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## **MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean  
and its Protocols

Ljubljana (Slovenia), 6-7 April 2006

### **PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (PORTOROZ 2005)**

**(NOVEMBER 2005 – MARCH 2006)**



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## **Introduction**

The present report covers the progress achieved in the implementation of the various activities carried out by the Coordinating Unit, its Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and MED POL since the last meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Portoroz (Slovenia) on 8-11 November 2005.

The Progress Report by the Secretariat for the period November 2005 – March 2006 is composed of two main parts and four annexes.

PART A features reports about on-going activities and outputs carried out in the fulfilment of the Work Plan and budget approved in Portoroz.

PART B consists of a detailed analysis of general activities whose further implementation needs guidance by the Bureau. A number of documents attached as annexes to this report are being provided as background information on some issues which need further discussion.

## ***PART A. GENERAL REVIEW ON THE PROGRESS AND OUTPUTS OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES***

### **I.COORDINATION**

#### **1) Status of Ratification**

Upon the request of the Secretariat, the Depositary Country submitted a detailed table of the status of Signatures and Ratifications, which is attached as **Annex I** to this report. Compared to 2005, there are two more acceptances of the amendments to the Convention, one by Israel and the other by Morocco.

As at 6 January 2006, a total of 18 Contracting Parties had accepted the amendments to the revised Convention, 14 had accepted the amendments to the revised Dumping Protocol and 13 to the revised LBS Protocol. In addition, 14 Contracting Parties had ratified the new Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol, 4 the new Offshore Protocol, 5 the new Hazardous Wastes Protocol and 7 the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

The Amended Convention has come into force on 9 July 2004. The new Prevention and Emergency Protocol has come into force in March 2004. The new Special Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol has come into force in December 1999.

The amendments to the LBS and the Dumping Protocols and to the new Offshore and Hazardous Wastes Protocols are not yet in force.

#### **2) Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development**

Following the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, Slovenia (8 – 11 November, 2005), the major challenge for the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development is now the promotion and implementation of the Strategy's objectives through initiatives at the regional, sub-regional and regional levels.

This is going to be the main focus of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD in Cyprus on 24-26 May, 2006. Preparations for this meeting have already been taken in hand by the Coordinating Unit in close cooperation with BP/RAC and with the involvement of all MAP components.

A meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> MCSD Steering Committee was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 at the offices of the Secretariat in Athens to review the progress of work since the last meeting of the Commission in June, 2005 and to consider the issues that should be included in the agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD in Cyprus.

Apart from reviewing the MCSD Programme of Work, as approved by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, the Steering Committee considered the different phases of development of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in a number of countries and discussed a draft Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD prepared by INFO/RAC.

A summary of conclusions reached by the 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting together with the draft Agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD are attached as **Annex II** and **III** to this report.

## ***2.1 MSSD Implementation***

The Strategy's implementation is now of the utmost importance especially in view of the need for urgent action as underlined in the Environment and Development Report published by BP/RAC. This report highlights unsustainable trends in several strategic issues including water, energy, transport, urban areas as well as rural and coastal areas and emphasizes those actions which may help to change unsustainable development paths.

The MSSD will enable the Contracting Parties in preparing and updating their respective NSSD in line with the objectives, orientations and actions outlined in the strategy. It is at the national level that specific measures, projects actions and partnerships related to the MSSD's objectives and orientations should be identified and implemented within the framework of the NSSD. To be successful, the strategy's implementation should involve Ministries and stakeholders other than those dealing with the environment.

All MAP components will play an active part in the MSSD's implementation, in particular in respect of activities and actions related to promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones.

### 2.1.1 Euro-Med Support for MSSD

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Summit, held in Barcelona in November, 2005, promoted the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

In the Chairman's statement outlining the results of the two-day Summit in Barcelona on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Partnership, leaders of the 25 EU Member States and 10 Mediterranean Partners have made a commitment to use the MSSD for the implementation of the European Commission's initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020.

In a five-year programme issued together with the statement on a Common Vision, the Euro-Mediterranean Partners have agreed to promote environmental sustainability and implement the MSSD.

They have also agreed to develop, as soon as possible, a road-map for de-polluting the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, using the MSSD and MAP towards this end while providing adequate financial and technical assistance.

## **2.2 MCSD Programme of Work**

The meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz adopted the Programme of Work for the MCSD for the next six years, which was prepared and approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD in June 2005 in Athens. The new programme of work is based primarily on the content and proposals of the MSSD, in particular the priority fields of action on thematic issues for the expert groups that will be supported financially and technically by the concerned MAP components and other partners. Some funds will be available as seed money by MEDU for this purpose. Additional funds would have to be sought from partners.

## **2.3 National Strategies for Sustainable Development**

As recommended by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat continued to extend assistance to countries to prepare their NSSD. In this regard, Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Serbia and Montenegro, Syria, Morocco and Egypt that are currently receiving technical support to develop their NSSD. They are also being supported financially by MEDU, Italy and Monaco.

The process in Serbia and Montenegro is almost concluded and a draft NSSD has been submitted to the Secretariat for assessment. Substantial progress has been registered in Syria and a national workshop on the Vision and Orientations is planned, while Morocco has completed the first part of the exercise including the preparation of the Vision and Orientations. Egypt has set up an inter-ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development to prepare the NSSD.

In the coming months, more countries will receive financial support to prepare their NSSD following an agreement reached with the Azahar Foundation in Spain. Albania, Tunisia, Lebanon and Bosnia-Herzegovina will benefit from these funds to develop their NSSD.

A Regional Workshop on National Strategies will also be held with the support of the Azahar Programme.

### **2.3.1 Regional Review and Assessment Report**

A regional review and assessment of National Strategies for Sustainable Development was carried out and the results have been published in the series of MAP Technical Reports. The report is based on the preparation of country profiles and assesses the status of activities in relation to sustainable development in the region including the establishment of National Commissions for Sustainable Development.

Copies of the Regional Review and Assessment Report will be made available during the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD in Cyprus next May.

## **2.4 Promotion of MSSD**

In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz to carry out information and communication campaigns on the MSSD and specific NSSD, INFO/RAC is developing a "Vision" for an information and communication strategy in order to make the MSSD better understood, more widely disseminated and increase its political and public support for its implementation.

### **3) Information**

#### ***3.1 Media coverage of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties***

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting parties in Portoroz was covered by 43 Journalists. They represented daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines, television and radio stations and national news agencies from 15 Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

Ministers and delegates attending the meeting were interviewed by the media representatives. MAP professional officers were also interviewed about their respective fields of activity.

Over 100 articles were published in several periodicals, in addition to television and radio programmes. Other reports were posted on electronic portals and websites.

A press folder providing a good example of the Media coverage has been prepared and made available through the MAP website.

#### ***3.2 Celebration of the MAP's 30th Anniversary***

Several activities on the occasion of the MAP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were supported by the Secretariat, aiming at promoting visibility and raising awareness on the MAP activities in protecting the environment while promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean region:

##### **3.2.1. UNEP's « Our Planet » Magazine**

With the support of UNEP a special issue about the Mediterranean Action Plan was published in UNEP's "Our Planet" magazine, on the occasion of MAP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The publication featured statements by the UNEP Executive Director and other outstanding personalities about MAP's track record and milestones during the last 30 years. Copies of the Publication have been widely circulated, including in Portoroz, on the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties meeting.

##### **3.2.2 NGOs activities in the Arab Mediterranean countries**

The Secretariat also supported the Arab NGOs network RAED, for the organization of specific events to commemorate the MAP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Six national workshops entitled "Partnership with UNEP/MAP –Thirty Years after Barcelona", were organized in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, followed by a regional workshop which took place at the premises of the League of the Arab States (LAS). A special issue of RAED's magazine "Montada El-Biah", devoted to the MAP and its 30th Anniversary from an NGO's point of view was published in Arabic, English and French and widely disseminated. Reports about these special events will be published on RAED's website as well as on the websites of other NGOs in the seven countries.

##### **3.2.3 "Naše morje" / "Our sea"**

On the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, the Ministry for the Environment of Slovenia and the Secretariat sponsored the publication of the book "Naše morje" / "Our sea". The publication is a magnificent presentation of the variety of the marine



ecosystem in the extreme northern part of the Adriatic. The book was launched during the Contracting Parties meeting. It was also presented to the media covering the meeting in Portoroz. Copies of the publication were also given to all participants in Portoroz as a memento of their participation at the meeting

### **3.4 MAP publications**

#### 3.4.1 MedWaves

The MAP magazine has been redesigned and the English version of the new issue (No. 55) is currently under preparation. The issue focuses on the major outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz. Arabic and French versions of the magazine will also be published.

