



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP/BUR/54/5
15 June 1999

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the Protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its
Protocols

Athens, 29-30 April 1999

REPORT

**OF THE MEETING OF THE
BUREAU OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION
AND ITS PROTOCOLS**

Introduction

1. The Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols was held in Athens, in the premises of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, on 29 April 1999.

Participation

2. The Meeting was presided by its Vice President H.E. Mr. Theodoros Koliopoulos, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (Greece), designated by the President of the Bureau, the Minister of the Environment of Tunisia, Ms Faiza Kefi who was not able to attend the meeting. Also present were H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier, Minister Plenipotentiary responsible for international cooperation and for the environment and development (Monaco), Mr Melih Akalin, Deputy Undersecretary for the Environment (Turkey), Mr Bechir Ben Mansour, Director General, Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (Tunisia), Mr Abdulfattah Boargob, Head, Environment Department of the Technical Centre for Environment Protection, (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), and Ms Gordana Valcic, Deputy Director, State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment (Croatia).

3. Mr. Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer at the Mediterranean Action Plan represented the Secretariat.

4. The full list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator. He informed the Bureau that H.E. Ms Faiza Kefi, the new Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of Tunisia, President of the Bureau was not able to attend the meeting and had designated H.E. Mr Theodoros Koliopoulos, Vice-President from Greece to chair the meeting of the Bureau. The Coordinator took the opportunity to congratulate Ms Kefi on her appointment and to wish her every success.

6. In his opening statement, Mr Chabason referred to the renovation of the Med Unit's Conference room, to meet the Coordinating Unit's need for a more suitable room for small meetings and various consultations.

7. H.E. Mr Koliopoulos, President of the meeting welcomed all participants and expressed his pleasure at hosting the meeting of the Bureau in Greece. He emphasized that the meeting was an opportunity for Mediterranean countries to cooperate more closely, and to seriously consider the environmental consequences for the natural and human ecosystems in the Balkans of the on-going conflict in Yugoslavia. He noted that it was everyone's wish that the conflict in Kosovo should come to an end, to avoid any further loss of life and in order not to experience environmental incidents similar to the ones seen in the Gulf. He expressed his belief that MAP was a forum of peace that could play an important role in the greater

Mediterranean area. He informed the meeting that, due to previous government commitments, he had to leave early and suggested that Mr Lascaratos, MAP Liaison Officer of Greece, should chair the meeting. Finally, he expressed the hope that this should be a constructive meeting, and wished all participants a pleasant stay in Athens.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work

8. The Meeting adopted the following agenda on the basis of the Provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP/BUR/54/1/Corr.1:

1. *Opening of the Meeting*
2. *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organisation of work*
3. *Progress report by the Coordinator on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau, including draft recommendations on specific activities (November 1998 - April 1999)*
4. *Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001*
5. *MAP Information Strategy:*
 - 5.1 *Draft MAP Information Strategy*
 - 5.2 *Establishment of a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for training purposes - proposal by Turkey*
6. *Process of selection of members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)*
7. *Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau*
8. *Any other business*
9. *Adoption of the report of the meeting*
10. *Closure of the meeting*

9. The Meeting also agreed on its organisation of work as contained in document UNEP/BUR/54/2.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Coordinator on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau, including draft recommendations on specific activities (November 1998 - April 1999)

10. The Coordinator made a general presentation of his progress report contained in document UNEP/BUR/54/3 which covers the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (November 1998-April 1999) also including a set of recommendations on specific activities.

11. Mr M. Akalin, the Vice-President from Turkey made a general statement. He pointed out that due to the general and local elections in Turkey, the Minister of the Environment Mr Fevzi Aytekin could not participate in the present meeting. On his behalf he expressed his thanks to the Government of Greece and to the Secretariat for the warm welcome extended to all participants. He expressed his belief that the Mediterranean Action Plan, through its legal, scientific and socio-economic levels had always played an indispensable role in establishing a common language among the Mediterranean countries and had promoted the sustainable development of the region.

He emphasized Turkey's total commitment to the goals of the Barcelona Convention and to the Mediterranean Action Plan. He noted that there was clearly a need to increase environmental awareness of sustainable development. This approach should be adopted vis-à-vis all the social players involved including public, civil society organizations, private sector, non-governmental organizations etc.

12. Within this framework, he proposed the establishment of a regional activity centre in Turkey, which would serve this purpose in the Mediterranean region. The centre could be called "Regional Activity Centre for Training" and would offer relevant training activities. This could be a successful initiative if it were fully supported by all Contracting Parties. He stated that his country would be honoured to host the next Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as well as the sixth meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, in the year 2000, at a ministerial level, as stated in the last MCSD meeting.

13. Mr Akalin stated that Turkey had always attached the utmost importance to the MAP information strategy, in order to make MAP visible throughout all Mediterranean countries and the world. He also pointed out that Turkey believed that MAP's information strategy, which will be revised and re-designed in cooperation with all parties concerned, could reach its main objectives through the Training/RAC. Mr Akalin concluded with the comment that unless public participation and the support of all the parties concerned was increased, the environmental problems of the Mediterranean region would not effectively be solved.

14. Starting the discussion, the Coordinator introduced the main activities with their relevant recommendations, section by section as follows:

A. Coordination

Programme Coordination

15. The Coordinator referred to the motion tabled by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya during the last meeting of the Bureau (Tripoli, November 1998) concerning the embargo imposed on the country. In this connection, he informed the Bureau that in January 1999 the Secretariat had communicated the contents of the motion to all MAP Focal Points as well as to UNEP.

16. The Vice-President from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mr Boargob, expressed his thanks to the Greek Government and the Secretariat for hosting the meeting of the Bureau. He conveyed the greetings of the Minister of the Environment who was not able to attend the present meeting due to previous engagements. Concerning the issue involving the embargo imposed on his country, he expressed his country's satisfaction and appreciation to the members of the Bureau for their support on this matter. He informed the Bureau that the recent lifting of the sanctions would enable his country to rejoin the international community and to play its proper role.

17. The Rapporteur from Monaco, H.E. Mr Fautrier, expressed his pleasure at the lifting of the embargo on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a fact that would enable the country to rejoin the international community. He also expressed his concern that the events occurring not far from Greece would have negative results on the environment, and he emphasized the need to pool efforts to improve the environment.

18. Mr Ben Mansour from Tunisia conveyed the greetings of Mme Kefi, Minister of the Environment and Physical Planning, who was not able to participate due to heavy commitments related to her recent appointment. He also informed the meeting that the ex Minister of the Environment H.E. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, had asked him to convey his thanks to the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for their collaboration during his presidency of the Bureau. On the issue of the embargo, Mr Ben Mansour joined his colleague from Monaco and expressed Tunisia's satisfaction at the lifting of the embargo which had been imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

19. The Vice President from Greece, Mr Lascaratos, extended his congratulations to the representative from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the occasion of the lifting of the embargo and for the new status of Libya.

20. The Vice-President from Turkey also joined the other delegations in congratulating the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the occasion of the lifting of the embargo.

21. Finally, the Coordinator of MAP, Mr Chabason, expressed the Secretariat's congratulations to the Libyan delegation for the lifting of the embargo. He pointed out that MAP had always pushed for the participation of Libya in all its activities and made every effort to facilitate such participation under normal conditions. He referred to the chairmanship of Mr Mlika of the Bureau, to his work and contribution to the enhancement of the work of the Bureau and of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, and asked the Tunisian delegation to transmit the Secretariat's greetings, respects and thanks to H.E. Mr. Mlika.

22. The Vice-President from Greece, Mr Lascaratos echoed the Coordinator's greetings to Mr Mlika, pointing out that Greece had worked effectively with him, and wishing him every success.

Cooperation with other bodies

23. The Coordinator referred to MAP cooperation with the MEDA programme of the European Union and noted that projects related to coastal zones management will be submitted to MEDA. With regard to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS Agreement), he noted that good cooperation had been established between the MAP and ACCOBAMS secretariats, through the MAP Regional Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

24. He also referred to the on-going deliberations concerning the Regional Seas Programme and informed the meeting that there was a will to revitalize the programme. In particular, the Coordinator referred to the discussion held during the last meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), in New York,

where he made a presentation on Oceans/Seas and the Regional Seas Programme. He also referred to a meeting in Nairobi on a programme of revitalizing the Regional Seas Programme. Finally he briefed the meeting on the preparations which were underway for the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Malta, on 27-30 October 1999.

25. During the discussion on this issue, the Vice-President from Turkey pointed out that the documents of the Bureau meeting had been received late, and recommended that deadlines in sending documents should be respected by the Secretariat. He hoped that the Secretariat's contacts with the EU concerning various projects would be finalized as soon as possible.

