

SWITCH Med Programme

“Switching towards more sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns in the Mediterranean”

EU/6030-12-21

Regional Policy Component

Activity 1.1: Development of SCP/Green Economy measures and objectives in the context of the Barcelona Convention with the support of a Mediterranean SCP Independent Expert Group (MSEG)

and

Activity 1.3: Development of an SCP Road Map for the Mediterranean

Terms of Reference for a Mediterranean SCP Independent Expert Group (MSEG) to support the integration of SCP/Green Economy in the context of the Barcelona Convention

A. BACKGROUND

The Mediterranean Region has common environmental problems and challenges which have led to the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan in 1975 and the Barcelona Convention in 1976. This Convention provides a unique regional governance framework bringing together all the Mediterranean neighboring countries to address the root causes of the region’s problems and its future prospects of development and protect the marine and coastal environment.

While some progress has been achieved, the existence of regional environmental institutions, agreements and strategies has not eliminated the environmental challenges faced by the Mediterranean. On the contrary, the current pace of economic development of the 21 countries of the Barcelona Convention coupled with mainly wasteful production processes and the adoption of “consumption intensive” lifestyles is increasing the pressure on the local and regional environment. This pressure, which is characterized, inter-alia, by water scarcity, growing waste generation and intense tourism, is compounded by population growth and rapid urbanization in coastal areas.

In order to address these challenges, it is paramount to deliver a resource efficient and green economy through sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, thus decoupling development from environmental degradation and resource depletion. This approach has been clearly supported by the last UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 in which the Green Economy in the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development was one of the key themes.

A future Green Economy will clearly have to be founded on SCP patterns, which implies a radical transformation in the way goods and services are produced and consumed so that human development is effectively decoupled from environmental degradation and resource depletion. A first formal acknowledgment by the 21 Mediterranean neighboring countries on the need to shift to SCP patterns is clearly reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), a regional strategy coordinated by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and approved by the Contracting Parties of

the Barcelona Convention in 2005, which established sustainable consumption and production as major crosscutting objective to attain sustainable development.

Indeed, during the last years SCP and green economy have progressively gained importance in the regional policy agenda for sustainable development until becoming top priorities. Several regional formal and informal multi-stakeholder forums such as the Mediterranean Roundtable on SCP (2008), the XVI Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (2009), the 4th ECOMEDA Green Forum (2010) and the XIV Meeting of the MCSD (2011) have raised the need to switch to SCP and construct green economies. Those regional consultations joining public sector representatives, businesses, financial institutions and civil society organizations from all the region, urged to increase the political commitment for the implementation of SCP in the Mediterranean and to integrate SCP and green economy at the core of national development policies due to their great potential to decouple socio-economic development from environmental degradation and the generation of future employment.

Likewise, considerable progress has been made by UNEP/MAP by identifying SCP as one of its key thematic priorities in the current 5-year Work Programme 2010-2014. Accordingly, one of the MAP components, the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), has a specific mandate and a programme of actions assigned and endorsed by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention to promote SCP in the Mediterranean region.

Finally, the formal adoption of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (the "10YFP") at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, provides an important global context and support for these regional initiatives to shift to SCP patterns. Governments in Rio, and ten years earlier in Johannesburg at the WSSD, have recognized that achieving SCP patterns is an overarching objective of, and a prerequisite for, sustainable development. Actions taken to shift to SCP at regional and national levels in the Mediterranean will be scaled up by the 10YFP, benefitting from best practices and support from outside the region, while also disseminating Mediterranean best practices on SCP beyond the region.

B. SWITCH Med overview

The SWITCH Med is envisaged as a multi-component programme, involving actors presently playing a key role in the area of SCP in the Mediterranean region.

SWITCH Med is organized around 3 Components, which are the following:

- **Policy component** to mainstream SCP into key areas for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region (such as food, tourism, sustainable coastal management, manufacturing, mobility, housing and priority pollutants such as BOD and Persistent Organic Pollutants), together with the enhancement of inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial cooperation to shift to SCP patterns. The Policy component includes:
 - a **regional policy component** aiming at integrating SCP in the Regional Mediterranean policy and governance framework
 - a **national policy component** aiming a supporting countries to develop and implement SCP National Action Plans (SCP NAPs)
- **Demonstration activities** to scale up the MED TEST methodology, to promote green entrepreneurship and to empower civil society as key SCP drivers and to implement specific priorities identified by the SCP NAPs

- **Networking facility** to allow for exchange, lesson learning and further replication/scaling up of SCP activities and develop strong linkages and synergies between the policy component and demonstration activities.

