Plan REESD	
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Forest Forum EU rotating presidency Greece / Italy 			Blue Plan Note	Blue Plan Note Annual updating of follow-up indicators on the sustainability of the energy system		Study on the sustainability of tourist demand	Blue Plan Paper	Blue Plan Note on "Coastal areas and land use" Workshop /training seminar on coastal prospective		Blue Plan Note	
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of "Water decade" Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Review of Millennium Development Goals MSSD (2.7) solid waste and sanitation; fisheries and aquaculture UNCSD (marine resources) UN Forest Forum FAO. Committee on forests and Committee Silva Mediterranea EU rotating presidency Latvia / Luxemburg 	REESD Blue Plan Paper « How are the Mediterranean states doing in terms of the Millennium Development Goals? »	Blue Plan Paper « How are the Mediterranean states doing 10 years after the MSSD adoption? » Report to the MCSD on the MSSD follow-up (detailed status)	Contribution to REESD (water indicators) General follow-up report on water indicators (including MSSD) as a contribution to MDG review	Blue Plan Note Annual updating of follow-up indicators on the sustainability of the energy system		Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Paper on the sustainability of tourism in the Mediterranean	Regional thematic study	Blue Plan Note on "Coastal areas and natural marine and coastal resources" Updating of Atlas Environment/development of Mediterranean coastal areas Site inventory (follow-up of old sites and addition of new)	Blue Plan Contribution to REESD Blue Plan Note Contribution to MDG evaluation	Blue Plan Paper Contribution to MDG evaluation	