26. Concerning the issue of the Regional Seas Programme, H.E. Mr Fautrier of Monaco pointed out that the issue had been discussed in various occasions and MAP was presented as a successful example of the Regional Seas Programme. The representative of Monaco also enquired from the Secretariat as to the status of the GEF/BIO project.

27. With regard to Euro-Med cooperation, the representative from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya informed the meeting that his country took part in the last conference held in Germany on Euro Mediterranean Cooperation. He also referred to the GEF project on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and expressed his thanks to the Secretariat for its role to include Libya as an eligible country for GEF funds.

28. The Vice-President from Greece expressed his satisfaction at the status of MAP within the United Nations. He added that when a GEF Coordinator was appointed, work on that subject would proceed. He also referred to the contacts with the MEDA and to the need to make additional efforts and do more work.

29. In response to the discussion concerning MAP cooperation with other relevant bodies, the Coordinator first referred to the issue of the delay which only amounted to five days, was due to technical problems within the Secretariat and promised that the deadline for dispatching documents would be respected as had always been the case in the past. He informed the meeting that the GEF/BIO project had been finalized in cooperation with FAO, relevant NGOs, (WWF and IUCN) and SPA/RAC. The funds involved amounted to US \$ 600,000. The project would be treated as an integral part of the GEF/SAP project. A brochure was being prepared, which was now being edited and would soon be ready for distribution.

Financial and institutional matters

30. The Coordinator noted that as of the end of February, no Contracting Party had paid its 1999 contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and on this occasion urged all countries to speed up the payment process. In this connection, he informed the meeting that an amount of US \$ 400,000 corresponding to the host country counterpart contribution to the Coordinating Unit had been received a few days ago. He thanked the host country, Greece, for its timely contribution.

31. The representatives of Monaco, Tunisia and Libya pointed out with concern that no notice for payment had been received from UNEP Headquarters. Therefore, unless the official notice was received, they could do nothing to speed up the payment process. In the meantime, the representative of Turkey noted that the recent early general elections had resulted in a government change. The payment procedure would start after the formation of the new government. The representative of Croatia, meanwhile, pointed out that the necessary steps had been taken with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance concerning the payment of her country's contribution to the MTF, including the unpaid contributions covering the years since Croatia had become a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols.

32. In response to enquiries raised during the discussion, the Coordinator of MAP pointed out that it was the regular practice of UNEP HQs to send the necessary notice to all Contracting Parties at the beginning of the calendar year. He promised to check once again with UNEP on this issue as funds were urgently needed to cover implementation costs for the first six months of the year.

Recommendation

At the end of the discussion on this item, the Bureau requested that the Secretariat should make the necessary contacts with UNEP H.Q concerning the notice for payment to be sent to all Contracting Parties and subsequently to urge all Contracting Parties to speed up the payment of their contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

Outstanding contribution of former Yugoslavia

33. The Coordinator referred to document UNEP/BUR/54/3/Add.1 concerning the outstanding contribution of the former Yugoslavia, presented in accordance with the request of the Bureau during its last meeting. He explained that given the prevailing situation, it appeared that the time was not right and it was not urgent to discuss the issue. He proposed that the Bureau may decide to postpone its discussion to a future meeting. **The meeting agreed with the suggestion of the Coordinator.**

Institutional matters

34. The MAP Coordinator explained the changes which had occurred in the Secretariat during the period under consideration. He pointed out that the post of the First Officer (p.4) within the MED POL programme had been revised and reclassified as P.3. The post had been advertised and the selection process was now being completed. The selection was expected to be made by June 1999.

35. He informed the Bureau that Mr Gabriel P. Gabrielides, Senior Programme Officer within the MED POL programme had resigned on the 1st of April 1999, and returned to his country, Cyprus. His post was now being reclassified in UNEP Headquarters and would soon be advertised. The Coordinator took the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr Gabrielides for his outstanding work within MAP. He enumerated his main contributions in the field of *caulerpa* which was handled to the satisfaction of all

Contracting Parties; in the GEF/SAP project which was prepared and finalized in a successful manner; and in covering for a period of time the administration of MAP after the departure of the Administrative and Fund Officer and until the appointment of a new one.

36. Mr Chabason also referred to the decision of the Senior Programme Officer, Mr Ibrahim Dharat, to take early retirement, effective 31 July 1999. Mr Dharat's post was being reclassified and would be advertised soon. The Coordinator took the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Dharat for his outstanding performance within MAP, for his talents and skills in handling legal, diplomatic and political issues. His work in promoting MAP relations with Contracting Parties, various IGOs, NGOs and RACs had been recognized by all. He suggested that Mr Dharat be invited at the expense of MAP to attend the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) and that a brief ceremony commemorating his departure be organized on that occasion. **The suggestion was accepted by the Bureau.**

37. The Vice President from Greece, Mr Lascaratos, joined the Coordinator in expressing his thanks and appreciation to Mr Gabrielides and Mr Dharat for their outstanding contributions to MAP. Concerning the posts of Mr. Gabrielides and Mr Dharat, he noted that his understanding was that UNEP HQ would undertake the reclassification of the two posts and the job descriptions, ensuring that a balanced pyramid within the MAP Secretariat would be secured.

38. With regard to the reclassification of posts to be filled, the Vice-President from Greece noted that there should be a balance between staff building their career within MAP and staff recruited to carry out the activities of MAP. Therefore, he suggested that the post of Mr Gabrielides be reclassified as P.4. Mr Dharat's post should be retained at P.5 level, as the appointment of a senior officer with international experience was required for this post. **The suggestion was accepted by the Bureau.**

39. In the meantime, the Vice-President from Turkey acknowledged the contributions of Mr. G.P. Gabrielides and Mr I. Dharat and wished them well. He stressed that when recruiting new staff with MAP, the principle of balanced geographical distribution should be respected. Furthermore, he underlined, at this point, that the post of "Computer Officer" which would be converted into that of "Information Officer", was presently occupied by a Turkish citizen. He expressed the hope that the present geographical balance would be continued in order to secure the continued cooperation of his country.

40. In response to the statement of the representative of Turkey, the Coordinator emphasized that one of the main principles applied by UNEP/MAP in the recruitment process was that of the geographical distribution of posts. He further informed the meeting that the recruitment process was a long one, which involved the following steps:

- reclassification of the post
- preparation of the job description
- dissemination of the vacancy announcement to all MAP National Focal Points
- establishment of a panel composed of representatives of UNEP and MAP
- proposal by the panel of a short list of candidates to be sent to the Executive Director of UNEP for his final decision

MAP Chart

41. The Coordinator introduced the MAP Chart as contained in document UNEP/BUR/54/3. He explained that the Chart was a functional one, and not a personal one, where the major functions and tasks appeared clearly, taking into account the new developments within MAP. For each of the functions, a professional from MEDU would be totally or partially in charge of coordination, while implementation of related programmes and activities would be done by MEDU and/or concerned Regional Activity Centres and Programmes.

42. Considering the increasing need for a relevant MAP Information Strategy, and as a result of the recent meeting of Information experts, the Coordinator suggested that more attention should be given to this issue, with the allocation of adequate staff and financial resources. Consequently, he proposed that the Computer Officer's post be converted into that of an Information Officer, whereas the computer issues would be taken care of by a Computer Assistant from the General Service.

43. During the ensuing debate, the representative of Tunisia requested that more information should be given by the Secretariat on the relations between the various components, such as the relation between MED POL and other components included in the Chart.

44. The representative of Turkey stressed the importance of the functional and hierarchical relationship, and requested that the Secretariat prepare a paper to be attached to the Chart explaining this relationship in more details, in order for his delegation to give concrete views on this subject. He also requested additional information on the conversion of the post of the Computer Officer into an Information Officer, and on the issue of how the raw data, supplied by countries within the MED POL framework, which were usually processed by the Computer Officer, would be processed and treated in the future.

45. The representative of Monaco stated that his understanding was that the Chart was an innovation requested by the countries and would be sent to UNEP HQ on the basis of the Bureau's comments. He suggested that the Chart should reflect the human resources' side and be submitted to the Contracting Parties for their consideration.

46. In the meantime, the representative of Greece suggested that the Chart be sent to all Contracting Parties for their comments.

47. The MAP Coordinator suggested that there was a need to reach a consensus on this issue, pointing out that it was the responsibility of the meeting of the Contracting Parties to decide on the number of posts to be included. He requested the Bureau to advise the Secretariat whether the Chart should be submitted to the Contracting Parties. With regard to UNEP HQ, he suggested it be sent to Nairobi as it would help UNEP in the process of reclassification.

Recommendation

At the end of the discussion, the Bureau requested that the Secretariat present the Chart, with an explanation paper, to the meetings of the national focal points (September 1999) and the Contracting Parties (October 1999) for their final consideration.