The Regional Policy Component and the Networking Facility of the programme are addressed to all the members' countries of the Barcelona Convention¹ as well as Jordan while the national policy component and demo activities target the 10 ENPI South countries and territories, namely Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Occupied Territories (POT), Lebanon and Syria².

Within this framework, the MSEG will support the implementation of the Regional policy component.

The main outputs of the Regional policy component include the submission to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention of:

- A **SCP Road Map** for the Mediterranean,
- A **set of proposals** for the integration of SCP in the Regional Mediterranean policy & governance framework,
- A **SCP Mediterranean methodology and toolkit** adapted to the specific socio-, economic and cultural characteristics of the Mediterranean region.

C. MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this assignment is to set up and operationalise a **Mediterranean SCP Independent Expert Group (MSEG)** to support UNEP/MAP to effectively integrate SCP/Green Economy measures and objectives into the policy and governance framework and process of Barcelona Convention and UNEP/MAP programme of work.

The MSEG will be constituted by **6 thematic SCP experts**, designated and approved by the coordination group of the SWITCH Med policy component. The final decisions will be communicated to the SWITCH Med steering committee.

The high-level experts will work on a diverse range of measures, including, among others, policy, fiscal and economic instruments as required, to promote a Mediterranean circular economy through the:

- Integration of resource efficiency in the production of goods and services;
- Adoption of a life cycle approach to reducing negative environmental and social impacts of goods and services;
- Integration of economic, social and environmental objectives in the core business and management practices of companies and organizations;
- Enhancing market access and market shares of sustainable goods/services in the region (sustainable public procurement, eco-labelling);
- Introduction of fiscal and economic instruments to promote a shift to SCP patterns (green financing, environmental accounts, etc)

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

² EU co-operation with Syrian governmental authorities has been suspended. Depending on the developments, the EU will assess the opportunity to involve Syria in the implementation of actions.

- Encouragement of citizens to switch to sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles;
- Empowerment of local actors, media and civil society organizations as key SCP drivers.

At the same time, the MSEG will have to address the following issues according to the priorities emanating from the Barcelona Convention-MAP Programme of Work:

- SCP integration in UNEP/MAP's Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) in the Mediterranean and in Coastal Areas Management (relevant to ICZM Protocol and MSSD and MCSD).
- SCP measures to help phase out and eliminate POPs, toxic chemicals and mercury from main activity sectors covered by the LBS Protocol (relevant to Regional Plans on POPs and mercury, LBS Protocol and MSSD and MCSD)
- SCP promoted in the food supply chain, focusing on production and processing (relevant to Regional Plans on POPs and BOD from the food sector and the MSSD/MCSD)
- SCP objectives and tools integrated in the regional Plan on Marine Litter (relevant to Regional Framework Strategy for Marine Litter and the LBS Protocol)
- Embedding SCP in the thematic priorities of the UNEP/MAP Work Programme, MSSD and MCSD's structure

Special attention will be paid to ensuring interconnectedness with the implementation of activities within the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) project of UNEP/MAP and the corresponding Road Map. In that respect, the MSEG will ensure that outputs are responsive to the evolving priorities of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and that duplication of resources is avoided.

D. TASKS

In order to fulfill the previously mentioned objectives, the MSEG will develop the following tasks:

1. Prepare a baseline report on a more effective and systematic integration of SCP into the Barcelona Convention framework (to be realized in the 1st half of 2013)

This report will be essential for the preparation of the Road Map and the recommendations (Tasks 2 and 3). ToR for this specific report will be prepared.

2. Design of an SCP Road Map for the Mediterranean (Activity 1.3 of the SWITCH Med policy project document – Road Map will have to be submitted to the COP at the end of 2013)

The SCP Road Map will contain strategic goals with clear milestones and implementation time table. It will be developed for consideration by the Contracting Parties with the objective of progressively adapting the Barcelona Convention Governance Framework according to its institutional mandate to integrate SCP in the Mediterranean region. The baseline report will form the basis for the establishment of the Road Map.

