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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators to review
the implementation of MED POL-Phase III and of the
Strategic Action Programme

Reggio Calabria, Italy, 20-23 June 1999

MED POL activities and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and recommendations to the Contracting Parties

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Introduction

The present document is divided in three parts. The first describes the MED POL activities which are proposed to be implemented during the biennium 2000-2001 and covers the main areas of the Programme. The activities related to the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) are however described in detail in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/3. The programme proposed will be discussed, reviewed and approved by the Meeting and will subsequently be transmitted to the Focal Points and Contracting Parties for adoption.

The second part of the document is the proposed budget for the biennium and is presented to the Meeting for information only since the final budget for the activities of MED POL will be prepared on the basis of the overall availability of funds for MAP and the policy decisions of the Contracting Parties. The Meeting is expected to note the budget and to provide comments to the Secretariat who will take them into account in preparing the overall MAP budget.

The third part contains a list of recommendations to the Secretariat and to the Contracting Parties in relation to the MED POL activities for the biennium. The recommendations will be discussed, reviewed and approved by the Meeting and will subsequently be transmitted to the Focal Points and Contracting Parties for adoption.

I. MED POL Phase III work plan and activities for 2000-2001

During the biennium 1998-1999, as a result of the adoption of the MED POL Phase III Programme and the subsequent adoption of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities, work was carried out to prepare the basis for the implementation of the newly adopted programmes aiming at having them fully operational during the biennium 2000-2001.

In examining the activities of MED POL proposed for the coming biennium, the following should be taken into consideration:

- 1) With the adoption of the SAP -which contains a large pollution control component- and with the beginning of its implementation, the MED POL Programme is assuming a new and important coordinating role; in order to achieve this, and in preparing its work plan, it is assumed that the MED POL Programme would give priority to the activities directly related to the implementation of the SAP;
- 2) During the 2000-2001 biennium, the main source of funding for the implementation of the SAP activities is the Mediterranean GEF Project, which is expected to be operational at the beginning of the year 2000. As a result, the work plan for the biennium is proposing for implementation those activities of the SAP which can be implemented with GEF funds;
- 3) The proposed activities of the biennium, in addition to the implementation of the SAP activities, focus on the preparation of national monitoring programmes, which should include provisions for the monitoring of trends, monitoring of compliance and biological effects monitoring. The Data Quality Assurance activities continue to be a fundamental tool for achieving reliable data and information from countries. Within the limits of the existing budget, assistance will continue to be provided to all countries in need, for the preparation and implementation of monitoring programmes;
- 4) Special attention is given to the launching of a programme of compliance and enforcement, as a follow up to the preparatory activities carried out in 1998;
- 5) Concerning the follow up to the implementation of the Protocols, while the SAP activities represent a direct contribution to the LBS Protocol, Guidelines should be prepared during the biennium for the dumping of wastes and other matter listed in art. 4 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol.
- 6) The research component of MED POL should be re-structured to allow for a dynamic mechanism enabling the countries and the MED POL Secretariat to identify, follow up and propose adequate measures for, emerging pollution issues.

The work plan for the implementation of MED POL Phase III during the 2000-2001 biennium was prepared on the basis of the above and is submitted to the MED POL National Coordinators for discussion and approval. Details on the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme are given in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/3.

1. Assessment of pollution

After the preparation and the adoption of the operational documents/manuals for trend monitoring and biological effects monitoring during 1998, and with the assistance of experts and consultants, a number of countries are now in position to formulate and start implementing National Monitoring Programmes.

During the biennium, priority will be given to the formulation and finalization of such programmes in all countries. Assistance will be provided for the design and implementation of programmes and for the purchase of small pieces of equipment and material. As a follow up to the decisions of the Meeting of the MED POL Coordinators held in Delphi, 20-23 May 1997, an effort will be made to provide financial assistance to all countries in a period of time of four/five years by concentrating every year on a small number of countries according to their need and the status of preparation of their programmes.

Concerning trend monitoring, Institutions will be asked to send the results and data to the Secretariat who is responsible, according to the agreed MED POL Phase III Programme, for their analysis and interpretation.