Legal framework

48. The Coordinator informed the meeting that, in conformity with a decision of the last meeting of the Bureau, letters had been sent to Contracting Parties that had not done so, urging them to speed up ratification of the MAP legal instruments. He pointed out that only Tunisia, Monaco and Croatia had ratified all or part of these legal instruments. In the meantime, the Secretariat had received information that other Contracting Parties would shortly be announcing the ratification of these instruments.

Recommendation

The Bureau authorized the Secretariat to contact and urge once again the Contracting Parties, that had not done so, to speed up the ratification process.

Emergency Protocol

49. The Coordinator referred to the decision of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, November 1997) to amend the Emergency Protocol in order to introduce the provisions necessary to implement the regional strategy on the "prevention" of accidents and the pollution of the marine environment by ships. He informed the meeting of the results of the meeting of legal and technical experts on the amendments to the Protocol, held in Malta, in November 1998. As the draft amendments had still to be reviewed once again by the experts, he suggested that another meeting of experts be convened another meeting of experts to finally review the draft amendments before submitting them to a Conference of Plenipotentiaries, to be held during the first half of 2000.

50. Mr Lascaratos, the Vice -President from Greece, stressed the importance of the submission of the results of the second meeting of experts for review by the meeting of MAP National Focal Points, before their final submission to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. He said that it would be risky if we were not to follow this approach.

Recommendation

The Bureau decided that the meeting of experts on the Emergency Protocol be convened during the second half of September 1999. The report of the meeting, including a concrete set of amendments to the emergency Protocol would then be submitted to the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) with a Secretariat proposal to convene the Conference of Plenipotentiaries early in the year 2000.

MAP collaboration with NGOs

51. Mr Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, introduced the subject pointing out that cooperation with the 72 various NGOs inscribed in the NGO/MAP List of Partners had been strengthened and upgraded. For example, various joint activities were undertaken in the field of organizing workshops, conferences and issuing and dissemination of environmental bulletins. He informed the meeting that the Secretariat had already received several requests from NGOs in the region for inclusion in the NGO/MAP list of Partners.

52. He also referred to the important role of NGOs in disseminating environmental information on the Mediterranean sea. In this connection he drew the attention of the participants to an article published recently in the Olympic Airways magazine, distributed during its international flights, on "*The Mediterranean Sea-turtle - One of the oldest inhabitants of this planet*" by the Greek NGO MEDASSET.

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

53. The Coordinator referred to the meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, held in Tunis on 8-9 March 1999, during which a review of the activities of the on-going six Thematic Working Groups was undertaken, as well as a discussion of the issues related to the follow-up of recommendations, the new subjects, the method of work and cooperation with UN agencies and other partners. He informed the meeting that the fifth meeting of the MCSD would be held in Rome, 1-3 July 1999. The meeting would be hosted by the City of Rome which would cover almost all expenses. With regard to the Sixth Meeting of the MCSD, he noted that Tunisia and Turkey had already expressed the wish to host the 6th meeting in the year 2000.

54. With regard to the expert meetings, he pointed out that all ongoing thematic activities would have a meeting of the working groups concerned, during April - June 1999, so as to prepare recommendations and a programme of actions for submission to the fifth meeting of the MCSD. The Coordinator also pointed out that taking into consideration the various activities and meetings of the MCSD, the funding issue had become a serious problem which had to be tackled.

55. Referring to the Sixth meeting of the MCSD to be held in the year 2000, the representative of Turkey reiterated his country's proposal to host this meeting in Turkey. He expressed his concern at seeing that the Secretariat had not made any mention in its report about this offer. On this point, the Coordinator explained that the Secretariat's report was reflecting what had been said during the meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD (Tunis, March 1999).

56. On the same point, the representative of Tunisia reiterated his country's offer to host the Sixth meeting of the MCSD in Tunisia.

Recommendation

After a brief discussion on the various proposals related to the hosting of the sixth meeting of the MCSD in the year 2000, and as it was not within the mandate of the Bureau to decide on this issue, it was agreed to defer the matter to the fifth meeting of the MCSD to be held in Rome, in July 1999.

B. Pollution Prevention and Control

57. Under this section, the Coordinator briefed the meeting on the activities carried out by the MED POL programme, the REMPEC Centre and the Cleaner Production Centre (CP/RAC). He mentioned that the meeting of the MED POL national coordinators to review the implementation of MED POL Phase III and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), would be held in Reggio Calabria, Italy, on 20-23 June 1999.

58. With regard to the REMPEC Centre, he informed the Bureau of the main issues discussed at the meeting of REMPEC focal points (Malta, 25-28 November 1998). The focal points' meeting reviewed the implementation of the Centre's programme of activities (1997-1998), the regional information systems, the regional strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and the 2000-2001 programme and budget.

59. The representative of Turkey informed the meeting that Third-countries project, concerning risk assessment for the port of Iskenderun, will be started in Turkey, with the collaboration of REMPEC under the auspices of EU/LIFE, and thanked REMPEC for its assistance.

60. Concerning the Barcelona Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), the Coordinator noted that as the activities of the Centre were to be financed by the host country (Spain), and as no financial assistance was provided during the period under consideration, the Centre was not able to implement any of the activities inscribed in its programme. However, with the recent commitment of the Spanish authorities to provide funds to the Centre, it was expected that various activities would be implemented. One of these activities would be the convening of the meeting of the national focal points, scheduled to be held in Barcelona on 17-18 May 1999.

C. Conservation of Biological Diversity

61. The Coordinator introduced the relevant part of his progress report concerning the activities of the Tunis Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). He extended his thanks to Monaco for the secondment of a young scientist to SPA/RAC. He also referred to the meeting of experts hosted by Greece, in Arta, on 27-31 October 1998, concerning the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles and the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, and thanked Greece for hosting this meeting. The Meeting was able to make certain amendments to the Action

Plans. He also referred to the meeting of the national focal points of SPA/RAC, held in Tunis, on 12-14 April 1999, during which various issues were tackled, including the conservation of national sites and species, as well as an Action Plan for Marine Vegetation and the draft programme and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium.

D. Integrating Environment and Development

62. Under this component, the activities of the Blue Plan/Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Remote Sensing/Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC) and the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMPs) were discussed.

63. The Coordinator referred to the relevant section of his progress report concerning the Blue Plan activities and pointed out that the Sophia Antipolis Centre had been involved in four of the MCSD themes, namely, sustainable development indicators, tourism, sustainable development of rural and urban areas and free trade and the environment. He believed that the Centre had done a good job concerning these activities. In this connection, he thanked Turkey for hosting the meeting of experts on tourism.

64. He also noted the activity concerning national observatories which had been set up or were still under preparation. In this regard, the representative of Turkey reserved his position concerning paragraph 9 of the BP section of document UNEP/BUR/54/3, which stated that Turkey's observatory was somehow facing the same kind of problems as the one in Lebanon. He noted that the project in Turkey was underway and would be finalized before the end of this year.

65. With regard to the activities relevant to PAP/RAC activities, he noted that the Split Centre had been involved in four themes within the framework of the MCSD, namely, coastal zone management, water demand management, management of urban and rural development and sustainable tourism. He also noted that the post of Deputy Director of the Centre was still vacant. Moreover, he informed the meeting that the PAP Centre had recently been evaluated by a team of consultants, in accordance with the decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties. The team paid a visit to Greece (MAP and Greek authorities), Croatia, Egypt and Tunisia with the aim of discussing PAP/RAC related issues with the relevant national authorities. The Evaluation Report was being finalized and it was the intention of the Secretariat to distribute this important document to the next Meeting of National Focal Points to be held in September 1999 in Athens. He informed the meeting that a set of recommendations had been proposed in the evaluation report, for the consideration of the Contracting Parties. One of these recommendations was to designate PAP/RAC as the Centre for Coastal Zone Management within the MAP framework.

66. Concerning activities related to the Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC), the Coordinator mentioned that the resources of the Centre allocated to activities had been secured from the European Commission. With regard to the Centre's role within the CAMP programme, he noted that he had received favourable comments concerning this role. In this connection, he referred to the work of the Centre

related to the CAMP project for Malta in the form of a meeting to be jointly held with Malta on the support of remote sensing for monitoring and assessing coastal water quality and monitoring of coastal land use transformation. The objective was to identify a joint proposal to be submitted for funds from external sources.

Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

67. Mr. I. Dharat of MAP introduced this subject and briefly went through the relevant part of the Coordinator's progress report giving a brief summary of the achievements during the period under consideration. In particular he referred to the Final Presentation Conference for the Sfax/CAMP, held in Sfax, on 15-16 December 1998. He noted that the Conference and the results of the project were appreciated by the host country. The proposed follow-up activities were accepted. With regard to the Fuka-Matrouh CAMP Project (Egypt), he informed the meeting that the final presentation conference will be held in Cairo, on 8 and 9 June 1999.

