a New Partnership for the Mediterranean

Reducing pollution impacts on environment and human health
Reaching sustainable fisheries
Protecting coastal-marine biodiversity and communities

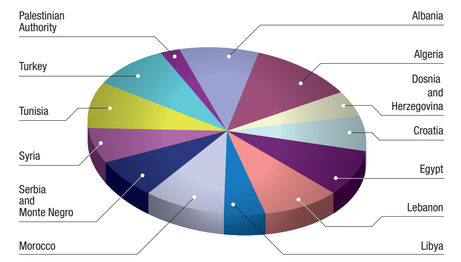
For the first time the countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea, with the support of major international organizations and regional and international NGOs, will have the opportunity to join forces and catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting this unique large marine ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.

Major transboundary environmental concerns in the Mediterranean:

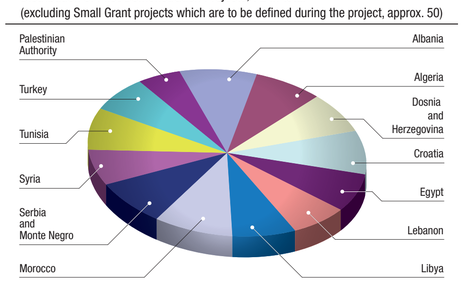
- Decline of biodiversity;
- Decline in fisheries;
- Decline in seawater quality;
  - Human health risks;
  - Loss of groundwater dependent coastal ecosystems;
  - Numerous coastal pollution hot spots.

Project financing will be accessible to the following GEF eligible countries:
Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Palestinian Authority also participates in the project.

Distribution of Activities to be undertaken in Participating Countries, 41 different activities, many of them in all countries



Distribution of Pilot/Demonstration Projects, 72 in total (excluding Small Grant projects which are to be defined during the project, approx. 50)



The two main regional policy frameworks to face this environmental challenge

The countries of the Mediterranean, with the support of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP/MAP), and of the GEF, have adopted two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) aimed at **reducing land-based sources of marine pollution** (SAP-MED) and **protecting biodiversity and living resources and their habitats** (SAP-BIO). The two SAPs identify the major problems, indicate possible remedial measures and their cost and set concrete targets and deadlines for their implementation.

A new Partnership for action in the Mediterranean Basin

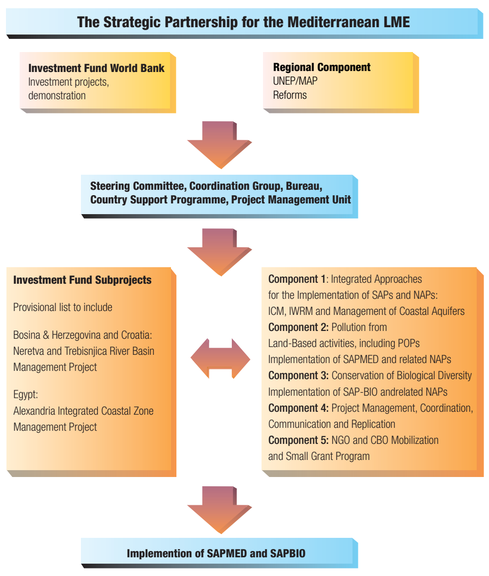
In order to accelerate the implementation of the SAPs, the **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** is being launched by GEF, UNEP and the World Bank - as a collective effort open to all the countries of the Basin and to all international and bilateral cooperation agencies.

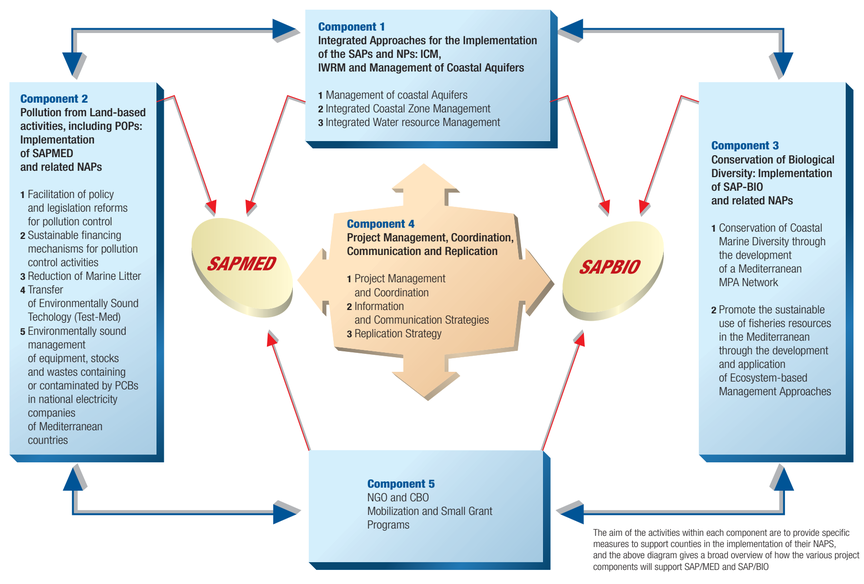
The Strategic Partnership will provide financial resources and technical knowledge readily available to countries that embrace the goal of improving the environmental conditions of the Mediterranean Sea through a combination of capital investments, economic instruments, policy and regulatory frameworks and public participation. It will also develop a strategic regional approach to investments for greater benefit to the basin countries. In addition, a framework will be designed to replicate and transfer investment experiencesthroughout the region.

The Partnership would achieve its objectives through the implementation of two components:

1. Regional Component: Implementation of supporting actions in the countries for the Protection of the Environmental Resources of the Mediterranean and its Coastal Areas - UNEP and partners

2. Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership – World Bank





The aim of the activities within each component are to provide specific measures to support counties in the implementation of their NAPS, and the above diagram gives a broad overview of how the various project components will support SAP/MED and SAP/BIO

MEDITERRANEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The partners of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Partnership are:

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