

FOR A TRANSITION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN BY 2050

The MED 2050 project

- The contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention mandated Plan Bleu to carry out a new foresight study on the environment and development in the Mediterranean by 2050
- A systemic foresight exercise that led to the development of six contrasting scenarios on the future of the Mediterranean as a sea and a region
- A study to analyse the possible futures of the Mediterranean region, taking into account the complex interdependencies between the sea and human activities at three levels: maritime and coastal, regional, and global
- Cooperation with stakeholders in the development of coherent and realistic transition pathways to achieve sustainable development goals in the Mediterranean

Stakeholders

- Joint work with a network of experts and academic researchers involved throughout the entire project
- Institutional partners that benefit from the project's expertise
- A dialogue with all stakeholders, in particular key figures and young people living in the Mediterranean basin, to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean

Goals

- Analyze the conditions for effective protection of the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems by 2050
- Provide long-term insights for the region's transition towards sustainable development
- Prevent major risks of crises or disruptions that could impact sustainable development by 2050

THE SIX SCENARIOS MED 2050

01

INERTIA, MARGINALISATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND PRAGMATISM

This “business-as-usual” scenario reflects the continuation of current trends in a region paralysed by numerous deadlocks and procrastination by decision-makers. This inertia results in the continued degradation of ecosystems, fragmentation of societies, conflicts associated with access to resources, and the marginalisation of the region on the global stage.

02

COLLIDING CRISES AND FORCED ADAPTATIONS

This scenario involves a succession or accumulation of crises and shocks, forcing countries and societies to constantly adapt in emergency situations. These crises and the resulting disasters, with domino effects, lead to the destabilisation of entire societies, followed by the implementation of adaptation mechanisms that ultimately create networks of resilience at local level.

03

GROWTH AT ALL COSTS IN A FRAGMENTED MEDITERRANEAN

The driving force of this scenario is economic growth and job creation with a focus on defending national interests. In a world shaped by global competition for access to resources and markets, regional or international cooperation is limited and variable. The economy is considered to be the central development goal, and a priority lever in all areas.

04

A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR A BLUE-GREEN TRANSITION

This scenario portrays successful multilateral cooperation between the European Union and other Mediterranean countries, based on the extension of the EU Green Deal to these countries. This partnership allows the region to achieve carbon neutrality in the majority of its countries along with strong integration into globalisation by 2050. The chosen strategy is the implementation of a blue-green transition at the regional level, based on technology and economic incentives.

05

A SPECIFICALLY MEDITERRANEAN MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The countries and territories of the Mediterranean collectively and urgently invent a new specifically Mediterranean model of sustainable development, combining civil society activism with short, medium, and long-term planning, becoming a global example. This shift towards strong sustainability in development is based on a transformation of living conditions, economic models, and governance structures, underpinned by more balanced North-South relations, and respect for the diversity of cultures and national or local situations.

06

THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA: GLOBAL COMMONS

The rapid degradation of the Mediterranean Sea triggers a strong response from societies, countries, and international organisations worldwide. The idea then emerges that this sea, a biodiversity hotspot on a global scale, can only be saved if it is considered a global commons. This vision is set within the dual context of global mobilisation for the oceans and the recognition of the rights of nature and future generations.