68. During the ensuing discussion, the representative of Tunisia explained that the Sfax Conference was a successful one, and he took the opportunity to express his thanks to the Secretariat for its contribution and excellent work. He suggested that we should reflect on how to maximize the benefits and results of the project in the form of a follow-up exercise.

69. Referring to the financial problem encountered during the implementation of CAMP projects, the representative of Monaco suggested seeking external funding to supplement MAP funds.

70. The representative of Greece noted that his country reiterated its wish to secure a follow-up to the completed CAMP projects to be implemented through external financing.

71. The Coordinator pointed out that CAMP work was no easy task to undertake and to coordinate, and some experience had been gained from the CAMP exercise. He stressed the need to consult more widely with other partners, such as METAP and the EU. In this respect, a Manual had been prepared by the Regional Centre for Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC). The document would be widely distributed to all relevant partners.

Recommendation

At the end of the brief discussion on this subject, the Bureau noted that there was a need for a group of CAMPs to be action oriented, as well as the need for a follow-up of the completed CAMP projects with an option for external sourcing of financing.

Agenda item 4: Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2000-2001

72. The Coordinator informed the Bureau that the Secretariat was not expecting a decision to be taken on the budget for the biennium 2000-2001, but only to receive indications and guidelines from the Bureau which would assist it in the preparation of this budget. The budget had to be prepared before July 1999 for submission to the meeting of the National Focal Points, scheduled to be held in Athens on 6-9 September 1999.

Structure

73. Concerning the structure of the budget, he pointed out that it would be structured as the budget programme is presented in order to bring out clearly the links between:

- environment and sustainable development problems in the Mediterranean;
- steps already taken within the MAP framework;
- what remains to be done;
- activities proposed to this end;
- the corresponding recommendations and budgets

within the following five areas:

- pollution assessment, prevention and control;
- management of biodiversity;
- sustainable management of the coastal areas;
- environment and development;
- coordination, legal framework, information.

All RAC Centres have been asked to present their proposals concerning the programme and budget on this basis.

Budget problems

74. Concerning the budget problems, he noted that the staff and running costs for the MED Unit and REMPEC must be borne by a budget of \$4 million, as well as a large share of the same costs for three RAC Centres (PAP, BP and SPA), while the staffing and running costs of the CP/RAC and the ERS/RAC were covered by Spain and Italy respectively. Consequently, only 1.7 million dollars were left in the 1999 budget to cover activities. Fortunately, many Contracting Parties had financed the convening of various meetings which enabled the Secretariat to overcome a budgetary shortfall. He stressed the Secretariat's intention to avoid any increase in running costs. Therefore, the Secretariat's proposal for the coming biennium would continue to stabilize expenditure on running costs by limiting any increase to 2% per year, and allocate more funds to the activities side.

Personnel

75. With regard to the personnel issue, the Coordinator stressed that it was not the intention of the Secretariat to create any new posts, but that some posts would be

converted in order to adapt the structure of the Secretariat to new developments. In this connection he was not suggesting the creation of a new post under the MCSD, but would suggest the support of governments for the secondment of an expert, along the lines of the agreement recently signed with Monaco to second a young scientist to work with SPA/RAC.

76. Other personnel related proposals were the conversion of the position of "Documentation Consultant" to a permanent post of "Librarian" (requested by UNEP for reasons of financial orthodoxy), and the conversion of the post of "Computer Officer" to a post of "Information Officer" which is essential in order to implement an information strategy within MAP. The need to create of a post of administrator within REMPEC had been an ongoing problem for the last three years. The Secretariat was faced with two different positions:

- the IMO, which is responsible for administering this Centre, is asking for a new P2 administrator post to be created within the budget, which could cost an extra \$70,000;
- UNEP favours creating a G6-G7 post at an additional cost of \$30,000.

Moreover the Bureau was asked to provide the Secretariat with guidance on this issue.

Financing of Activities

77. The Coordinator explained that the MAP budget should continue to be used to finance the basic activities which require continuity, such as:

- monitoring of marine pollution;
- implementation of support activities of the various protocols.

However, channels for counterpart financing should also be envisaged. In this regard, the Coordinator suggested that the following additional amounts should be secured if priorities were to be met:

- a. **MCSD: +\$220,000**
to take account of the fact that the MCSD must launch new themes at the same time as it is completing on-going ones. Moreover, part of these appropriations must also be set aside for the follow-up of implementation of recommendations. This figure also includes \$80,000 for financing the annual meeting of the MCSD in countries which would not be in a position to finance such a meeting.
- b. **Information strategy: +\$100,000**
Which represents the additional cost of the measures proposed for implementing the information and participation strategy, including training in the new legal instruments.

- c. **Biodiversity: +\$120,000**
In order to ensure implementation of the new protocol and related activities, SPA/RAC is requesting a substantial increase in its budget, which would also seem justified by the fact that neither METAP nor MEDA are involved with matters of biodiversity.
- d. **Prevention of and preparation for emergencies: +\$70,000**
Appropriations should be reassessed to enable MAP (REMPEC) to shoulder its responsibilities with an eye to the revision of the emergency protocol.
- e. **Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMPs): +\$130,000**
Several CAMPs are being launched and will take off fully in 2000-2001 (Malta, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon and Slovenia). It is therefore essential that the budget line be increased to a level close to that of 1998, i.e. \$330,000.
- f. **MED POL: +\$100,000**
Appropriations for the MED POL programme will be increased by \$100,000 so that more support can be given to countries for trend monitoring; implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP would largely draw on GEF funding.

Recapitulation of additional expenditure in the activities field, expressed as an annual average:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| MCS D | \$220,000 |
| Information and participation | \$100,000 |
| Biodiversity | \$120,000 |
| Prevention of emergencies | \$ 70,000 |
| Coastal area management (CAMPs) | \$130,000 |
| MED POL | \$100,000 |
| TOTAL | \$740,000 |

This represents an increase of around 50% in appropriations granted for activities, whilst staff and running costs should only increase by 2%.

78. Finally, the Coordinator gave four options on how the increase could be financed:

- either by a substantial increase in compulsory contributions, which would appear difficult to achieve;
- or by requesting an increase of the EU's voluntary contribution which has remained virtually unchanged for the past 10 years, whilst countries' compulsory contributions have increased by 60% approximately, coupled with a call for more voluntary contributions;
- or through extraordinary contributions;
- or through a combination of various solutions.

79. During the ensuing discussion, the representative of Monaco pointed out that 1.7 million dollars was not enough to cover activity costs. In the meantime, the 13% charged by UNEP as Programme Support Cost was a considerable amount of money. He then suggested that at least all MEDU administrative costs should be charged under the Programme Support Cost. He also suggested seeking external sources of funding, such as, the private sector which might take charge of some expenses. Concerning the MCSD, he was of the opinion that the funds absorbed by the Commission were a little excessive. The MCSD was a useful body for MAP, but we should be concerned about its huge share (about 20%) of MAP funds allocated for activities. The share was even expected to rise in the future. With regard to other increases suggested by the Coordinator, he found them justifiable. However, he had reservations concerning the Administrative post for REMPEC - he saw the Centre as having specific activities and part of its funding should come from other sources, such as the private sector. He suggested that the Coordinator should inform the Contracting Parties of this issue and propose that it should be solved by IMO and UNEP HQ, with no funds from the MAP budget.

80. The representative of Greece echoed the points raised by Monaco. With regard to the administrative post for REMPEC, he echoed the hesitations about creating a post within the MAP budget, as the Centre had a targeted activity. He also suggested that IMO and UNEP should take charge of this post using the Programme Support Cost. Concerning the MCSD, he explained that it is a consultative body to the Contracting Parties and that no new themes should be suggested until the recommendations of previous themes had been implemented. Therefore, if the budget could not be increased, the activities would have to be decreased. Consequently, his country was totally against the creation of any additional post within the MCSD, even through agreement-based secondment by Governments. Moreover, he proposed that only \$80,000 should be allocated to the MCSD to cover the costs of its activities with the rest of the funds proposed by the Secretariat going to MED POL. He explained that MED POL was no longer what it was a few years ago. It was an instrument for the implementation of MCSD projects and the LBS protocol. That was the reason for his proposal to add additional funds to the MED POL programme. Otherwise, he agreed with the allocation of funds as suggested by the Coordinator.

81. The representative of Tunisia expressed the view that IMO and UNEP should cover the cost of the administrative office for REMPEC, but he was not in favour of the Greek proposal to allocate part of the additional MCSD funds proposed by the Coordinator to MED POL. He further suggested that if any money was to be allocated to MED POL, it should come from the GEF/SAP project.

82. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya felt that an increase in the MAP budget was necessary in order for it to fulfill its obligations. He felt that the Secretariat should be entrusted with finalizing the necessary increase.

83. The representative of Turkey shared the views of the Libyan representative and suggested that the Secretariat should take note of the various views expressed during the discussion and should prepare a new proposal to be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the National Focal Points.

84. In response to the various points of view, the Coordinator explained that he had presented a budget which could be accepted by all Contracting Parties and would cause no difficulties to them.

Recommendation

On the basis of the general discussion, the Bureau gave a mandate to the Secretariat to:

- negotiate with UNEP HQ to cover all expenses (personnel and running costs) related to finance and administration in the Coordinating Unit (MEDU);
- invite UNEP and IMO to cover the cost of the administrative post to be established in REMPEC using the Programme Support Cost as necessary;
- ask REMPEC to diversify its income through outside sources of funding, by applying the "polluter pays" principle;
- finalize the draft budget for the next biennium to be submitted to the NFP meeting in accordance with these recommendations.

85. The Coordinator explained that MED POL Phase III was not closely related to the GEF project. Therefore, funds could not be taken from the GEF project and allocated to MED POL, as was suggested during the debate. He felt that the only solution would be to increase the MED POL budget for monitoring activities. With regard to the MCSD, he noted that various activities had to be implemented which would require additional funds, such as:

- convening the various meetings of the working groups;
- topics which have to be followed;
- implementation of the various recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties.

Therefore, one solution to cover all these Commission activities could be to resort to outside support, such as the MEDA programme.

Recommendation

The Bureau agreed on the additional funds required as follows, expressed as an annual average:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| - | MCSD | \$ 80,000 |
| - | Information and participation | \$100,000 |
| - | Biodiversity | \$120,000 |
| - | CAMP's | \$130,000 |
| - | MED POL | \$100,000 |
| | TOTAL | \$530,000 |

Agenda item 5: MAP Information strategy

5.1 MAP Information strategy

86. The Coordinator introduced document UNEP/BUR/54/4/Corr.1, entitled "MAP Information Strategy" presented in conformity with the decision of the Bureau at its last meeting (Tripoli, November 1998). He explained that the meeting of Information experts was held in Athens, on 1-2 April, 1999. It was attended by the representatives of Bureau members and most of the MAP Regional Activity Centres and programmes. The Secretariat was assisted by three highly qualified information experts. The meeting of experts was able to thoroughly review the draft text of MAP Information Strategy, and make certain modifications to the proposed set of recommendations for the consideration of the present meeting of the Bureau. The recommendations were sorted according to short, medium and long term action.

87. Two main recommendations were related to the creation of a full time information officer's post and the creation of a full-time librarian post at MEDU. In this connection, the Coordinator noted that there was a need to improve MAP visibility not only outside the region but also within the Mediterranean. In recognition of the role of information, all UNEP's administered Conventions had established an information post. Concerning the proposed post at MEDU, he explained that this post would come as a consequence of converting the computer officer post to an information officer post, which was essential in order to implement an information strategy within MAP. He continued to explain that due to the new technology in software, there was no need to continue the old fashioned processing of MED POL raw data and to maintain the hardware as before. There was no longer a centralized system. Therefore, there was no need to maintain a permanent computer officer. Moreover, a well trained general staff member could manage MAP's software system.

88. During the discussion on this item, the representative of Turkey explained that the document in question was received late which prevented its examination by the relevant authorities. Therefore, he suggested postponing consideration of the document until the next meeting of the Bureau, if there was one, or until the forthcoming meeting of the MAP National Focal Points.

89. After a short discussion on this proposal the general view was to start examining the document during the present meeting, in fulfilment of the Bureau mandate and on the understanding that the role of the Bureau was not to approve the recommendations, but rather to make general remarks with a view to facilitating the work of the forthcoming meetings of the Contracting Parties in taking final decisions on this issue.

90. During the ensuing discussion on the document, the representative of Turkey, while thanking the Coordinator for his statement concerning the justifications given in relation to the conversion of the computer post to an information post, requested that all these justifications be reflected in the report of the meeting. Furthermore, he requested that the MAP chart should contain more clarification on the inter-relationship of all staff working at MAP. Therefore, until the Secretariat had prepared a new version on the chart including a paper clarifying these relations, his delegation would reserve

its position until the forthcoming meeting of the national focal points. He added that we should be more precise and clear when deleting a post from the MAP structure, as this issue was a sensitive one to his delegation. With regard to the recommendation on the appointment of national focal points for information, he noted that in order to avoid confusion, there was a need to clarify the relationship between the existing MAP/NFP and the proposed focal point for information.

91. The representative of Croatia stressed the importance of this Strategy on which the Bureau was requested to give its views so that its discussion and approval by the meeting of the Contracting Parties would be facilitated.

92. The representative of Greece shared the previous speaker's apprehensions about appointing a separate national focal point for information purposes, which, in his view would entail additional financial expenses related to supporting their meetings.

93. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya while accepting the set of proposed recommendations which, in his view, would enhance the role of MAP, shared the concern of the previous speakers in relation to the establishment of a national focal point for information. He suggested that the existing MAP national focal point could take on this role without creating a new administrative burden. He also suggested that MAP's main documents and information material should also be published in Arabic.

94. At the end of the general discussion, the meeting reviewed the set of proposed recommendations with the understanding that it was not the intention to approve these recommendations, but only to make general comments and propose amendments, if necessary, with a view to facilitating the work of the forthcoming meeting of the National Focal Points to be held in Athens, on 6-9 September 1999, which would review the entire document in a more detailed manner.

Recommendation

- 1. During the review of the recommendations, the meeting made the following specific modifications:**
 - a. under 4: The products:
delete (legal, scientific) from the proposed recommendations**
 - b. under 5: The target:
delete the first recommendation "the existing focal points...."**
 - c. under 6: The means:
Convention and protocols
delete "if possible" in the second recommendation and rewrite the sentence to read: "Publications should be available in English and French. Special efforts should be made to publish the documents in the Arab language"**

d. **Add new recommendations concerning the need to publish MAP information material in the Arabic language.**

2. **The Bureau also requested that the Secretariat finalize and submit the chart with an explanation paper, including the terms of reference of the Information Officer, to the next meeting of the National Focal Points for its consideration**

3. **The Bureau decided to submit the amended draft MAP Information Strategy to the meeting of MAP National Focal Points for its consideration. The draft strategy is contained in Annex II to this report.**

5.2 Establishment of a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for training purposes in Turkey

95. The Vice-President from Turkey informed the meeting that in order to exchange experience and information within the framework of MAP, many scientific meetings and workshops had been held for technical experts alone in all Mediterranean countries. However, it was clear that all these efforts were not sufficient to attain the sustainable development objectives in the Region. Within this context, scientific and practical training activities on the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the promotion of the sustainable development idea should be extended to all related actors including public administrators, non-governmental organizations, private sector officials and the national operational authorities. Should there be full support from the member countries for these ideas, he pointed out that Turkey would be honoured and delighted to establish "A Regional Activity Centre in Turkey" for the training of all actors concerned above. At this point, he expressed his belief that this initiative would contribute to the attainment of the main objectives of the MAP Information Strategy, which could increase MAP's visibility throughout all Mediterranean countries. He suggested that it would be very useful to review the establishment of Training/RAC during this meeting, in conjunction with MAP Information Strategy.

96. The Coordinator took note of the proposal by Turkey and pointed out that a technical paper should be prepared by Turkey describing all aspects of the proposal, including the financial component, related to the counterpart contribution of the host country, and be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the National Focal Points to be held in September 1999. He also envisaged a visit by the Secretariat to Turkey to further discuss the matter.

Other information and training activities

97. The Coordinator introduced the relevant section in his progress report concerning other information and training activities, and in particular the important role of the library.

98. The Vice-President from Greece referred to the work of the library and its extreme importance, especially to students and for training purposes. In this connection, he extended the appreciation of the Greek delegation to the librarian for her distinguished and important work. The MAP Coordinator fully shared the Greek expression of appreciation to the librarian for her excellent work.

Agenda item 6: Process of selection of members in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

99. The Coordinator introduced document UNEP/BUR/54/3/Add.1 concerning the selection of members of the MCSD and explained that in accordance with the terms of reference of the MCSD, the duration of membership of the 36 members of the Commission should be as follows:

- a. all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention shall be permanent members of the Commission (21);
- b. representatives from each of the three categories (local authorities, socio-economic actors and Non-Governmental Organizations), shall be selected for a duration of two years by the meeting of the Contracting Parties (15).