3. Provide concrete recommendations for the development and integration of SCP/Green Economy measures and objectives in the context of the Barcelona Convention (Activity 1.1 of the SWITCH Med policy project – Recommendations will be submitted at the COP 2013 and 2015))

More specifically, the main tasks of the MSEG will consist of providing concrete recommendations and proposals to be submitted to the COPs of the Barcelona Convention of 2013 and 2015 addressing:

- The review of the **existing framework of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and corresponding Protocols**, as well as legally binding measures (e.g. Regional Plans on Mercury, Food and new POPs agreed under the LBS Protocol).
 - Support to the draft a Regional Plan on Marine Litter integrating the SCP approach and build on the Strategic Framework for Marine Litter (approved during the 17th meeting of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2012)
 - The **incorporation of SCP and Green Economy objectives and measures into the framework of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and corresponding Protocols**, as well as legally binding measures (e.g. Regional Plans on Mercury, Food and new POPs agreed under the LBS Protocol).
 - Identification of SCP measures which can contribute to the **development of the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP)** by MAP, in particular through the identification of policy measures and indicators that foster the implementation of the ECAP in the Mediterranean.
 - The review of the **UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention work plan and methods** of work according to SCP and Green Economy objectives and in particular those of the **Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD)** in order to enhance the corresponding regional multi-stakeholder coordination.
 - The inclusion of specific SCP measures and objectives in the **Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work 2015-2019** and the corresponding work programmes of UNEP/MAP components as required.
 - The integration of SCP and Green Economy objectives and measures into the **thematic priorities of the MSSD (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development)**, which currently include, water, energy, mobility, tourism, management of coastal zones, urban development and agricultural and rural development. This includes the identification of SCP indicators for the MSSD in the Mediterranean. Discussions on the mentioned indicators will build on existing attempts to identify indicators on SCP and Sustainable Development developed by UNEP-MAP, CP/RAC, Blue Plan and UNEP-DTIE.
- 4. Provide support to develop a regional report** aggregating the results of SCP national implementation and highlighting sub-regional and regional recommendations to be fed into the governance framework of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention. The report will be presented to the MSCDD, the MAP Focal Points and then subsequently COP meetings of 2015. The report will be published by mid-2015.
- 5. Provide support to develop a Mediterranean specific SCP methodology and toolkit**, adapted to the specific social, economic, environmental and cultural characteristics of the Mediterranean region and the experience already gathered on SCP in this region. These tools will be built on the experience of SWITCH Asia toolkit and UNEP methodology “Planning for Change”. The methodology will be integrated into the policy framework of

the Barcelona Convention and MAP PoW. The methodology is expected to be finalized during the 1st half of 2013 and the toolkit by mid-2014

E. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- A baseline report on the optimal integration of SCP into the Barcelona Convention framework
- An SCP Road Map containing strategic goals with clear milestones and implementation time table.
- Proposals for the incorporation of SCP and GE objectives and measures into the implementation framework of the Barcelona Convention and corresponding Protocols, as well as legally binding measures. These could take the form of elements of draft decisions to be submitted to the approval of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
- Proposals for the inclusion of specific SCP measures and objectives in the Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work 2015-2019 and the corresponding work programmes of UNEP/MAP components as required.
- Proposals for the integration of SCP and Green Economy objectives and measures into the thematic priorities of the MSSD, including SCP indicators.
- Proposals for the regional report and the Mediterranean specific SCP methodology and toolkit.
- Targeted strategic or thematic expertise and advice as required.

F. METHODOLOGY/PROCESS

The Med SCP expert group will be working to support the existing governance framework of UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention seeking synergies with the existing national policy development processes therein. Particular attention will be paid to building on- and making optimal use of- the existing UNEP/MAP governance framework which includes CP/RAC, as a Regional Activity Center with a specific mandate on SCP given by the countries signatories to the Barcelona Convention, and its thematic focal points designated by their governments. Likewise the other MAP components, Regional Activity Centers and MEDPOL will be associated with the MSEG, as required to assure their participation and expertise in the policy development process.