#### 3.4.2 MAP Technical Reports Series (MTS)

Eight issues were published from July 2005 to March 2006:

- MTS 156: Inventories of PCBs and nine pesticides - MED POL, 2004 (English, French)
- MTS 157: Municipal wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities (II) - MED POL/WHO, 2004 (English, French)
- MTS 158: L'eau des Méditerranéens : situation et perspectives - BLUE PLAN, 2004 (French)
- MTS 159: Dossier on Tourism and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean - BLUE PLAN, 2005 (English, French)
- MTS 160: MAP CAMP Project "Lebanon": Final Integrated Project Document - PAP RAC, 2005 (English)
- MTS 161 (Vols. I & II): Financing And Cooperation For Sustainable Development In The Mediterranean, Sophia Antipolis, France, 3–4 June 2004 - BLUE PLAN, 2005 (English, French)
- MTS 162: Review And Assessment Of National Strategies For Sustainable Development In The Mediterranean Region - MCSD, 2005 (English, French)
- MTS 163: Sampling And Analysis Techniques for the Eutrophication Monitoring Strategy of MED POL - MED POL (English)

#### 3.4.3 The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

An updated version of the publication featuring the full texts of the MAP legal documents has been produced in English. The publication was disseminated during the Contracting Parties meeting in Slovenia.

#### 3.4.4 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

Following its adoption by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, the MSSD is being published in a new format. It will be made available also in Arabic and French. Copies will be distributed in the Mediterranean countries and among international institutions dealing with sustainable development.

### **3.5 The MAP website**

The English and French versions of the MAP website are regularly being updated by MEDU. This includes press releases, publications, information on MAP and non-MAP environmental events and meetings. Work is in hand to have an Arabic version of the MAP website.

### **3.6 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention**

A special event, aiming to promote MAP visibility and awareness among the Greek media and the general public, will be organized in Athens on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Barcelona Convention.

The event is scheduled to take place on 23 October 2006 (the eve of UN Day) and will include the opening of an exhibition on MAP and the Barcelona Convention to which members of the Diplomatic Corps residents in Greece will be invited.

### **3.7 The MAP Library**

During the period covered by this report, MAP Librarian dealt with several requests for information and research, mostly from outside MAP. These came mainly from governments' organizations, students, private consultants and the general public.

Updating of the Documents Section, E-Directory and Contacts Section of the website continued. Major activities included the inputting of 300+ entries for Meeting Documents in Arabic, and also translated texts in Arabic, French, Spanish and Italian of keyword terms and names of organisations for the various databases as well as, the E-Directory, and the Contacts Section. Work is continuing on a five-language thesaurus of keywords that will improve access to documents in the different language versions of the website. Several changes were made to the Documents Section to improve the search facilities for the user.

In collaboration with other Mediterranean libraries, the MAP Librarian has been an active participant in the setting-up of the Mediterranean Marine and Aquatic Libraries and Information Centres Network. Its aims are to share and exchange information and resources between libraries around the Mediterranean Region. A Directory of the Network's 34 members was compiled and is ready for distribution to members. The Directory will be accessible on the MAP web site.

The Mailing lists for the MAP Technical Reports have been reviewed, with recipients offered the option of either receiving a notification via email of a newly published MTS or to request a hard copy. This is intended to economise on printing and mailing costs and to make sure that the reports are sent to relevant users.

## **4) Cooperation with Partners**

### **4.1 GEF PDF-B for the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem Regional Component:**

The Strategic Partnership (SP) is a basin-wide multi-stakeholder collaboration with the main objective being to assist countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors including trans-boundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection priorities identified in SAPMED and SAPBIO. The Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of the marine ecosystem.

The SP consists of two individual components; a Regional Component (UNEP) and an Investment Fund (WB) to assist the countries in a collaborative manner according to each agency's comparative advantage.

The SP project is divided into the following components:

Component I. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms for SAP MED and SAP BIO

Component II. Replication Strategies for SAP MED and SAP BIO

Component III. Technical Assistance.

- Sub-Category 1. Implementation of the SAP MED and related NAPs (pollution reduction strategies)
- Sub-Category 2. Implementation of the SAP BIO and related NAPs (biodiversity protection strategies)
- Sub-category 3. Implementation of the SAP BIO related to the conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable or endangered fish and invertebrates, including IUCN/CITES lists, and sustainable related fisheries;
- Sub-Category 4. Regional Strategies to manage and protect coastal aquifers;
- Sub-Category 5. Regional Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Sub-Category 6. Regional Integrated Coastal Management.

Component IV: Development of the Coordination mechanisms for the Strategic Partnership.

Component V: Information & Communication Strategy

Component VI: NGO mobilization and Small Grants.

#### 4.1.1 Inception Meeting of the PDF-B phase for the GEF SP for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)

The inception meeting of the PDF-B phase for the GEF SP for the Mediterranean LME was held in Athens on the 8-9<sup>th</sup> of December 2005. All partners (FAO, GPA, GWPMED, INFORAC, MEDPOL, MIO/ECSDE, PAP/RAC, REMPEC, SPARAC, WWF, UNESCO, UNIDO, WB/METAP, CP/RAC,) were present along with representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory, WHO, UNEP/GPA, UNEP/GEF and GEF Secretariat.

It was decided to include two new activities/components on top of the existing ten: (a) Communication Strategies to be carried out by INFO/RAC; and (b) NGO mobilization and small grants to be carried out by MIO/ESCDE. Also agreed upon was the need for a 'horizontal' MOU between all partners, to officially establish a Partnership.

In order to submit the Project Brief for approval to the GEF Council of November 2006 (instead of May, 2007 as originally planned) it was decided to finalize the Project Brief contributions by the Partners by the end of April 2006. In the remaining period activities will predominantly focus on finalizing the Project Brief and seeking co-financing.

The Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory, is making an additional contribution of 150.000 USD to the PDF-B project.

#### 4.1.2 The current status of the PDF-B activities:

The PDF-B phase for the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem was formally approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

In the light of certain changes needed to strengthen the original PDF-B Project Proposal, all partners have reviewed their original activities in order to provide a solid basis for the

development of the Full Scale Project (FSP) activities. This has been reflected in their corresponding MoU's.

All MoUs and Letter of Agreements (LOAs) have been finalized and partners have started their activities.

#### 4.1.3 Recent developments

A coordinating group will be set up between the Investment Fund and the Regional Component to ensure consistency of the investment projects with the SP priorities. The group will have the responsibility and mandate to coordinate the different activities being proposed to be financed by the World Bank and the priorities projects identified in the partnership..

IW GEF's Small Grants Program has joined the project as an official partner and will finance activities within the Full Scale Project.

### **4.2 Cooperation Agreements**

The following MoUs have been signed by UNEP/MAP with partners:

1. MoU with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, signed on 09 November 2006
2. Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), signed on 07 February 2006
3. Agreement with the International Ocean Institute (IOI), signed on 01 March 2006

As a result of these cooperation agreements, MAP and its partners will carry out joint activities in their respective fields of interest for mutual benefit.

### **4.3 MED POL**

In the framework of the long-standing cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA), a new report titled: "Priority issues in the Mediterranean Environment" was prepared based on data and information deriving from the process of preparation of NAPs, and in particular National Diagnostic Analyses and Sectoral Plans. The report was officially presented by EEA at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

As a result of the decisions of the Contracting Parties, MED POL initiated a project financed by the European Commission on the application of the Ecosystem Approach by the Mediterranean Action Plan. MED POL, who will be acting on behalf of MAP, organized in February 2005 a meeting with all RACs to plan the activities and to identify the role and tasks of each Centre. According to the project schedule, a first expert meeting will be held in April 2006.

### **4.4 REMPEC**

SAFEMED Project is aimed at reducing the discrepancies, mainly in the enforcement of maritime regulations, between EU, acceding or associated countries and the countries of the EUROMED partnership. The contract for this project was signed at the end of 2005 between the EC and IMO. REMPEC is the implementing body and has established contacts with EC DG Tren and Europe Aid. The EC has recently informed REMPEC of its intention to charge the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) with responsibility to follow-up on its implementation.

Outside the scope of the SAFEMED project, more frequent contacts have been established with EMSA, which invited REMPEC to participate in some of its workshops.

#### **4.5 PAP/RAC**

In the framework of the Regional Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment (SMAP II) a series of national workshops on "Environmental Policy Integration and SMAP III" are being organized in various Mediterranean countries by the APAT-Syke Consortium. PAP/RAC participated at the workshops in Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Syria. PAP/RAC promoted the integrated coastal area management (ICAM) approach and in particular the process and details related to the preparation of the ICAM Protocol for the Mediterranean and the ICAM Strategy.

