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## WWF/IUCN INPUT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The WWF Mediterranean Programme Office and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation have been invited, as major conservation organizations in the region, to participate to the development of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The purpose of this note is to suggest input and outline orientations that could feed into the strategy, promote engagement of a broad spectrum of actors and stakeholders and help ensure that the strategy responds to global and regional commitments and challenges.

For that, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and WWF Mediterranean Programme Office would like to request that the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development takes into consideration the following:

1. Give sufficient emphasis to the ecological foundations of sustainable development, in particular to the need of ensuring health of supporting ecosystems to ensure continued delivery of ecological services;
2. Integrate the objectives of the relevant International Conventions and Agreements into the strategy, and provide guidance on their mainstreaming into regional and national sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes and policies;
3. Mainstream the elements of the WSSD Plan of Implementation in the context of the MSSD, in collaboration with relevant agencies and partners;
4. Carry out further work to link biodiversity with poverty alleviation and sustainable development, including through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
5. Establish the 2010 target as an interim milestone in achieving MDG 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015, and using the 2010 targets and indicators to help achieve target 9 (to reverse loss of environmental resources) of MDG 7;
6. Invite other relevant conventions and processes, such as the Ramsar Convention, the UNESCO-MAB initiative, the World Heritage Convention, CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and other relevant Convention Secretariats to promote synergies among them and enhance collaboration to achieve the 2010 target, including through harmonization of their respective strategic plans;

7. Build biodiversity concerns in the context of the WTO and Euro-Med Partnership to ensure that decisions on trade are supportive to conservation and to the CBD objectives;
8. Address equity issues and provide a strong link with the international poverty and sustainable development agendas, including activities on implementation of decisions on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), as well as on local and indigenous communities issues, traditional knowledge, rights and participation;
9. Address issues of regional and global concerns relevant to conservation of species, including the development of national and regional Red Lists of Endangered Species and working on developing indicators from them to monitor and address the status of threatened species;
10. Build on the outcomes of the World Parks Congress in maximizing representation and persistence of biodiversity in comprehensive protected area networks focusing specially on threatened and under-protected ecosystems;
11. Take action to address the severe under-representation of marine ecosystems in the regional protected area system, and devote urgent attention to creating and expanding marine protected area networks, in accordance with the WSSD 2012 target and the Durban Accord and Action Plan; Attention should also be given to other under-represented key ecosystems, such as watershed ecosystems and the marine ecosystems in the high seas;
12. Take actions to promote the development of national and regional ecological networks, corridors and transboundary protected areas;
13. Integrate the Ecosystem Approach to support synergies among the conventions, conserve biodiversity and help in combating land degradation in the Mediterranean;
14. Consider governance principles such as the rule of law, participatory decision-making, mechanisms for accountability and equitable dispute resolution institutions and procedures;
15. Emphasize the institutional and financial means and the need for an ecological economic reform, such as markets that recognise and pay for ecological services, investment in natural capital, use of subsidies and tax systems to integrate ecological sustainability;
16. Harmonize sectoral policies and laws to ensure that they support the conservation and effective management of protected areas;
17. Include quantified and timed objectives and targets and also means of progress verification towards the objectives and targets to ensure that the MSSD is an effective policy tool.

The IIED/IUCN review of a wide range of past Sustainable Development Strategies from around the world suggested a number of key lessons and guiding principles outlined below.

For a Sustainable Development Strategy to be successful and effective, it:

- Should be a cyclical processes of planning and action in which the emphasis is on managing progress towards sustainability goals rather than producing a "plan" or end product;
- Should be genuinely multi-sectoral and integrative, aimed at engaging relevant interests and overcoming institutional and policy fragmentation;
- Is crucial to focus on priority issues, and identify key objectives, targets and means of dealing with them;
- Needs to involve the "widest possible participation"; this means sharing responsibility and building partnerships among all concerned - business, community and interest groups, as well as governments - but only where the partners feel it is appropriate;
- Must take an adaptive and flexible approach, recognizing that problems are characterized by complexity and uncertainty, and policy responses and technological capability change over time;
- Is vital to set up mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and learning from experience as an integral part of the process; and
- Is necessary to recognise that preparing the MSSD should be an exercise in capacity-building, and should be organized to enhance institutional arrangements, sharpen concepts and tools, foster professional skills and competence, and improve public awareness.

A sustainability strategy should be about building sustainability into economic, development, land use, agriculture, industrial, environmental and all other relevant policies. There is no need for a parallel strategy or additional policies. Focus should be on identifying weaknesses and needs for reform in national, international, bilateral and multilateral policies and agreements. The main role of the MSSD should be described as mainstreaming sustainability into national and regional policies and processes. A lot of work has been undertaken in this area in other International fora, and the MSSD should review it, adapt it, mainstream it and harmonise it, but not re-invent it.