It will also be ensured that the Med SCP expert group (MSEG) draft proposals are developed on the basis of the SCP priorities identified by previous formal regional consultations (e.g. RAC thematic focal point meetings, especially CP-RAC focal point meeting, MAP focal point meeting, in preparation of the COP to the Barcelona Convention) and the ongoing activities which are part of the implementation of the Protocols and the current the MAP PoW 2012-2013, such as the MEDPOL coordinated Regional Plans (BOD in the food sector, and the reduction of 9 POPs), the ECAP, etc.

Likewise, the information and material gathered from the national SCP multi-stakeholders dialogues and capacity building activities therein will also contribute to the outputs of the MSEG (See Activity 2.2).

As mentioned above, SWITCH Med will contribute to support the design of the next UNEP/MAP- Barcelona Convention Programme of Work including the redefinition of the role of the future MCSD, with potential broadening of participants to key sector ministries, other

than environment and other key stakeholders for sustainable development. Accordingly the MSEG will be instrumental in the preparation of the MCSD meeting to be held in 2013. In line with that, SWITCH Med will help ensure that the next MCSD Meeting brings the formal members of the MCSD together with representatives of other ministries and other relevant actors and stakeholders to whom the recommendations from the MSEG will be submitted for review.

In order to ensure the needed integration of the MSEG progress within the preparatory development of the governance process for the COP 2013 and 2015, the draft proposals of the MSEG will be presented to the corresponding UNEP/MAP and RACs National Focal points (NFP), as appropriate. The outputs of the MSEG will contribute to the ongoing policy reform process within UNEP/MAP and encourage synergies with existing activities and initiatives in order to avoid duplication and encourage optimal and efficient use of resources.

G. MODALITIES

The duration of the assignment will be for an average number of 150 days for three years. Kick-off meeting of the MSEG is foreseen for the January 2013. The workload is expected to be higher during the first year of the project.

The project foresees at least 4 MSEG's meetings. Some of them will be held CP/RAC's premises; others will be organized back to back with meetings scheduled within UNEP/MAP programme and related processes (Horizon 2020, Union for the Mediterranean...).

The MSEG will also be making best use of internet communication tools such as video conferences and email and/or Skype to ensure the necessary smooth coordination among its members.

H. PROFILE OF THE EXPERT GROUP AND SELECTION CRITERIA

As previously mentioned, the ToR envisages a team of 6 senior experts and more specifically:

- 2 experts to cover the transverse aspect of SCP (e.g. resource efficiency, eco-innovation, Life Cycle Management, sustainable procurement, green economy, sustainable consumption, sustainable lifestyles...)
- 4 experts to address the priorities of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and the need for mainstreaming SCP in the priority fields of action mentioned in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD):
 - Sustainable use of resources (in particular water and energy)
 - Sustainable food supply chain;
 - Prevention and phasing out of chemicals;
 - Sustainable mobility and urban development ;
 - Sustainable agriculture
 - Sustainable tourism
 - Sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources
- 1 expert to support the legal changes that will suppose the introduction SCP measures and objectives in context of the Barcelona Convention.

The general criteria considered for the selection of the 6 senior experts will be the following:

- **Academic background:** Master's Degree or equivalent,
- Proficiency in **English**; Arabic and/or French would be an asset,
- Knowledge on the SCP approach and related concepts (circular economy, life cycle thinking, links between consumption patterns and environmental degradation etc)
- At least **10 years of professional experience:**
 - **In SCP and Green economy** or,
 - In one or several of the **priority fields of action for the Mediterranean** region or ,
 - With **institutional reform**, legislation drafting, strategy formulation work in sector-specific fields, regional or local development policy,
- Knowledge on the **specific socio-, politic-, economic- and cultural characteristics of the Mediterranean region**,
- Knowledge of **UNEP/MAP Convention Policy and Governance framework** would be an asset,
- Excellent capacities for **teamwork, negotiation and creative solution finding**,
- Capacity to work within tight deadlines and output calendar,
- Excellent capacities for **leading innovative changes** within organisations (Mover and shaker),

In forming the MSEG, CP/RAC will ensure that all fields and key areas are adequately covered and, to the maximum possible extent, will endeavour that the group is balanced in terms of gender and North-South expertise.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (by e-mail) to the address below by the 31th of December 2012:

Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

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