In agreement with the EU, following a very successful project entitled EUROSION which came up with recommendations for combating erosion in the EU countries, it was decided to consider the possibility of using the EUROSION results in the Mediterranean countries. The main objective would be to define a strategy of erosion combating in the Mediterranean in the near future. As a follow-up, PAP/RAC organized an expert meeting "Towards Mediterranean Regional Strategy on Coastal Erosion: Benefiting from the EUROSION Project" in order to identify the parts of the EUROSION project that could be applied in the Mediterranean and to prepare an appropriate programme of activities. The meeting was organized in Nicosia, Cyprus, on March 16 - 17, 2006. It was attended by a number of national and international experts in the field. The report is currently under preparation.

Several projects were prepared and submitted by PAP/RAC for co-financing from various EU funds, such as INTERREG, FP6 or LIFE Third countries. PAP/RAC prepared project proposals either as a lead partner or as a partner with other institutions from Mediterranean and EU countries, such as: PlanCoast – a project on marine spatial planning and ICAM; DESTINATIONS – a project on sustainable tourism; Wat.E.R. – a project on watershed environmental re-qualification; STIWREP – on scientific and technological support for ICARM; and JABIT – on modernization of library systems.

PAP/RAC is also participating in the "Education in Coastal Management for the Mediterranean - Educom@Med" project, launched by the EU under a Tempus Joint European Projects. The overall objective of the project is to create and implement a new curriculum for a postgraduate course in Coastal Management for the Mediterranean region. This will be achieved by developing and running an E-learning based programme that draws upon the experiences and expertise of the partner countries. The course will be based on five main modules. Currently, a field-based component of the programme is under preparation. The aim of the field-study is to introduce participants with practical application of coastal area management projects on the ground. PAP/RAC will be responsible for organizing this component of the study.

An Internet-based open training course (basic and advanced) on ICAM in the Mediterranean (MedOpen) was translated into French and the first run of the advanced course was completed for 16 French-speaking candidates, whereas about 50 candidates completed the basic course. The translation of the whole course into Arabic was carried out by the Centre for Environment & Development for Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). The basic and advanced courses were organized with the assistance of SMAP RMSU and PAP/RAC. Thirty-five candidates followed the advanced course module in Arabic.

#### **4.6 Cooperation with the NGOs**

Following the meeting of the MAP/NGO Partners on the eve of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, organised by the MIO ECSDE, a number of activities have been undertaken in relation to the MAP Partners.

In conformity with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz assistance has been provided to a number of MAP/NGO Partners to strengthen their capacities and for the implementation of activities relevant to MAP objectives. In this respect 4 MoUs have been signed with NGOs from Lebanon, Greece, Spain, and Egypt. Other MoUs with more NGO/MAP partners are in the process of being signed.

With respect to the principle on public participation in the process of decision-making at the regional level, the Secretariat has encouraged and facilitated the direct involvement of the MAP/NGO Partners and the representatives of civil society in the process of preparation of appropriate rules and procedures for liability and compensation from pollution in the Mediterranean Sea area. MAREVIVO was elected by the NGO/MAP partners to represent them in the first meeting of the WG on Liability and Compensation that was held in Lutraki, Greece 7-8 March 2006.

During the period covered by this report, a number of activities have been organised by the NGO/MAP partners on different issues such as Education for Sustainable development in the Mediterranean, events related to the sustainable development of the coastal zone and the Strategic Partnership (SP).

#### **5) Financial and Personnel matters**

##### *a) Financial matters*

##### **5.1. Remittance of Contributions**

The status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as at 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 stood as follows:

- Total pledges of ordinary contributions for 2006: €6.612,423
- Total collections during 2006 for 2006: €2,134,246 (32.28 % of 2006 pledges).
- Total of unpaid pledges for 2005 & prior years: €775,980;
- Total of collections during 2006 for prior years: €155,653 (20.06% of 2005 & prior years' outstanding pledges).

Details of payments and outstanding contributions are at **Annex IV** to this report.

##### **5.2 Additional Funds**

An in-cash voluntary contribution has been pledged by the European Commission to MED POL for the "Implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean Sea - Development of Environmental Quality Objectives (ECOMED project) amounting to Euro 80,000.

Also the European Commission through its Delegation in Egypt has entered into a commitment with UNEP/MAP in December 2005 to finance the project entitled "Promoting awareness & enabling a policy framework for environment & development integration in the

Mediterranean with the focus on integrated coastal management” to the tune of Euro 1.2 million. PAP/RAC & BP/RAC will receive respectively Euro 502,200 and Euro 260,640 to implement related activities. METAP is also involved in the project and will receive an allocation of Euro 437,160.

The Cypriot authorities have agreed to contribute CYP 40,000 for the preparation of the 11<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus on 24-26 May 2006.

### **5.3. Programme Budget of MAP**

Projects for the biennium 2006-2007 are being implemented by MEDU, MEDPOL and all the RACs, in line with the budgets as approved by the Contracting Parties. Internal revisions will soon be carried out to ensure that the 2004 –2005 accounts are closed and all previous biennium projects are concluded.

#### *b) Personnel matters*

##### **At MEDU**

**Deputy Coordinator** (Post No: MEL-2322-2732-2664-1102-00): Mr. Hoballah took up a new post with UNEP DTIE – Paris. The Deputy Coordinator post is frozen until the next Contracting Parties meeting (Spain 2007).

**MEDPOL Coordinator** (Post No: MEL-2322-2732-2664-1107-00): The Contracting Parties – in their November 2005 ordinary meeting in Portoroz –approved the upgrading of the post to D1. Action is being taken with Nairobi to fill the new position.

**Sustainable Development Officer** (Post No: MEL-2322-2732-2664-1120-00): the appointment of the incumbent, Mr. Frederic Teboul, was terminated on 30 December 2005. The post has been reclassified at L4 level and the vacancy announcement will be made in the coming months.

**Information Officer** (Post No. MEL – 2322-2904-2664–1105-00) The procedure for the recruitment of the new Information Officer has been concluded. Ms Louisa Colasimone, an Italian national, is expected to report for duty on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2006.

**Secretary to MEDU Programme Officer** (Post No: CAL-2322-2904-2664-1306-00): the incumbent, Mrs Inge Mortelmans, handed in her resignation and separated from service on 28 February 2006. The post is currently encumbered by a temporary assistant.

**MEDPOL Secretary** (Post No: MEL-2322-2732-2664-1316-00): Ms. Shelley Farrington-Gavalas was appointed and reported for duty on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005.

**Security Assistant** (Post No: MEL-2322-2904-2664-1332): The post was advertised at G.4 level and the selected candidate, Mr. Dimitris Ganassoulis has been appointed to the post.

#### **Consultants** working at UNEP/MAP premises:

- a) Mr. Philippe Alirol was engaged to follow up on MCSD issues. He took up office on 16 January 2006 and is expected to terminate his mission next July. The Sustainable Development Officer post will be opened at a later stage.
- b) Mr. Ante Baric, GEF Project Manager is now working with UNEP/MAP on a temporary basis. His contract expires at the end of June 2006.

- c) Mr. Alexandros Lascaratos, was hired as GEF PDF-B Project Manager on 20 January 2006 until March 2007.

### **At REMPEC**

Following the retirement of Rear Admiral Patrino and following a selection process which ended in mid-December 2006, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has appointed Mr Frédéric Hébert, a French national as Director of the Centre with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

A vacancy notice for the replacement of the Senior Programme Officer, Mr Darko Domovic, who is retiring, has been issued in February 2006. Twenty-one applications have been received for this post and the selection process is still ongoing.

The Junior Programme Office VIS (Volontariat International Scientifique), Ms Pascale Bouveret has been seconded to REMPEC by TOTAL SA for a period of 18 months commencing from mid-February 2006.

In the general service category, the G7 post was filled by Ms Michelle Mangion who was appointed as Assistant to the Director with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2005.

REMPEC is currently in the process of recruiting three long-term experts for the SAFEMED project.

## **II COMPONENTS**

### **6. Pollution Prevention and Control**

#### ***6.1 Combating land based pollution***

Work continued in order to improve the coverage and the quality of the monitoring activities. Three ongoing programmes (Cyprus, Tunisia, Turkey) were revised through a better coverage of hot spots and the coastal areas and the inclusion of eutrophication pilot studies. In addition, two more eutrophication pilot programmes became operational in Croatia and Morocco.