He explained that the forthcoming Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, 27-30 October 1999) would have to nominate the 15 members of the Commission, other than those representing the Contracting Parties.

He suggested that the Bureau might wish to exchange views on the issue of nomination of the 15 members of the Commission with a view to advising the meeting of the Contracting Parties on this subject.

100. In this respect, he added that there were two options on how to proceed:

- a. to authorize the Secretariat to ask Contracting Parties and NGO's to send their candidates and request the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) to take a decision on the nomination of members of the Commission, or
- b. request the meeting of the Contracting Parties to authorize the next Bureau to make such a nomination. He also noted that the issue was not an easy one, as some of the members from these groups were functioning as Task Managers with a heavy work schedule ahead of them, while other members had just been selected.

101. During the brief discussion on this issue, the representative of Tunisia proposed that either the tenure of the existing members should be extended for another two years, or that only some of them should be changed in order to secure continuity within the structure of the Commission.

102. In the meantime, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya suggested flexibility in replacing the members of the Commission. He favoured the Coordinator's proposal to give a mandate to the next Bureau to finish the work.

103. The representative of Monaco also suggested that this Bureau could propose to the Contracting Parties meeting that the next Bureau be authorized to undertake this work, as it was done for the first selection in 1996, and in order to avoid long and delicate debate during the Contracting Parties' meeting.

104. The representative of Greece pointed out that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, the Contracting Parties meeting was the body responsible for the nomination of the members of the Commission. Therefore, we could not extend this mandate to the Bureau. He also put forward the idea that the forthcoming meeting of the MCSD (Rome, 1-3 July 1999), could discuss the issue of extending the mandate of its Bureau.

105. At the end of the brief discussion, the Coordinator suggested that the report of the present meeting should reflect the various views on this issue.

Agenda item 7: Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

106. The Bureau decided to convene a short meeting on the eve, or early morning of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, 27-30 October 1999).

Agenda item 8: Any other business

107. No other issues were raised.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

108. It was agreed that a draft report of the Meeting would be prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Rapporteur and sent to the members of the Bureau for their comments before its finalisation and distribution.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

109. Following the exchange of courtesies, the President declared the Meeting closed on Thursday, 29 April 1999 at 19.00 hrs.

Annex I

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Liste des Participants**

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Annex II

MAP information Strategy

Introduction

During their Tenth Ordinary Meeting (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997) the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention requested of the Secretariat to present to the Bureau a concrete action programme in the area of information within the MAP system. A report presenting such a programme was submitted by the Secretariat to the Bureau Meeting (Tripoli, 16-17 November, 1998) for its consideration. Following the review of the document presented, the Bureau requested of the Secretariat to convene a Working Group meeting on MAP Information Strategy.

This document represents the initial document presented, amended mainly as to its recommendations to reflect the conclusions of the Working Group Meeting on MAP Information Strategy, Athens, 1-2 April 1999.

1. MAP's mandate

In June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) brought together in Rio de Janeiro, the greatest number of Heads of State and Government ever assembled in one place to discuss environment and sustainable development.

The "Rio Declaration" adopted, includes an important statement on the right of the general public to be considered in matters related to the environment. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states:

"At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes"

Recognizing the important role which public information and public awareness may play in the success of any MAP strategy in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the sustainable development of the region, provisions were made in MAP Phase II, and various amendments have been introduced to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as three new protocols approved during the period 1994-1997.

These legal instruments should constitute the legal basis for a MAP Information and Public Awareness Strategy.

2. The role of MAP

The role which MAP is called to play on information is to coordinate action and act as a catalyst in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the region.

Specifically:

- 2.1 provide relevant information to decision makers in order to assist them in the promotion and the implementation of sustainable development and the protection of the environment;
- 2.2 provide information to the public in connection with the state of the environment of the Mediterranean region and the measures adopted for improvement in order that environmental awareness in the Mediterranean region be enhanced;
- 2.3 encourage public access and participation to information activities for the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region;
- 2.4 mobilize participation and involvement of major actors concerned.

3. MAP's strategy on information and public awareness

In order to enable MAP to fulfill its role, a detailed MAP Information and Public Awareness Strategy should be formed. This strategy should describe the kind of information and the message(s) to be communicated to the MAP partners and the public at large as well as the most effective Environmental Communication procedure. Information may be defined as follows:

- 3.1 **Information for decision-making:** A critical component of environmental policy making. In fact, communication and development are inseparable. Policy makers, business and industry leaders and government officers soon came to realize that public sentiment had become an important consideration in matters related to the environment, and that policy decisions should be based on sound information.
- 3.2 **Public Information, general awareness raising:** The process of conveying information related to the public or sometimes to special target groups (e.g. schoolchildren, tourists, industrialists etc) with a view to enlisting their support for particular MAP objectives and to promoting general MAP aims. Participation is not a solitary thing, rather it refers to a combination of activities and outcomes.
- 3.3 **Public access and participation:** Publicizing the issues addressed, objectives pursued and breakthroughs made under MAP, to as large and mixed a public as possible through various means of communication, providing access to information and encouraging the public to participate and engage in dialogue.

In order to form a fundamental strategy with explicit public information and awareness objectives, and timetables for achieving them, the entire process must be sensitive to cultural, social, political and economic concerns of the region and adapt accordingly. Therefore different and strategic roles need to be assigned to the various categories of Focal Points of the Contracting Parties and to the Regional Activity Centres (RACs).

MAP Information and Awareness Strategy should be based on a well defined plan with clear objectives: WHAT, TO WHOM, HOW.

Recommendations

- **Create a full time Information Officer post at MEDU;**
- **invite the Contracting Parties to appoint Focal Points on information. The Focal Points should be staffed by appropriate, qualified professionals;**
- **design and use a common MAP template (MAP brand identification) in all MAP (MEDU, RACs) publications including a MAP logo.**

4. The Product: What is to be communicated

The Barcelona Convention, its mandate and MAPs profile and work. The activities, products and MAP's 20 years of experience in the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the region together with other selected and useful information in order to support decision making and enhance environmental awareness.

Recommendation

- **The Contracting Parties should define the kind of information to be communicated.**

5. The Target: Whom the Product is to be communicated to

The term Target, in this context, is referred to the public at which MAP information and awareness outputs are aimed. This public should be the beneficiary of MAP's information strategy and are grouped as follows:

- 5.1 - Decision-makers (eg. Contracting Parties, Governments agencies, MAP Focal Points);
 - IGOs (UNEP, UNDP, IOC, IMO, FAO, WHO, European Commission, Convention Secretariats etc.).
- 5.2 - Economic and social sectors;
 - business community/private sector;
 - Universities, libraries, scientific community;
 - NGOs.
- 5.3 - Children and youth ;
 - the mass media;
 - tourist population.

In order to reach all target groups the key element is "nationalization". The Regional Activity Centres and the Contracting Parties must be supported in information capacity building, and be urged to assist both in the preparation and dissemination of MAP information. It is unlikely that MAP and its human resources, however efficient, could be effective in reaching regional, national and local audiences without the assistance of competent authorities on a regional and national level.

However until the necessary assistance to the present staff is actually funded (to be defined in relation with the scope of adopted MAP information strategy), improvements could indeed be implemented by the existing MAP human resources.

Recommendations

- **the target groups should be broadened and updated periodically according to the needs;**
- **the MEDU, the RACs and the prospective Information Focal Points should play an active role in the dissemination of MEDU and MAP information on the international, regional, national and local levels;**
- **the MEDU, the RACs and the prospective Information Focal Points should ensure that the MAP mailing list is properly reviewed and routinely updated and that cooperation between MEDU and RACs, regarding the mailing list and the dissemination of information in general, is enhanced;**
- **RACs should ensure the timely deposit of all publications and reports with the MEDU library;**
- **whenever the relevant bodies within the Contracting Parties issue publications on the environment, these publications should refer to MAP and MAP activities when related.**

6. The Means: Ways and resources to be used

The following should be taken into consideration:

Conditions for the wide dissemination of MAP information vary greatly from country to country within the region. Apart from cultural, economic geopolitical and language differences, there are very distinct differences in the technology for the accession, management and dissemination of information among the MAP countries.

The Contracting Parties differ in their receptivity to information about MAP. For example, political and public sensitivity to environmental issues is much keener in some countries than in others, and some have much longer-established tradition, institutions and means for the dissemination of information.

Public Information varies greatly in different parts of the region. Certain issues which are of great public concern in some Contracting Parties, may have little or no relevance in others.

The processes in reaching the public vary from country to country, and certain media are more developed than others in different countries and situations.

