

**Activities** The MedPartnership works through two lines of actions: technical and policy support led by UNEP/MAP (**Regional Project**) and project financing led by the World Bank (**Investment Fund Project**).

#### **Investment Fund**

The Investment Fund, led by the World Bank and co-financed by the GEF aims to accelerate the transboundary pollution reduction, improve water resources management, and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots (locations with high pollution or degradation levels) around the Mediterranean Sea.

#### **Regional Project**

The Regional Project is composed of four components, which are the following: Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer: coordination of activities, joint outputs. Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED. Component 3: Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs. Component 4: Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E.

# The MedPartnership

## Together for the mediterranean

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Think before you print

### Investment Fund

The **Investment Fund (IF)**, led by the World Bank and co-financed by the GEF was established in 2007 to accelerate the transboundary pollution reduction, improve water resources management, and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots (locations with high pollution or degradation levels) around the Mediterranean Sea. The Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership received US\$ 22 million from the GEF as first tranche finance three projects:

Croatia/Bosnia & Herzegovina: Neretva and Trebisnjica Management Project,

Croatia: Coastal Cities Pollution Control Project, and

Egypt: Alexandria Coastal Zone Management Project.

In 2009, the Investment Fund evolved into a larger-scale program, the Environmental Mediterranean Sustainable Development Program "**Sustainable MED**" that aims at including environmental management into the economic development agenda of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Sustainable MED will help attract additional investments to address priority hot spots in the Mediterranean, as well as facilitate future interventions in other areas, such as solid and hazardous waste management, land degradation, biodiversity or climate change.

Sustainable MED projects, namely: Tunisia Northern Tunis Wastewater Project, Egypt Enhanced Water Resources Management, Syria Coastal Rivers and Orontes River Basins Water Resources Management Project, Regional Coordination on Improved Water Resources Management and Capacity Building in Cooperation with NASA, Sustainable MED Governance and Knowledge Generation, Regional Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for the Promotion of Treated Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean, Morocco Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Western Mediterranean Marine Highway Development and Coastal Marine Contamination, and Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (led by UNEP-MAP) address primarily:

- Natural resources management: (i) integrated coastal zone management; (ii) protection of marine resources; (iii) vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity; (iv) water resource management.
- Pollution prevention and abatement: (i) water treatment; (ii) solid and hazardous waste management; (iii) industrial pollution abatement; (iv) sea transportation, (v) maritime safety.
- Climate variability: (i) resilience to reduced surface and groundwater reserves (WRM); (ii) increased occurrence of droughts; (iii) increased occurrence of floods (weather-related disaster management); (iv) carbon finance.

The GEF grant funding received by Sustainable MED is expected to co-finance larger investments estimated at around US\$ 737 million provided by beneficiary countries, through World Bank loans, from bilateral and regional banks, technical assistance grants and other sources.

### Projects Showcase

#### Coastal Cities Pollution Control 2 Project, Croatia

Financing - US\$87.5 million, including GEF funding of US\$6.4 million.

The protection of Croatia's 1,780 km-long Adriatic Sea coastline and 1,185 islands is a priority for both ecological and economic reasons. The Coastal Cities Pollution Control 2 Project (Phase 2 of a broader Croatia Coastal Cities Pollution Control Program) aims to improve coastal wastewater treatment, discharge infrastructure, and sewage expansion to address the problem of water pollution given its negative effect on ecology, public health, tourism, fishing industries and aquaculture. The project focuses on improving the efficiency and sustainability of wastewater services in coastal cities where less than half of the population has adequate wastewater collection systems and only a small percent of wastewater is treated.

**PROJECT RESULTS:** The project started on June 2009 and by February 2011, most of its funds have been committed through sub-loan agreements with local municipalities and utility companies. It is expected that 17 wastewater treatment plants will be constructed, more than 100 km of sewage collectors and over 50 pumping stations built to reduce nutrient discharge in to the coastal waters. Around 300,000 people will benefit from these activities, including both local population and tourists.

#### **Regional (Croatia/Bosnia & Herzegovina) - Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin Management Project**

Financing total – US\$21,580,000, of which GEF: US\$8,430,000.

The Neretva and Trebisnjica rivers are critical for transport, recreation, fisheries, and fishing. They are also used for drinking water, irrigation, and energy production. The entire valley and delta of the lower Neretva River from Mostar (in BiH) to the river's mouth (in Croatia) contain the largest and most valuable remnants of the natural Mediterranean wetlands in the Eastern Adriatic coast. This innovative project is designed to promote close cooperation between two countries on issues of water resources management and strengthening transboundary cooperation.

Water infrastructure improvements are planned to be financed in both countries, including improved wetlands management, a pilot scheme to address high levels of saline water intrusion in Neretva Delta in Croatia, and improvement of protected nature sites.

**PROJECT RESULTS:** The Nature Park Hutovo Blato (Ramsar site), the Vejtrenica cave, four Protected Areas in the Croatian delta, and the Bacinska lake in the delta, all receive support for physical improvement, tourist access and protective measures, and /or by conducting biomonitoring and preparing management plans. The wastewater treatment plants were built of Trebinje. The study on the management of salinization in the delta is nearly finished and low-water irrigation systems for fruit orchards in the delta will be demonstrated through a pilot project.

## Regional Project

The **Regional Project** is composed of four components, which are the following:

### **Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer: coordination of activities, joint outputs.**

The activities implemented within this component aim at promoting integrated approaches throughout the Mediterranean for the reduction of pollution and the preservation of biodiversity. This will be achieved through appropriate management of the coastal and marine environments, including aquifers. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) are the overarching policy frameworks for all activities within this component. The activities of this component focus on national and regional policy, legislation and institutional reforms taking fully into account the forthcoming adoption/ratification of the ICZM Protocol. In addition, joint demonstration projects at selected sites are included.

*Find out more about the sub-components of this component [here](#)*

### **Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED.**

The activities implemented within this component aim to develop, draft and propose national and regional legal, policy and institutional reforms that address SAP-MED and NAPs priorities to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean, and to achieve the financial sustainability of future respective activities. Specifically, the activities of this component focus on the facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control; establishing sustainable financing mechanisms for pollution control activities; transfer of environmentally sound technology; and providing support to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention regarding the disposal of PCB stockpiles in Mediterranean countries.

*Find out more about the sub-components of this component [here](#)*

### **Component 3: Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs.**

The activities within this component aim to maintain the long-term function of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem through the implementation of an ecologically-coherent network of protected areas for the sustainable use of renewable marine resources. A number of short-term measures initiated in SAP-BIO will be further developed and implemented through replicable demonstration activities in biodiversity representative areas of the Mediterranean. Longer-term sustainability is ensured through a series of targeted capacity-building and enabling activities that focus on both national and sub-regional levels to improve capacity for policy development and its subsequent transfer into management for biodiversity conservation.

*Find out more about the sub-components of this component [here](#)*

### **Component 4: Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E.**

This component addresses the overall management, coordination, replication and communication of the MedPartnership with specific focus on the Regional Project. Great importance has been attributed within this project to information dissemination, communication activities and replication. An integral part of this component is the facilitation of NGO and community-based organisations' involvement in all project activities which will be achieved through capacity building and dissemination of information on lessons learned and best practices.

*Find out more about the sub-components of this component [here](#)*