The Third Review Meeting of MED POL III Monitoring Activities was held on 12-15 December 2005 in Palermo (Sicily-Italy). The Meeting was attended by the representatives of seventeen countries and the European Union. The meeting reviewed the overall activities of MED POL Phase III with a detailed analysis of data and the Data Quality Assurance activities. The analysis of the implementation and the results of each MED POL monitoring component was made and proposals for future action to be considered in MED POL Phase IV were also formulated. The countries that did not participate in MED POL Phase III presented their national monitoring activities including data and results. A draft method of sediment sampling and analysis that had been discussed at the meeting of experts on sediment studies (April, 2005), was also presented and widely commented. The document, once finalized, will provide an important contribution to the revision of the trend monitoring programme. Finally, a draft Eutrophication Monitoring Strategy was prepared and presented to the same Meeting for discussion. First comments were obtained and incorporated into the new version of the document which will be circulated among experts.

The sampling and analysis techniques for the eutrophication monitoring of MED POL was published as MAP Technical Series No163 and widely distributed.



Based on the recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties Meeting and the conclusions of the Third Review Meeting of the Monitoring Activities, the countries who had not participated to MED POL Phase III or had gaps in the provision of data were contacted with a request to provide the data and results of their monitoring activities according to MED POL specifications.

As a follow up to the MED POL Programme approved by the 14<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties Meeting, work started on the organization of sub-regional surveys for the understanding of the contamination levels of Mediterranean coastal waters. Contacts were made with the initiatives Mytilos and Mytimed and a tentative joint work plan was prepared.

A national training course on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation and Sludge Management took place in Beirut, Lebanon, from 28 September – 1 October 2005.

The draft document on the "Substitutes to be used as alternatives to Priority Persistent Organic Pollutants" was reviewed and an updated version of the document was prepared to include also a number of additional POPs, as it was recommended during the last meeting of MED POL National Coordinators.

A pilot study on beach profiles to assist countries in preparing the new guidelines on coastal bathing waters was completed involving the following countries: Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Serbia & Montenegro, and Tunisia, so as to provide the grounds for the preparation of a common methodology.

The biennial meeting of the network on compliance and enforcement of legislation was held in Athens, from 4-6 October 2006. The meeting decided to prepare a set of indicators on the subject by implementing pilot studies in countries wishing to participate. Furthermore, in order to assist countries in enhancing the inspectorate systems, the following documents were prepared: "Environmental Compliance – General Information and guidelines for facilities" and "Guidelines for the inspection of selected industrial facilities in the Mediterranean".

In the framework of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) all Mediterranean Countries finalized the preparation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs) to address Land Based Sources of Pollution. The NAPs were presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties and were officially endorsed. In this context MED POL carried out a preliminary analysis of the information included in the NAPs and prepared a country-by-country synopsis including a description of the national priority issues and pollution reduction initiatives up to the years 2010 and 2025, the proposed role of public participation and an analysis of the financial resources needed to cover the cost of the actions. In addition, MED POL prepared a sector-based regional analysis of the priority actions described in the NAPs.

The data and information contained in the Baseline Budget of pollution emissions and releases that had been prepared by all countries were included in a database which is being incorporated in the existing database. In this context, work was initiated with the support of INFO/RAC on the preparation of an internet portal for a GIS-based Information System which will cover all MED POL information on levels and sources of pollution.

In order to strengthen cooperation with national and regional stakeholders in the long-term implementation of the NAPs, in October 2005 MED POL organized, in cooperation of MIO-ECSDE and with the financial assistance of GEF, a multi Stakeholder Forum on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based pollution. The Forum gathered more than 100 representatives from national and regional NGOs, civil society, municipalities and industrial associations who agreed to set up a regional open-ended collaboration platform to be

facilitated by MED POL and MIO-ECSDE in order to contribute to the effective implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) as part of the SAP MED.

In the framework of the implementation of the amended Dumping Protocol, and on the basis of the recommendations of the regional workshop held in Cyprus in February 2005 on the status of implementation of the Protocol and its Guidelines, MED POL organized national workshops in Malta, Syria, Egypt and Libya to assess the preparedness of the those countries to implement the amended Protocol and its Guidelines. The workshops were a unique opportunity for MED POL to meet with different competent Ministries and authorities and other stakeholders and disseminate the related information on the Protocol and its Guidelines for the management of dumping activities. Additional workshops will be organized throughout the biennium 2006-2007.

Concerning Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs), MED POL launched a region-wide testing exercise to assess the availability of data and information needed to estimate the MPIs to be used at a later stage to prepare the state of the Mediterranean report.

## **6.2 Combating Sea Based Pollution (REMPEC)**

### 6.2.1 Training and capacity building

REMPEC organized together with Cyprus and DG JRC a regional seminar on the use of remote sensing in oil pollution control (MEDEXPOL 2005) during the period 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 which was held in Nicosia, Cyprus.

A national seminar on compensation for oil pollution damage was also organized by REMPEC from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2005 in Lattakia, Syria with the participation of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC Fund), P&I Clubs and ITOPF (in full).

REMPEC also held a national awareness workshop on prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution emergencies in Tripoli GSP Libyan Jamahiriya which took place on 23 of November, 2005. It was followed by a request to help in the preliminary activities for the preparation of the national contingency plan. This activity will be carried out during the coming months.

A comprehensive training programme on pollution from ships is currently being developed. A first draft has been received from the World Maritime University (WMU), Sweden, and is under consideration.

An agreement with Serbia Montenegro has been signed in late December to help develop national capacities for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. It will be implemented during 2006.

### 6.2.2 Assistance at national level

At the request of the GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, following a spill that occurred in Misratah harbour, a two-day assessment mission was carried out focused on compensation issues.

### 6.2.3 Dissemination of information

Following the project on port reception facilities, a booklet was edited and disseminated to the focal points and also posted on REMPEC's website. A French edition of this booklet is being prepared.

### **6.3 Cleaner Production**

The main activities carried out by CP/RAC are related to the dissemination of publications, studies and leaflets on cleaner technologies and pollution prevention. During the period covered by the report the following documents were published :

- *CP News letters* (Numbers 19 and 20)
- *Med Clean*: 4 case studies (No. 77 to 80).
- *The 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the Annual Technical Publication - Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability.*
- *Database of Mediterranean experts*

Additional studies and leaflets on cleaner technologies and pollution prevention include:

- a) *Inventory of industrial Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean region and Review of industrial HW management practices in the MAP countries.* These documents, assessing the main streams of Hazardous Waste generated in the Mediterranean countries and the management and treatment techniques of HW, are being prepared in order to identify priority actions at the Mediterranean level, according to the recommendations stated by the Regional Plan for Hazardous Waste;
- b) *Study State of CP in the MAP countries.* The 3rd edition of this study has been prepared and preparations for its translation into French and Spanish are in hand.
- c) *Pollution prevention in auxiliary operations in the chemical sector* - finalisation of this study including the pollution prevention opportunities in auxiliary operations in the chemical sector.
- d) *Interactive Course on Pollution Prevention in the Enterprises* - preparation of the interactive software of this course aimed at university students and professionals who would like to acquire full training in pollution prevention. The software will be available in English, French and Spanish.
- e) *Guide for the implementation of a pollution control system based on the best available techniques and the best environmental practices in the MAP countries*- preparation of a methodological guide for facilitating the introduction of BATs and BEPs in the legal and institutional frameworks of the Mediterranean, including an assessment made on 5 target countries (Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Slovenia and Syria).

A number of workshops have been organized in the framework of the “*Project for the dissemination of good housekeeping practices in the Maghreb tanning sector*”. In this regard a training course on Best Environmental Practices was held in Casablanca, from 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006. A meeting on sustainable development and green technologies was held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January, within the framework of the “4 Motors for Europe” Programme.

## **7. Conservation of Biodiversity**

### **7.1. Implementation of Action Plans adopted within MAP for threatened species and species management**

#### 7.1.1 Monk Seal

Main activities carried out during the period covered by the report are the following:

1. A declaration to boost the conservation of the monk seal was approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Portoroz;
2. An inception meeting for the preparation of the Monk seal conference was held in RAC/SPA premises on 21 February 2006. Representatives from the Bonn Convention, IFAW and RAC/INFO participated at this meeting.
3. Together with the Cyprus Wildlife Society and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of Cyprus an exercise was carried out to train locals and evaluate seal habitat and population in Akamas Area.
4. Contacts were maintained with the Algerian focal point and a national consultant was appointed to select the next priority area to be managed to preserve the monk seal.
5. A project to be developed by locals in the Aegean to involve fishermen in conservation of the seals was defined with a local NGO;
6. Following a request from the Albanian Focal Point a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed between RAC/SPA, the Ministry of Environment and MEDASSET in order to enable the latter to carry out a Rapid Assessment Survey of Important Marine Turtles and Monk seal habitats in the coastal area of Albania from 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2005. This survey is in line with the National Action Plan prepared within the SAP BIO Project, aiming at the proclamation of the Marine National Park of Karaburuni area.