Presently, the Target groups are reached through a mailing list containing approximately 1714 entries and compiled by the Athens MEDU and by the RACs. The following means are being used or have been used:

6.1 Publications

- a. SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS
 - MAP Technical Report Series (MTS)
 - Convention and Protocols
 - MAP and RACs Reports of Meetings
 - RACs publications
- b. GENERAL INFORMATION MATERIAL
 - MedWaves
 - Brochures and Leaflets
 - Posters and Stickers

- a. SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

- MAP Technical Report Series (MTS)

- The series contains selected reports resulting from the various activities performed within the framework of the components of MAP.

- So far 124 volumes have been published which have been disseminated as per the MEDU mailing list, and on request.

Recommendations

- **Upgrade the presentation of MTS; immediate action to be taken on the presentation of the MTS. In the medium term the MTS should be systematically proofread and edited by a qualified editor, preferably with a scientific background, prior to publication;**
- **encourage RACs to publish in the MTS;**
- **urge National Focal Points to assist MEDU in the enhancement of the MTS mailing list by supplying a list of national NGOs and libraries.**

Convention and Protocols

- *Mediterranean Action Plan and the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, 52 pages. United Nations, New York 1980. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic.*
- *Mediterranean Action Plan Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources. Final Act and Protocol, 18 pages. Published by the United Nations, New York 1980.*
- *Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, 32 pages. MEDU, Athens, 1986. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic (in one volume).*
- *Mediterranean Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the*

Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, 61 pages. MEDU, Athens, 1992. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic.

- *Mediterranean Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols*, Informal Document. MEDU, Athens, 1997.

These have been distributed to a selected group of the MAP family (Focal Points, Government experts, IGOs, NGOs, libraries) and, upon request, to institutions and the media.

Recommendations

- **Improve the presentation (easy-to read, easy-to-access, easy reference); the medium term goal should be a common design template and potential MAP logo;**
- **publications should be available in English and French, special efforts should be made to have them also in Arabic, moreover, publications should be distributed at an information stand during meetings.**

MAP and RACs Reports of Meetings

All MAP Meeting reports and documents, 1975 to present, are deposited with the MEDU library, and constitute the MEDDOC database. *A MAP List of Meetings and Documents* is published and distributed biennially.

Reports of MAP meetings are distributed to a selected group of the MAP and RAC family (focal points, Government experts, IGOs, NGOs) and upon request, to Institutions, academics, researchers, students as well as the mass media.

RACs Publications

Recommendations

- **Encourage RACs to upgrade their publications as they produce and distribute their own;**
- **RACs publications to conform to the common design template (MAP brand identification) and include MAP logo in the long term.**

b. GENERAL INFORMATION MATERIAL

Recommendation

- **MAP Information material should be also published in the Arabic language.**

MedWaves (MW)

The first issue of MedWaves was published in July 1985 in English and French. Since 1990, following the decision of the Contracting Parties, MedWaves has been published in English, French and Arabic. The first issue of MedWaves in Arabic is no 19, January 1990. MedWaves magazine is issued three to four times annually and mailed by MEDU to nearly 2000 recipients in multiple copies worldwide. It is distributed to Focal Points, Government experts, libraries, scientists, NGOs, IGOs, journalists and others upon request.

Recommendations

- **Place electronic version of MedWaves on the MAP Web Site;**
- **improve the design and layout of MedWaves, though progress has already been made. Restructure contents (analytical part, per major theme and per issue, activities, achievements, RAC/NGO information, list of meetings etc.);**
- **ensure the timely delivery of reports to the MW Editor by the Focal Points and other sources;**
- **allocate a one or a one-half page for each RAC and one page for NGO- MAP Partners, and make these contributors responsible for providing the text for the updating of the page;**
- **send MW to RACs, Focal Points and NGOs, and urge them to distribute MW to National/local NGOs and libraries, institutions, scientists and the media;**
- **appraise the feasibility of increasing the frequency of MW publication (6 issues per year) in conjunction with reducing the number of pages.**

Brochures and leaflets

- The first MAP brochure, the *Mediterranean Action Plan*, 28 pages, was prepared and published in 1985 by MEDU in all Mediterranean languages. It has been distributed by MEDU to international recipients and by the Focal Points on a national level.
- *Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade*, prepared and published by MEDU in 1988. Languages: All Mediterranean languages (in one volume).
- *High and Dry brochure*, 48 pages, designed and published by MEDU and OCA/PAC (Nairobi), in 1991. Languages: English, French, Arabic.
- MAP brochure, the *Mediterranean Action Plan*, 40 pages, prepared for the Rio Summit, compiled and published by MEDU in 1991. Languages: English and French.

- MAP brochure on MCSD, *Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development: A Regional Channel for Agenda 21*, prepared and published by MEDU in 1997. Languages: English and French (in one volume).
- MAP brochure, the *Mediterranean Action Plan: A Contribution to Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Basin*, 36 pages, prepared and published by MEDU in 1996. Languages: English, French.
- MAP leaflet, four-fold prepared and published by MEDU in 1997. Languages: English, French.
- Various Blue Plan and SPA/RAC brochures.

Recommendations

- **Update the institutional MAP brochure as necessary; possibly with the addition of a back page pocket for inserting updated information. Languages: English, French, Arabic;**
- **create a) promotional, analytical eye-catching, easy-to-read, easy-to-absorb brochure**
b) leaflet with focus on the Mediterranean environment.
Languages: English, French, Arabic; all Mediterranean languages in the long term.
- **create a special brochure for children and youth (seek the assistance of a country with proven experience in such types of brochures), possibly as part of a comprehensive educational pack. Languages: All Mediterranean languages.**

Posters and Stickers

- *Turtle poster*
Printed in Athens in 1986 by MEDU. Photograph A. Demetropoulos. 5000 copies;
- *Monk Seal poster*
Printed by Water Branch, UNEP, Nairobi in 1998. Design by J. Lamb. 10000 copies were sent to MEDU;
- *Dolphin poster*
Printed in Athens in 1985 by MEDU. 1000 copies;
- *MEDUNIT poster (Art)*
Printed in Athens in 1986 by MEDU. 1000 copies.

Stickers mentioned hereunder were financed by Water Branch, UNEP, Nairobi. It must be noted that none of these stickers were originally designed to serve MAP purposes.

- *SOS Message in a bottle*: Designed and printed in two sizes by MEDU, in 1984, 100000 copies. Reprinted in 1985, 1986 and 1993.

It must be noted that this sticker is being used by UNEP for the "Year of the Ocean 1998" and appears in the UNEP letterheads;

- *Dolphin*: Designed and printed by MEDU in 1984. 150000 copies. Reprinted in 1985, 1987, 1991, 1993;
- *Pink Whale*: Designed and printed by MEDU in 1985. 50000 copies. Reprinted in 1985 and 1993;
- *Keep our Seas Alive*: Designed and printed by MEDU in 1985. 150.000 copies. Reprinted in 1987 and 1993;
- *Help Stop Global Warming and Sea-level Rise*: Designed by the Water Branch, Nairobi. Printed in Athens by MEDU in 1988. 100000 copies. Reprinted in 1991.

Recommendations

- **A well designed series of posters and stickers is an excellent way to reach the general public. The impact should be mainly visual and include the MAP logo. Where textual message exists this should be in the local language.**

6.2 *The MEDU Library*

The MEDU library, established in May 1986, houses a small special collection of monographs, scientific periodicals, technical reports and reference publications on marine pollution, sustainable development, environmental policy and law, climate change and other related topics. It serves as a depository for RACs publications and reports as well as for UNEP and other UN Agencies scientific and technical publications, and maintains a complete official documents collection and data base of meetings organized and convened by MAP from 1975 to present. Designated for the use of the MEDU staff, the library, despite its limited resources, has continued to offer assistance and to provide reference services and training to the Mediterranean scientific, professional and student community.

Recommendations

- **Define the policy and set guidelines regarding the MEDU library status, services, as well as its potential in the framework of MAP and MAP policy on information;**
- **organize the library's collection in electronic form in order to facilitate collection management and development and enhance library services;**
- **design and compile a MAP library database of MEDU and RACs library holdings (documents, publications). Make the database accessible and searchable via conventional means and via the Internet;**
- **create a MAP library information network with the MEDU library serving as the Focal Point and the active participation of RACs for effective information exchange and dissemination;**
- **enhance the MEDU library's presence on the MAP Web Site;**

- **support the library and the library's role in order that its growing responsibilities as a Centre for the deposit/acquisition, management and dissemination of environmental information in the region, be met. To that end, full time library staffing and a librarian's post should be established.**

6.3 MAP Web Site

The MAP Web Site was designed by Data Processing and the Library and was uploaded to UNEP server in August 1997, upon approval by the professional staff meeting. It consists of, Information on MAP; History and Milestones; Legal Framework of MAP; Institutional Structure; Partnerships; Programme of Activities; Publications; and up-to-date news as well as glossary of terms. Moreover, it provides downloading option for copies of selected MAP meeting reports, the Barcelona Convention and Protocols, copies of 73 MAP Technical Reports and various other documents and publications.