Concerning biological effects monitoring, great emphasis will be given to the launching of this activity in the larger possible number of countries and institutions to fully complement and assist the interpretation of the chemical pollution data for appropriate managerial use. Cooperation will continue with other expert institutions and organizations such as RAMOGE to assist the laboratories participating in the proper use of the chosen techniques.

Concerning the practical aspects of the implementation of the trend and biological effects monitoring, it is proposed to convene in the year 2001 a technical review Meeting to examine achievements and bottlenecks and advise on the technical and scientific aspects of the activities. In addition to experts from participating countries, outside experts will also be invited to present their experience in other regions.

Work on the pollution hot spots and sensitive areas will continue mostly with the financial assistance of the Mediterranean GEF Project. Keeping in mind the expected final output of these activities, which is to conduct pre-investment studies for pollution hot spots as well as to prepare detailed assessment reports on pollution sensitive areas, several consultation meetings will be held during the biennium for the prioritization of hot spots and sensitive areas as well as consultations in the countries for the final selection of the hot spots for pre-investment studies. WHO will be fully involved in this activity as well as the partners of the GEF Project such as METAP and FEEM.

As in the past, training course will be organized in the framework of the monitoring programmes which will be addressed to scientists as well as managers for the use of the pollution data and results. Great emphasis will continue to be given to the implementation of Data Quality Assurance programmes, including intercalibration and good laboratory practice, to ensure high quality of the data.

Concerning the research component of MED POL, in view of 1) the very limited funds put at the disposal of the activities which, during recent years, could ensure only almost symbolic funding to projects, and 2) the need to create a more dynamic mechanism which could maintain MED POL in continuous contact with possible emerging pollution issues, it is proposed to use the available funds to:

- 1) convene small scientific meetings with Mediterranean experts in cooperation with the competent UN Cooperating Agencies to identify emerging pollution issues which may deserve more in depth assessment and possibly suggestions for action to the countries;
- 2) assign, in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators, research grants to designated Mediterranean research Institutions to carry out specific research on the identified subjects aiming at assessing the problem and proposing possible control measures to Contracting Parties.

The above mechanism will ensure a continuous link with the actual pollution problems of the region and will enable MED POL to concretely bridge between scientific issues and managerial aspects.

2. Pollution control

Great emphasis will be given to enforcement and control of legislation. Countries will be assisted in the preparation of compliance monitoring programmes on the basis of the existing legislation and to merge them into their National Monitoring Programmes.

On the basis of the preparatory work carried out during 1999, countries will be assisted in the establishment/strengthening of systems of inspection through training courses as well as the establishment of an Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement composed of responsible authorities from all Contracting Parties. A first Meeting of the Informal Network will be held in the year 2000.

Concerning health-related pollution aspects, a Meeting will be held in 2001 aiming at finalizing criteria and standards for health-related monitoring of coastal recreational and shellfish waters and an intercalibration exercise will be organized.

Concerning the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities, full details of the planned activities for the biennium 2000-2001 are given in document UNEP(OCA)MED WG.161/3. The activities will basically cover the preparation of regional plans and programmes, the initiation of the process of formulating National Action Plans, the organization of regional and national training courses and assistance to countries for the work of Inter-ministerial national committees, which will be achieved with the financial assistance of the GEF Project. In addition, it is foreseen to further work on the finalization of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (through the GEF Project) and to assist countries to gradually develop Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs).

The execution of the activities listed under this chapter represent an important contribution of the Programme to the implementation of the LBS Protocol. In addition, a Consultation Meeting will be held in 2001 to finalize the reporting methodology in relation to the LBS Protocol.

3. Other Protocols

In view of the expected entry into force of the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol, and on the basis of the positive work which lead to the adoption of Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material, additional work is proposed to fulfil the requirement of Art.3 and 6 of the Protocol. It is in fact proposed to work during the biennium on the preparation and the approval of the additional Guidelines required for the dumping of waste and other matters listed in art.3. Draft Guidelines will be prepared in 2000 and a Government-designated Expert Meeting to approve the Guidelines is in principle scheduled for 2001, if outside financial sources are found. To this effect, a request for extra funds to host the Meeting will be asked to all Contracting Parties.