#### 7.1.2 Marine Turtles

Main activities carried out include:

- 1) The setting-up of a long term monitoring programme in Libya starting by launching a first monitoring campaign on a beach in Sirte (Summer 2005) which was identified in the first assessment done (1996-1999);
- 2) The undertaking, in collaboration with MEDASSET and the Lebanese Ministry of Environment, of a monitoring campaign in three nesting sites: El Mansoury, Abbasieh and Tyre coastal Reserve in summer 2005;
- 3) The monitoring during the annual scientific camp of the nesting activities in Kuriat Islands (Tunisia).

Since the first attempt to use a satellite transmitter to follow the migration of a turtle from Libya failed, RAC/SPA in collaboration with the Naples Biological Station will re-employ two satellite transmitters on 2 turtles. RAC/SPA is contributing to a project to follow a rehabilitated turtle in order to assess the impact of the rehabilitation on its behaviour.

Other related activities include:

- 1) The translation and printing of the Manual for Fishermen into Hebrew, Maltese and Slovenian languages.
- 2) The preparation of a database to record rehabilitation procedures and results on marine turtles treatment in collaboration with the University of Murcia in Spain.

3) The organisation of the 26<sup>th</sup> international sea turtle symposium by enabling Mediterranean experts to participate at this important event.

#### 7.1.3 Cetaceans

Main activities carried out with respect to the Cetaceans are the following:

Support has been given to a research organisation to develop activities, jointly with local Greek institutions, fishermen communities, several universities (Thessaloniki, Padua, Barcelona, Vancouver) and cetacean conservation NGOs, for the conservation of the densest Bottlenose dolphin population in the Mediterranean. The agreed tasks have been successfully implemented. The Amvrakikos lagoon, in Greece, has proved to be the most important known habitat for Bottlenose dolphin in the Mediterranean.

RAC/SPA collaborated with and assisted ACCOBAMS in the organisation of the Scientific Seminar on Cetaceans in the South Mediterranean Countries (Bizerte, Tunisia 9-11 March 2006), which aims at defining the urgent priorities and needs of these countries to protect cetaceans.

#### 7.1.4 Marine Vegetation

A draft document for a Project to develop the inventorying, mapping and monitoring of *Posidonia* meadows in Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey was prepared and submitted for co-financing by the Total Corporate Foundation for Biodiversity and the Sea. This project was discussed during the Total Corporate Foundation board of directors held in December 2005 and the request for co-financing was accepted. RAC/SPA will be signing a Partnership Agreement with the Total Foundation, soon.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Libyan Environment General Authority (EGA) in order to study marine vegetation at the Ain Al-Ghazala Lagoon and to assess the status of the Farwa Lagoon vegetation assemblages (already studied in 2000). This activity aims at studying marine vegetation assemblages as an important biodiversity component of the chosen sites, to help in efforts to declare them as MPAs.

#### 7.1.5 Cartilaginous Fishes

This year's topic of The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the European Elasmobranch Association (23-26 November 2005) was "Biodiversity, fisheries and conservation of Chondrichthyans" and dealt with the Mediterranean elasmobranchs, with RAC/SPA support.

Further to a mission to Libya to enhance the expertise on cartilaginous research and conservation ( 24 June-1July 2005), an expert of RAC/SPA prepared a programme of action for these species in that country.

#### 7.1.6 Birds listed in Annex II of the SPA Protocol

The First Mediterranean Symposium on the Mediterranean Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea and Coastal Birds was organised in Villanova I la Geltru, from 17 to 19 November 2005, in collaboration with SEO/Birdlife and Medmaravis. The symposium was an opportunity to take stock of the existing knowledge on the status of the threatened species of marine and coastal birds throughout the Mediterranean countries. The proceedings of this Symposium are being compiled and finalized by SEO/Birdlife following a financial contribution offered by the Catalan Region (Spain).

With a view to compile a Directory of Experts and Organisations concerned with the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Birds in the Mediterranean, a registration form was designed and circulated among the SPA National Focal Points in order to be disseminated to national specialists and organisations. The Directory will be submitted to the next NFP Meeting.

RAC/SPA has supported a field survey on Eleonora's falcon in La Galite Island, Tunisia, carried out by the Tunisian Birdlife partner "Association les Amis des Oiseaux".

The second midwinter census of water birds in Libya (20-31 January 2006) was supported by RAC/SPA, following a request received from the "Environmental General Authority of Libya" by gathering and contracting a team of national and international ornithologists.

#### 7.1.7 Species Introductions and Invasive Species

The following activities have been carried out:

- Organisation with ICRAM (Italy) of a Workshop on non-indigenous species in the Mediterranean (Rome, 6-7 December 2005). The Workshop gathered experienced Mediterranean scientists as well as representatives of organisations dealing with the issues of non-indigenous species in the region. The Workshop's final report is under preparation and will be published shortly.
- Elaboration of the first version of the Directory of Specialists and organisations working on species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean.
- Elaboration of draft "Guidelines for controlling the vectors of introduction into the Mediterranean of non-indigenous species and invasive marine species" and an outline of the "Guide for risk analysis assessing the impacts of the introduction of non-indigenous species". These drafts were finalised after having been discussed during the Rome Workshop.
- Elaboration, in close consultation with REMPEC, of a regional Project on Fouling, Ballast Water and Sediments. A first outline of this project was already drafted early in December 2005. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, RAC/SPA and REMPEC are finalising the project in close collaboration with the GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme II "GloBallast Partnerships" (GBP).

#### **7.2. Marine Protected Areas**

RAC/SPA in collaboration with the Libyan EGA, IUCN Med and WWF MedPO, is setting-up a Programme for the establishment of an MPA network along the Libyan coast. The activities agreed upon aim at identifying sites of conservation interest along the Libyan coast and the setting-up of a mid-term programme for establishing a representative network of MPAs.

A publication on the economic principles for managing protected areas, sufficiently flexible to suit all contexts in the various Mediterranean countries is being prepared. This document is intended as a tool and guide to managers to help them optimise the economic issues that affect their protected areas.

RAC/SPA elaborated an outline of a Project for assisting Mediterranean countries in elaborating Emergency Plans for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (risk of marine pollution, invasive species, etc.).

RAC/SPA is co-organizing with the Spanish authorities a one-day seminar in Alicante (27 April 2006). This seminar is intending to enhancing marine and coastal protected areas management and encouraging the process of submitting sites for the inclusion of SPAMIs especially by countries from the Eastern Mediterranean.

### **7.3. Biodiversity Data Management**

The main activities carried out in this field are the following:

- 1) Within the framework of its activities to assist Mediterranean countries to draw up their national inventories of sites of conservation interest, RAC/SPA hired the Tour du Valat to elaborate a manual that will be composed of illustrated sheets describing the habitats and the key elements to make the sites' identification easy.
- 2) Development of a CD-ROM featuring the available inventory tools elaborated within the MAP context (SDF Sheets, Reference List of Habitats and Species, Manual of interpretation of habitats, etc.).
- 3) Elaboration of a Photographic Library gathering and classifying all the available photos at RAC/SPA (electronic format, slides, negatives, printed format).
- 4) Launching of call for tender to restructure and update the Centre's databases in order to be diffused through CD-ROMs and via the Mediterranean CHM portal. Two firms were selected to undertake the work as follows:
  - restructuring and updating the databases on sites of conservation interest and Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean and on the legal aspects of biodiversity conservation
  - establishment of a Mediterranean Directory of organisations and projects concerning the conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity
- 5) Contacts are underway with the EEA in order to implement the Mediterranean CHM using the EC CHM PTK. Training of RAC/SPA staff and nationals is envisaged within this collaboration.
- 6) A total overhaul of RAC/SPA website to adopt a new format and new graphics has been carried out.

### **7.4 SAP BIO**

RAC/SPA prepared and submitted a funding request to UNEP/GEF, for two major elements related to SAP BIO, (I) sustainable management of living marine resources, in collaboration with FAO, and (II) development of marine protected areas, in collaboration with two partners, the WWF, MedPOL and the FAO. These requests are in line with the following GEF strategic priorities: (1) IW-1 Catalyzing Financial Resources for Implementation of Agreed Actions; (2) Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Areas and (3) Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors.