The Web Site may be accessed at: <http://www.unepmap.org> and is updated approximately, every three weeks.

Recommendations

- **Assign responsibility for the contents and updating of the MAP Web Site to the prospective MEDU Information Officer;**
- **recruit professional services for enhancing the Web Site design;**
- **make contents of Web Site bilingual, English and French.**

6.4 Mass media

The press is contacted through, press releases, interviews, direct contact with individual journalists, press conferences on the occasion of the Contracting Parties meetings.

It must be taken into consideration that the Mass Media (Newspapers, magazines, written publications, radio, television) is a very special target group, as they have the potential of reaching a great number of people.

The print medium, most often available to a mass audience, is the newspaper. However, it must be noted that:

- Environmental journalists are often presented with technical and sometimes conflicting information and are required, under deadlines, to make sense of material referring to complex issues and make it readable and comprehensible. This leads to a confusing picture for the public and, at times, undermines the credibility of journalists on environmental issues;
- there is too much press release journalism, crisis-oriented, inconsistent, lacking in follow-up and not enough analysis of the issue;
- MEDU has to manage the press for maximum efficiency in promoting the goals and activities of MAP.

Recommendations

- **Improve liaison with mass media through the prospective Information Officer at MEDU;**
- **prepare a press kit with basic information on MAP goals and activities for distribution at press conferences, during Mediterranean Environment Week etc.;**
- **issue periodic MAP press releases and feature stories in English, French and Arabic;**
- **utilize prospective MAP Information Focal Points for the dissemination of MAP information to the local media.**

6.5 *Other means*

- Exhibitions
- TV/Video Film outputs
- special events

Exhibitions

MAP has organized the following exhibitions:

- *The 1983 Exhibition panels:*
In 1983 T. Farcas, consultant, Water Branch, Geneva, created an exhibition consisting of 12 light-weight panels, which was shown in 1983 during the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Dubrovnik.
- *The 1985 Exhibition panels:*
In 1985, a new MAP exhibition was created by Mr. N. Gabrielli, architect and consultant of the Municipality of Genoa. The exhibition consisted of 35 plastic-coated aluminum panels, each weighing 5 kilos. This exhibition was shown at the 1985 meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa; in Athens, December 1985 as part of the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of MAP; in Algiers, March 1986; in Tunis, November 1986; in Nairobi (French Cultural Week), March 1987; in Malta, July 1988; and in Tripoli (Libya), February 1989.

In March 1990 MAP discontinued the used of this exhibition since the data shown had become obsolete.

- *The 1992 Exhibition panels:*
In 1992, a new MAP exhibition was created by M. Caparis, consultant, and the Senior Information/Conference Assistant. The exhibition consisted of 18 light-weight, easy to transport panels, 43 pictures with photographs and texts. It was shown at the Thessaloniki International Fair, September 1992; in Piraeus at the Music, Vision, Media Exhibition in November 1992; in Athens at the Multimedia Exhibition in December 1992; and at the HELECO Exhibition in April 1993; in Nicosia, in September 1993; at the Thessaloniki International Fair in September 1993; in Antalya, in October 1993; at the Thessaloniki International Fair in September 1994. In January 1995, MAP discontinued the use of this exhibition since the data shown had become obsolete.
- *Computer slide show on MAP:*
Prepared by Data Processing and shown to the delegates in Barcelona, at the Contracting Parties Meeting, in Barcelona, in 1995.
- *UNEP Photo Exhibition:*
On loan by UNEP Nairobi, 60 photographs, no text. Shown at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Athens, in September 1994. Inaugurated by the Coordinator and the Deputy Mayor of Athens.

It should be taken into consideration that these exhibitions intended as a portable display for frequent use around the region, are in fact, only barely mobile and costly to transport.

Recommendations

- **Develop a good set of transparencies and/or slides for the use of professional staff and RACs;**
- **discontinue such type of exhibitions which are costly to transport;**
- **encourage and support exhibitions organized on a national and local level, especially exhibitions for children.**

TV/video Film output

- MAP produced a video in 1995, 15 minutes long, which follows closely along the thematic lines of the MAP first booklet.
This video lacks creative and local appeal and is outdated.
- Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) produced in 1990, a 52 min. video: "*Mucking up the MED*". The video, a great success, is now outdated.

Recommendations

- **Secure funds (external) for an updated video and TV spots on the Mediterranean environment and the Mediterranean Action Plan, promoting MAP and Its activities;**

Special Events

World Environment Day

The material regarding the World Environment Day is prepared, produced and disseminated directly by UNEP Headquarters. It must be noted that this material reaches the Contracting Parties and RACs late in May.

Mediterranean Environment Week (Genoa Declaration 1985)

Until today, the Mediterranean Environment Week has been occasionally observed. However, it could become the highest expression of Contracting Parties solidarity. Mediterranean Environment Week is a unique opportunity to bring MAP alive for its public.

In order to achieve results, careful planning as well as production of relevant material, timely dissemination and careful planning of events should be organized by MEDU in close cooperation with the Contracting Parties and RACs.

Recommendations

- **Engage schools with a painting competition, the awards to be given during the Mediterranean Environment Week;**
- **consider instituting special awards, e.g. "Most Environment-Conscious Business Enterprise".**

Appendix I

Introduction

These recommendations were finalized and approved at the conclusion of the meeting of the Working Group on MAP Information Strategy (Athens, 1-2 April 1999). They are arranged in short, medium and long term action and are referred in the main body of the document by Topic.

Recommendations

Short Term (0-12 months)

- Create a full time Information Officer post at MEDU;
- create a full time Librarian post at MEDU;
- invite the Contracting Parties to appoint Focal Points on Information. The Focal Points should be staffed by appropriate, qualified professionals;
- upgrade the presentation and the printing quality of MTS;
- recruit professional services for enhancing the MAP Web Site design;
- place electronic version of MedWaves on the MAP Web Site;
- assign responsibility for the contents and updating of the Web Site to the prospective MEDU Information Officer;
- each RAC to assign responsibility on information to a designated staff member;
- in cooperation with the prospective Information Focal Points and the RACs, ensure the proper review and the regular updating of the MAP mailing list for more efficient use;
- ensure the timely deposit of all RACs reports and publications with the MEDU library;
- develop a good set of transparencies and/or slides for the use of professional staff and the RACs.

Medium Term (12-24 months)

- Design and use a common MAP template (MAP brand identification) in all MAP (MEDU, RACs) publications including a MAP logo;
- improve the design/layout of MedWaves. Appraise the feasibility of increasing the frequency of publication (6 issues per year) in conjunction with reducing the number of pages;
- allocate a one or one-half page for each RAC and one page for NGO-MAP Partners, and make these contributors responsible for the updating of the page;
- update the institutional MAP brochure as necessary, Languages: English, French, Arabic;
- create: a) a promotional, analytical, eye-catching, easy-to-read, easy-to-absorb brochure,
b) a leaflet with focus on the Mediterranean environment. Languages: English, French, Arabic; all Mediterranean languages in the long term;

- organize the MEDU library's collection in electronic form in order to facilitate collection management and development, and enhance library services;
- enhance the MEDU library's presence on the MAP Web Site;
- make contents of the Web Site bilingual, English and French;
- improve liaison with mass media through the prospective Information Officer at MEDU;
- issue periodic MAP press releases and feature stories in English, French and Arabic;
- utilize prospective MAP Information Focal Points for the dissemination of MAP Information to the local media;
- prepare a press kit with basic information on MAP goals and activities for distribution at press conferences, during Mediterranean Environment Week etc;
- engage schools with a painting competition, the awards to be given during Mediterranean Environment Week;
- have MTS proofread and edited by a qualified editor, preferably with a scientific background, prior to publication.

**Long Term
(24-36 months)**

- Make MAP publications available in English and French and, special efforts should be made to have them also in Arabic and distribute them at an information stand during meetings;
- create a special brochure for children and youth, possibly as part of a comprehensive educational pack;
- design a series of posters and stickers, as an excellent way to reach the general public, with the impact being mainly visual, and include the MAP logo. Where textual message exists, this should be in the local language;
- create a MAP library information network with the MEDU library serving as the Focal Point and the active participation of RACs for effective information sharing and dissemination;
- organize training programmes on information management and public awareness for nationals of developing Mediterranean countries;
- secure funds (external) for an updated video and for TV spots on the Mediterranean environment and the Mediterranean Action Plan, promoting MAP and its activities;
- consider instituting special awards, e.g. "Most Environment-Conscious Business Enterprise".