Concerning the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, assistance is offered to all Contracting Parties in relation to the implementation of the needed preparatory activities in view of the future entry into force of the Protocol. A number of activities aiming at preparing the ground for the implementation of the Protocol are included in the SAP activities and will be implemented during the biennium as part of the GEF Project work plan.

4. Coordination

The MED POL Programme will be coordinated during the biennium by three UNEP Professionals and one Officer from WHO. In particular, the MED POL Coordinator (F.S. Civili, P5), the Programme Officer (occupied until March 1999 by G.P. Gabrielides at the level P5, now re-classified at the level P4 and presently vacant), the Programme Officer (recruitment procedures being finalised, P3) and the WHO Senior Scientist (G. Kamizoulis, P5).

While the P3 post will be mostly related to the follow up of the implementation of the SAP and the Protocols, the P4 post will be dealing with the scientific aspects of the Programme and in particular with the preparation of trend and biological effects monitoring programmes. The WHO Officer will in general be responsible for the health-related aspects of the Programme and in particular of the compliance monitoring and the work on the hot spots.

Joint work will continue with the UN Cooperating Agencies especially in relation with some aspects of monitoring (WHO, WMO), Data Quality Assurance (IAEA, WHO), and research on pollution emerging issues (WHO, WMO, IOC). FAO will be involved in some activities in its field of competence as part of the SAP.

During the biennium, several coordination meetings will be held with the GEF Project partners in relation to the implementation of the activities, and a Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators will be held in 2001 for which a partial external financial support is sought from Contracting Parties.

II. DRAFT BUDGET

POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

ACTIVITY	OFFICE	Proposed Budget (in US \$)					
		2000			2001		
		MTF	EU	EXT	MTF	EU	EXT
<u>Assessment of Pollution:</u> Assistance to countries for the formulation and implementation of trend monitoring programmes	MEDPOL	100,000			100,000		
Assistance to countries for the formulation and implementation of biological effects monitoring	MEDPOL	20,000	20,000		20,000	20,000	
Technical Review Meeting on the progress of implementation of the trend and biological effects monitoring	MEDPOL				50,000		
Training and Fellowships and Data Quality Assurance Programmes	MEDPOL	80,000			80,000		
Identification of, and research on, pollution emerging issues	MEDPOL	40,000			40,000		
Review of data and information on pollution Hot Spots and Sensitive Areas (WHO)	MEDPOL			59,000 a			
Consultation Meeting to identify prioritization criteria for pollution Hot Spots and Sensitive Areas (WHO)	MEDPOL	30,000		60,000 a			
Consultation with countries for pre-investment studies	MEDPOL				10,000		50,000 a
Pre-investment studies for pollution abatement in selected hot spots	MEDPOL						2,000,000 b
Consultation Meeting to select pollution Hot Spots for pre-investment studies	MEDPOL	10,000		50,000 a	10,000		
Assessment of health related aspects of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (WHO)	MEDPOL			15,000 c			15,000 c
<u>Enforcement and Control:</u> Assistance to countries for the formulation and implementation of compliance monitoring programmes	MEDPOL	40,000			40,000		
Assistance to countries for compliance and enforcement of legislation and systems of inspections (WHO)	MEDPOL				40,000		
Consultation Meeting of the informal Network on compliance and enforcement	MEDPOL	40,000	20,000				
Training courses related to systems of inspection (WHO)	MEDPOL	20,000	20,000	90,000 d			30,000 d
Consultation Meeting on criteria and standards for health-related monitoring of coastal recreational and shellfish waters (WHO)	MEDPOL				50,000		10,000 c
Intercalibration exercise on determination of microbiological pollution (WHO)	MEDPOL				40,000		10,000 c