RAC/SPA provided to GEF, in collaboration with the two above-mentioned partners, necessary inputs for the integration of its proposals in a PDF-B addressed to support the Strategic Partnership.

### **7.5. Taxonomy**

A first training session on the creation and maintaining of reference collections on marine vegetation was held in the Botanic Department of the University of Catania from 5 to 10 December 2005.

In order to assess the national needs for training, taxonomic guides and reference collections in the Mediterranean region contact was established with the "Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie" to implement this activity. Financial support was given to the National Centre for Marine Sciences (Lebanon) for the publication of a Catalogue on Loricata Ciliata (Tintinnidae).

## **8. Environment and Development**

### ***8.1 Implementation of CAMPs***

#### **CAMP "Algeria"**

CAMP Algeria was concluded with the Final Presentation Conference for CAMP Algeria, presided by the Algerian Minister for the Environment. The Conference was held at the Hotel Al-Aurassi in Algiers on January 30, 2006. It was attended by about 200 participants representing different stakeholders concerned; namely, ministries, regional and local authorities, governmental institutions, NGOs, MEDU and RACs, and international environmental organizations working in the CAMP area.

#### **CAMP "Slovenia"**

The project CAMP Slovenia was in full swing during the reporting period. The Steering Committee took place in November 2005 and the project activities were presented at the Contracting Parties meeting in Portoroz as a side event. Regular meetings with the local communities, the Ministry of Environment and consultants were convened by the National Project Co-ordinator. Three out of the four main project activities were completed and are currently being revised.

The main activity, namely Regional Concept of Spatial Development, has still not yet been completed due to the fact that the Ministry of the Environment is in the process of changing the spatial planning legislation to which this activity is strongly related. According to the Agreement, this project should be completed by the end of June 2006. However it is expected to be extended by 3 to 4 months so that the preparation of the regional spatial plan could be better integrated and complemented by the regional development plan which is also under preparation.

#### **CAMP "Cyprus"**

An Inception Workshop of the CAMP Cyprus project was held on 19 - 20 January, 2006. It was attended by over 60 participants including RACs representatives, MEDU, national government officials, and various national experts.

The workshop discussed the Inception Report, including the methodologies, tools and techniques to be applied within the CAMP Cyprus, the Workplan and Timetable of the CAMP, the Terms of Reference specific to the CAMP's individual activities and the relevant monitoring procedure. The main CAMP activities include Co-ordination and Integration of Project Activities, Methodology of ICAM, Tools of ICAM and Public Participation and Awareness. The CAMP implementation is a joint effort of the Cypriot Government and MAP. PAP/RAC is entrusted with the overall co-ordinating role and ICAM activity, BP/RAC conducts the Systemic and Prospective Sustainability Analysis (Imagine) and Indicators activity, SPA/RAC leads the Introduction of Biodiversity Concerns in ICAM activity, and Info/RAC will implement the Remote Sensing for Coastal Diagnostic Analysis activity.



The Report of the workshop, the Inception Report and Activity Sheets for individual actions within the CAMP have been finalized. In the near future the revision of the CAMP Activity Sheets to be presented to the Cypriot government and a Government's tender for services of national specialists, according to the CAMP Work programme, will be prepared.

#### CAMP " Levante de Almeria", Spain

After completion of the Feasibility Study for CAMP Levante de Almeria, Andalucia in November 2005, preparation of the Agreement for this CAMP was the main objective of PAP/RAC and Spanish counterparts in recent months.. A co-ordination meeting with MEDU, RACs involved in CAMP and the Spanish MAP and PAP Focal Points took place during the Contracting Parties meeting in Portoroz in order to agree on the elements and way of co-operation during the preparation of the Agreement. In mid -March the final text was sent to the Spanish National Ministry of Environment for final approval. The agreement for CAMP Levante de Almeria Is expected to be signed in April, 2006.

#### CAMP "Morocco"

At the request of the Moroccan Ministry of Physical Planning, Water and Environment (MATEE), a "Prior-to-CAMP" Workshop was organised in Fes, on February 14, 2006. The main objectives were to sensitize the relevant local actors in the preparation of CAMP in the coastal area of Al Hoceima (Central Rif), to introduce the ICAM approaches, and the benefits of formulation and implementation of CAMP in this area. Participants, 33 in total, came from different institutions of the Tanger-Tétouan and Al Hoceima region, from the central ministry and relevant scientific institutions. In addition to the presentation of various methods and tools of ICAM to be used in the framework of CAMP, the workshop was an opportunity to discuss the Feasibility Study for CAMP Morocco. These discussions allowed local actors to express their views and positions with regard to the future CAMP and to define activities to be implemented in this frame. These suggestions and comments will be taken into account when an Agreement for the project will be formulated.

#### **Blue Plan contribution to Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs)**

The Blue Plan is participating in CAMPs by developing a participative method of analysing systemic and prospective sustainability called 'Imagine'.

A publication entitled "Imagine - Developing a practical user" was published in October, 2005 . The French translation is underway and will be published in March of 2006. It is intended to use this publication during symposia, conferences and training sessions organized by BP in those countries wishing to introduce the "Imagine" method.

Following its successful implementation in the Lebanon, Slovenia and Malta CAMPs, 'Imagine' will also be included in the Cyprus CAMP and Spain CAMP.

#### **8.2 Other Activities of PAP/RAC**

In the framework of GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems, PAP/RAC is one of the partners that, together with METAP, will collaborate on the project components related to ICAM. Details of the co-operation in this GEF project were finalized and a MoU prepared for the financing of the PDF B phase of the project. Sub-regional policy briefs for the eligible countries are currently being prepared , together with an expert meeting to review the draft policy briefs that will serve as an input to the overall project document.

Another GEF project in a PDF B phase was completed with the collaboration of the counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina. This project is about on the Neretva-Trebinjica river basin management, a cross border project between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SMAP III project "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on Integrated Coastal Management" was signed in December 2005. The details of the projects were discussed at various meetings with all partners concerned including the one in Rome on January 13 and in Cairo on February 22-23. PAP/RAC, Blue Plan and METAP are drafting the Inception Report. In addition, possibilities for co-operation with InfoRAC were considered. The draft Inception Report will be discussed at the meeting on April 3-4. Representatives of the Blue Plan, METAP, SMAP RMSU, SMAP III TA, PAP, InfoRAC as well as several ICZM experts will attend the meeting.

PAP/RAC has been implementing an "Integrated Coastal Development Study and Plan for the Southern Coastal Region" in Albania. The project is currently in its final stage. This experience will provide PAP/RAC with a significant insight into the post-CAMP period as well as give it the opportunity to intervene and propose actions that the Albanian Government may wish to consider. The project is financed by the Albanian Government – Ministry for Territorial Adjustment and Tourism and the World Bank.

In Catania the Contracting Parties adopted the recommendation to launch the landscape management activity. As a first step to meet this objective, , an expert meeting was organized by PAP/RAC on January 9 -10, 2006 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Prior to this meeting two position papers were prepared as background documents. The objectives of the meeting were to present and discuss the position papers with a view to their relevance for launching the landscape management activity; to get an overview of landscape planning methodologies and case studies; and to discuss and propose concrete activities for landscape management in the Mediterranean coastal areas. The Report of the meeting, attended by 17 participants from 8 countries, summarizes several concrete proposals for this PAP/RAC activity. In the following months two case projects are expected to be launched in order to put in practice landscape management methodologies and tools, which will later serve as the basis for the preparation of guidelines.

PAP/RAC continued with the preparation of national reports on ICAM in respective Mediterranean countries. Terms of Reference and a contract was prepared and signed for the preparation of the report for Croatia.

Re-design and restructuring of the PAP/RAC web site is currently under way, and the information on the existing site is constantly updated.

### **Blue Plan Activities**

#### ***8.3 Report on the Environment and Development (RED)***

The Blue Plan is currently distributing 800 copies of the RED in both French and English with the assistance of its Mediterranean partners. The report will also be made available on the website.

An Arabic version of the publication is planned for 2006 as part of a co-operation deal between the Blue Plan, the Egyptian NGO Arab Network for the Environment and Development/Arab Office for Youth and the Environment (RAED/AOYE) and INFO/RAC.

During the period covered by this report, the RED was introduced to the 7th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment (MedCoast), held in Kusadasi, Turkey, October 2005, and to the "National Workshop on Integrating the Environment into Sectoral Policies", held in Algier in November 2005.

A project for the promotion of the main findings of the RED involving Blue Plan, META and PAP/RAC was submitted in 2005 to the European Commission (SMAP programme).