ACTIVITY	OFFICE	Proposed Budget (in US \$)					
		2000			2001		
		MTF	EU	EXT	MTF	EU	EXT
<u>LBS Protocol/Strategic Action Programme (SAP)/GEF Project:</u> Finalization of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)	MEDPOL			106,000 a			
Preparation of Regional Guidelines for pollution abatement as part of GEF Project	MEDPOL	50,000		104,000 a			36,000 a
Preparation of Regional Plans for pollution abatement as part of the GEF Project	MEDPOL	100,000		105,000 a			
Preparation of National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities	MEDPOL	10,000			10,000		480,000 a
Assistance to countries for the preparation of National Action Plans	MEDPOL				40,000		75,000 a
Expert assistance to the inter-ministerial national committees	MEDPOL			180,000 a			
Meetings at national level for the preparation and presentation of National Action Plans	MEDPOL				20,000		80,000 a
Consultation Meeting on reporting methodology for LBS Protocol	MEDPOL				50,000		
Regional and National Training Courses as part of the GEF Project related to river pollution monitoring	MEDPOL	30,000		60,000 d			60,000 d
Regional and National Training Courses as part of the GEF Project related to waste water treatment plant operation and management (WHO)	MEDPOL	30,000		60,000 d			60,000 d
Regional and National Training Courses as part of the GEF Project related to cleaner production techniques	MEDPOL	25,000		140,000 a	5,000		10,000 d
Assistance to countries for the preparation of PRTRs	MEDPOL	10,000			10,000		
<u>Dumping Protocol:</u> Preparation of regional Guidelines according to Art. 4 and 6 of the Protocol	MEDPOL	20,000					
Meeting of Government Experts to approve Guidelines	MEDPOL						70,000 e
<u>Hazardous Wastes Protocol:</u> Assistance for the implementation of the Protocol	MEDPOL				5,000		
<u>Coordination:</u> Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators	MEDPOL				20,000		50,000 e
GEF Project Coordination Meetings	MEDPOL				45,000		139,000 a
TOTAL ACTIVITIES		655.000	60.000	1.029.000	685.000	20.000	3.175.000

- a: Fund secured from GEF.
- b: \$ 1,000,000 from GEF and \$1,000,000 from FEM.
- c: Funds secured through WHO.
- d: Funds secured through FEM.
- e: Funds expected from host countries.

III. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Pollution prevention and control (MED POL)

Recommendations to the Secretariat

1. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to assist countries in the preparation, finalization and implementation of their National Monitoring Programmes which should include monitoring of trends, biological effects monitoring and compliance monitoring.
2. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to work on the processing and analysis of the data resulting from the trend monitoring and to give priority to the implementation of data quality assurance programmes.
3. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to give special emphasis to the organization of activities related to compliance with, and enforcement of, the regional and national legislation related to land-based pollution and, as a result, to establish, organize and coordinate the work of an Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement.
4. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to re-organize the research component of MED POL Phase III by identifying and following up on a regular basis emerging pollution issues in cooperation with Mediterranean scientists and the competent UN Cooperating Agencies in order to formulate relevant studies, assessments and research projects to be carried out by Mediterranean national Institutions.
5. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to fully cooperate with the GEF Secretariat for the coordination of the Mediterranean GEF Project and, accordingly, to give priority during the biennium to the MED POL activities related to the pollution control included in the GEF Project and in the SAP.
6. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue the work related to the preparation of the necessary Guidelines as requested by art.4 and 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, in view of their adoption by the Contracting Parties.

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties

1. To give emphasis to the implementation of action-oriented pollution control activities and, to this effect, to give priority to the implementation of the activities of the SAP and especially to those included in the GEF Mediterranean Project; in particular, activities related to pollution hot spots where the full cooperation and contribution of the countries are indispensable for their success.
2. To continue and strengthen cooperation with the competent UN Cooperating Agencies, Regional Activity Centres, intergovernmental and international organizations, sub-regional agreements and programmes and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the SAP and other MED POL-related activities approved by the Contracting Parties. In particular, to welcome the continued cooperation with WHO in relation to the pollution control activities, the very positive cooperation established with GEF, FFEM and the other supporting organizations for the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project and the important contribution from RAMOGE for the implementation of the activities related to biological effects monitoring.

3. To establish Inter-ministerial National Committees for a full coordination of the activities related to the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project.
4. To adopt the Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with Government-designated experts as part of the implementation of the Dumping Protocol.