The following activities have been planned to be undertaken within the framework of the proposed project which is planned to last 24 months:

- A three-page leaflet giving a general presentation intended for the general public and media, in French, English and Arabic, as well as the printing of posters;
- 4-page policy briefs on each of the topics dealt with in the RED including cross cutting issues targeting mainly specialists. The briefs will also be prepared in English and French.
- PowerPoint presentations, one dealing with the RED in general and others on each of the RED's topics, again in English and French;
- A ten-page summary for the specialised press (e.g. *Futuribles*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Foresight*);
- An executive summary of the report in French and English;

A press kit including a presentation of the RED's goals, information on the partners involved, and background of the process.

As part of the project it is also planned to organise discussions on the report's conclusions. Sub-regional events, organised in close collaboration with national administrations, are planned in the Maghreb (Tunisia) and in the Near East (Lebanon). There are also plans to present the report in countries during workshops and conferences organised either by partner networks or by the Blue Plan as part of its topical activities.

#### **8.4 The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**

The Contracting Parties assigned the Blue Plan the task of monitoring progress on the implementation of the MSSD under the Co-ordinator's supervision and with support from other components of the MAP and partners. The objective is to:

- assess the region's evolution compared to the set goals in the MSSD;
- contribute to strengthening mobilisation for the Strategy and the involvement of all players in the Strategy's seven priority topics, including the authorities in charge of economic and planning issues, elected officials, the media, etc. in a broader manner,
- identify the obstacles for the Strategy's implementation and the tools and leverages that could be used to accelerate its implementation;
- help the MCSD in making proposals for accelerating policy implementation at regional and national levels.

For 2006-2007 the Blue Plan has been asked by the Contracting Parties to begin documenting the 34 indicators of the MSSD, and prepare the selection of coastal indicators. Starting in 2006 Blue Plan will begin monitoring the topics of "water" and "energy/climate", to be followed by "tourism" and "rural development" in 2007. Monitoring of the other MSSD topics will be undertaken in the following years in order to produce by 2010-2011 a detailed assessment of the progress achieved.

Country missions are planned to support activities relating to the indicators and the other priority issues. These missions will take place in the latter half of 2006. During these missions the Blue Plan and the countries will review the activities undertaken or to be

undertaken on the indicators and priority topics. Contacts will be made with all government departments concerned. A second set of missions is planned for the end of 2007 in order to discuss the initial outcomes of the activities on the priority indicators and topics and to identify new topics to be addressed.

### ***8.5. Sustainable development indicators***

With respect to activities related to sustainable development indicators, progress has been achieved with sheets being prepared for each of the 34 indicators adopted within the framework of the MCSD. These sheets outline the reason for the choice of indicator, identify available sources and the possible ways to present the indicators.

The Blue Plan will make use of the various databases already available for gathering the latest available data and making it available to the MCSD in 2007. By means of these indicators it will thus be possible to demonstrate how the Mediterranean has evolved between 1990 and 2005.

Nonetheless several indicators have not yet been documented at the international level. In order to address this issue at the Mediterranean level, a letter will be addressed to the MCSD country representatives and the EC requesting them to nominate a correspondent in charge of the indicators who will then be contacted by Blue Plan to help in the organisation of work on indicators at the country level.

Countries will be able to take advantage of this exercise to undertake or update their work on the indicators with respect to their national sustainable development strategies. It is important for all national strategies currently being developed to include, wherever possible, a set of indicators that will enable to monitor their implementation.

Emphasis is also made in the MSSD on the importance of selecting and documenting complementary indicators for each of the seven priority topics. The activities that will be carried out in 2006-2007 will make it possible to propose complementary lists for water and energy and later on for tourism and rural development. To this end, the work already carried out by both the MCSD and the MSSD in 1998-1999 will be taken into account.

### ***8.6. Financing and co-operating for sustainable development***

This activity ended in late 2004 and led to the publication of a technical report by MAP in 2005. In order to make the analytical elements available to a wider public, the regional study which was originally published in French, was translated into English. It will be published by the Blue Plan around April, 2006.

### ***8.7 Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context***

In 2004 the European Commission requested the University of Manchester to carry out an impact study on the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone. Having taken part in the preparation of the terms of reference, the Blue Plan teamed up with the study's steering committee. This study was carried out in three phases.

The first phase ended in late 2004 and made it possible to develop the methodology for adapting it to the zone's specific needs.

The second phase made it possible to estimate the potential impact of free-trade agreements and to classify by order of importance the sectors concerned and the kinds of impact with a view to more detailed studies. The Blue Plan submitted comments on the corresponding draft

report along with comments on the proposed topics to be dealt with in the following phase. The final report on phase two will be presented in Brussels on March 20th, 2006.

The third phase will make it possible to produce a series of detailed studies and prepare proposals for limiting the negative effects of the agreements and highlight the positive effects.

### **8.8. MSSD priority topics**

The monitoring of each of the Strategy's priority topics presents an opportunity to link the networks and qualified institutes on these issues more closely on the regional level as well as the concerned experts, authorities and actors in the volunteer countries. It is also a way to ensure broader ownership of the Strategy and to contribute to promoting the implementation of policies recommended with respect to the priority fields of action.

As requested by the Contracting Parties, the monitoring activities will target the priority issues where the MAP and its partners can provide useful added value. In particular this means documenting complementary indicators and targeting regional and national analyses on a few MSSD priority objectives such as the evolution of consumption patterns and non-sustainable production and the implementation of integrated management actions.

Monitoring activities will also enable the sharing of experiences at the regional level. To this end, a number of workshops are planned on the seven priority fields. The workshops will be held under the aegis of the MCSD. The outcomes of these workshops will then be communicated to the MCSD with a view to the drawing up of proposals for accelerating the implementation of policies in countries and at the regional co-operation level.

#### 8.8.1 Water

In close consultation with partner organisations, a third regional workshop is being planned for early 2007 with a view to analysing progress made in the following fields: water for ecosystems, agricultural water (and taking demand-management in agricultural policies into account), industrial water, and domestic water taking into account water-demand management and environmental goals in water policies.

The outcomes of the workshop will be presented and discussed at the MCSD meeting planned for 2007.

#### 8.8.2 Energy

With regards to the workshop on energy, contacts were made in autumn 2005 with the main relevant networks in the Mediterranean, including the OME (The Mediterranean Energy Observatory that includes the main electricity companies), MEDENER (the Mediterranean network of energy-efficiency agencies through ADEME), the MEDREP regional project (financed by Italy) and the UMET (the Mediterranean Summer University, which has organised encounters on these issues for the past 4 years). The Mediterranean Institute/FEMISE (Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Science Institutes, which advises the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership) has also been approached.

These networks have agreed to take part in the activity which is expected to be financed by France (ADEME) and Italy.

### 8.8.3 Tourism

In the tourism sector one priority stressed by the MSSD is the carrying out of an initial assessment on the implementation of the recommendations adopted in 1999 on the basis of proposals made by the MCSD. One of these proposals was the carrying out of a feasibility study on the setting up of a regional co-operation mechanisms in this sector. An expert meeting is planned for the end of March, 2006 to discuss the activities to be carried out in 2007-2008. The MCSD meeting in Cyprus in May will be encourage to give its advice on this Consultation with the French authorities in the tourist sector (the Tourism Department, ODIT and UBI-France) in connection with the organisation of this workshop have already been held by Blue Plan.

## **8.9. Other activities**

### 8.9.1 The *Medstat* II Project – The Environment

The following short statistical publications have been prepared:

- “Soils, Water, Waste” is finished and awaiting publication;;
- “Pollutant Emissions in the Atmosphere” is finished and should be published soon;
- “Biodiversity Statistics in the Mediterranean” is in hand;
- “The Sustainable Development Environmental Indicators in the Mediterranean” is being prepared.

These summary statistical publications review the main figures available in the countries as well as the trends.

### 8.9.2 The New *Medstat* II Project – Main activities

In 2005 the Blue Plan joined forces with the Public Interest Group, ADETEF, as part of a consortium, which was chosen by the European Commission as lead entity for the “Regional Programme of Statistics in the Mediterranean Region, Phase II – Lot 2 – Thematic activities” project. Three experts from the Blue Plan were selected to work full time with the project’s team and carry out activities on the topics of Energy Transport and the Environment. The project began on January 16th, 2006 and will last three years. The goal is to help the 10 MEDA countries improve in a sustainable manner, their abilities to produce sectoral statistics in conformity with international standards and according to users’ needs.

### Mediterranean forestry and sustainable development

The Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs of France have agreed to fund an initial phase of a project on Mediterranean forestry and sustainable development which will be concluded in 2006. It is being carried out by Blue Plan in partnership with the FAO and should contribute to giving a new impetus to the committee on Mediterranean forestry issues, *Silva Mediterranea*.

Contacts were made with the forestry departments of other countries in 2005 in order to carry out new case studies, e.g. Algeria (the PNR project in Souk-Ahras), Italy (the Pollino-Calabria National Park) and Albania.

## Regional forum

In collaboration with the High Commissioner for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification in Morocco and with support from France and the FAO, the Blue Plan convened a region forum on the topic of "the Mediterranean forestry sector and sustainable development: challenges, policies and governance" from November 24th to 26th, 2005 in Rabat.

In preparation for this event, a call for papers was made to interested parties in the forestry sectors in the Mediterranean countries. 65 proposals were received, and 43 papers were eventually submitted to the forum in the form either of national reports, thematic studies of regional interest or local case studies.

The forum was attended by 140 personalities and experts from 13 Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey), intergovernmental organisations (FAO, UNPD, UNFF) and non-governmental organisations (IAMF, IUCN, etc.).

All papers presented at the forum have been put on-line on the Blue Plan's website and other partner websites such as the IAMF, the OFME and the IUCN-Med.

A set of recommendations was adopted by the participants in the wake of the forum, which enabled the representatives of the *Silva Mediterranea* committee member countries, which met the following week in the same place, to plan activities for promoting Mediterranean forestry co-operation in the coming years.

## **INFO/RAC Activities**

### **9) Information and Communication**

Following the finalization of the INFO/RAC project document for 2006-2007 on information and communication, efforts were made for enhancing the action plan and identifying synergies with MEDU in promoting and increasing the visibility of the Barcelona Convention on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Common activities on the basis of the work plan of the Center were also identified with MAP components including MEDPOL, SPA/RAC-, CP/RAC and REMPEC for increasing the Information and Communication (IC) component of their actions.

Collaboration was also started with GEF and UNEP for the design and implementation of the PDF-B component within the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) partnership related to the replication strategy.

An exercise for identifying and planning common Information and Communication actions was carried out with NGOs (WWF, Legambiente, Marevivo, IMO, etc.) and International Organizations such as ITU, WHO, and ACCOBAMS. Cooperation activities on IC were also planned with Egypt and Italy. Actions to mobilize and create awareness in the Mediterranean media on the scope and the objectives of the Barcelona Convention have been launched.

Priority was given to the organization of the participatory process for the design of the *InfoMAP* system. The main concept and rationale of the system was presented at the RACs Director's meeting in January in Athens. As a follow up, a detailed work program was prepared and approved by MEDU. A stock taking workshop with MAP components and other participants for the design of the *InfoMAP* system is planned for the end of March 2006.

In March, a testing/training workshop was organized in Rome with MEDU and MEDPOL to continue improving the *MEDPOL Info System* and to start the implementation of an *Electronic Reporting System* for MAP

INFO/RAC participated also in the CAMP Cyprus inception meeting and presented its contribution for the creation of an intranet system.

A new section in the Center's web site was opened as an administration area to put on line and in real time all documents linked to the development of the activities carried out by MAP.

Finally, the preparation of the IC plan for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties has been started.

The main IC events for the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Convention were identified and planned. In accordance with a recommendation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties, a draft Information and Communication (IC) vision for the MSSD was prepared and presented at the MCSD Steering Group Meeting in Athens (March 2006). As a follow-up to the draft vision, a roadmap for organizing and carrying out a participatory process with all MCSD components to build an MSSD IC Strategy was outlined. Specific support actions for increasing visibility of MSSD objectives were also identified. These include the implementation of *Campus EcoMedia*, an on-line MSSD *Forum* and the implementation of the 2006 edition of MEA (*Mediterranean Environmental Award*).

In the same context of the IC actions in support of the MSSD, the Italian translation of the Report on Environment and Development (RED) has also started.

## **B. SPECIFIC ISSUES**

### **a. Legal Issues**

#### ***1. Actions to speed up the acceptance of the amendments to the LBS and the Dumping Protocols.***

As reported earlier, the entry into force of the amended LBS and the Dumping Protocols is being delayed because of the lack of sufficient number of ratifications. The last ratification instruments in respect of the Dumping and LBS Protocols were deposited in 2002.

As emphasised by the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties a particular effort should be made to have the amendments to both the LBS and Dumping Protocols accepted as soon as possible by three and two more Contracting Parties respectively so that these instruments will enter into force.

The secretariat intends to identify those Parties that are most likely to accept the amendments to the LBS or the Dumping Protocols and to ratify the Offshore and Hazardous Waste Protocols with a view to providing assistance to help them to overcome any difficulties they might have.

Visits by the MAP Coordinator to the concerned countries and or the provision of assistance for the development of the necessary legal acts in view of ratification, are some of the activities to be undertaken. In this respect the Secretariat is providing technical assistance to Serbia and Montenegro for the preparation of a feasibility study on the implications and



requirements at country level of the ratification by Serbia and Montenegro of MAP legal instruments.

**Recommendations:**

- 1) **The Bureau is invited to urge all Contracting Parties that have yet to accept the amendments to the LBS and Dumping Protocols to do so in order that the mentioned protocols will enter into force by the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.**
- 2) **The Bureau may deem it useful to request the Secretariat to undertake a number of initiatives in the countries that are most likely to ratify the above mentioned protocols and to provide any necessary assistance.**

**2. *New legal instrument on ICAM***

At their 14th Meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, November 8-11, 2005) decided to establish a Working Group of legal and technical experts to develop a draft text of the Integrated Coastal Areas Management (ICAM) Protocol with a view to its consideration and possible approval by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007. It was also decided to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Protocol to be held immediately following the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The First Meeting of the Working Group of experts designated by the Contracting Parties will be held in Split (Croatia) on April 27-29, 2006. The Mediterranean countries were invited to nominate by mid-March legal/technical experts preferably coming from environment, and other sectors such as planning and local authorities to participate at the meeting. A number of Contracting Parties namely Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Israel, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey have already nominated the members of the WG.

Also, in preparation for the meeting, MAP and PAP/RAC Focal Points were requested to send in writing to the MAP Secretariat proposals regarding the text of the Protocol.

The April meeting of the Working Group is confirmed and preparations are in hand. A coordination meeting took place in Athens on 14-15 March in order to prepare the first session of the WG. It was attended by the representatives of MAP and PAP/RAC, as well as by the consultants. Comments and proposals submitted to the Secretariat were discussed. Seven countries and the EC have submitted in writing a number of comments on the process to be followed for the preparation of the protocol as well as on the content of the different articles of the current draft.

It was decided to slightly amend the current draft of the text of the protocol (as submitted to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties) only with a view to bringing it in line with the style and terminology of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. All changes made will be explained through an explanatory or introductory note. It was also agreed that all comments submitted by the Contracting Parties will be presented in annex to the current draft text. Regarding the organization of work of the first meeting of the WG, the Secretariat will propose to hold a general discussion on the objectives, principles and structure that should be incorporated in the Protocol to be followed by a discussion on the proposed draft text protocol and the comments and proposals submitted in writing by the Contracting Parties as well as those that may be made during the meeting.

**Recommendations:**

**1) The Bureau is invited to encourage the Contracting Parties to nominate their representatives to the Working Group as soon as possible and to take an active part in the first meeting.**

**2) The Bureau may also wish to discuss and advice the Secretariat on the proposed organization of work of the first meeting of the WG.**

**3. *Reporting and Compliance mechanism***

**3.1 *Reporting***

At their 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting in, Portoroz in 2005, the Contracting Parties were invited to report on the implementation of the Convention and its protocols for the biennium 2004-2005 and to submit any missing data with respect to the national reports for the biennium 2002-2003.

In this respect the Contracting Parties should submit the new national reports and the missing data by the end of 2006 at the latest. On the basis of this information the Secretariat will prepare a regional report, which will be the first report following the entry into force of the amended Convention in 2004.

In order to implement successfully this recommendation, the Secretariat is providing technical and financial assistance to the following countries: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Syria. Assistance will also be given to other countries that are eligible to receive support from the MTF.

A number of important tasks were requested from the secretariat with respect to the preparation of the database on the implementation of the Convention and protocols by each Contracting Party, including the production of a new and on line reporting format for the consideration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

The preparation of the new reporting format has already started by MEDU and INFO/RAC. The objective is to establish an integrated reporting approach for all MAP components including reporting on the implementation of the legally binding obligations of the Convention and protocols, the SAP MED and the SAP BIO, different technical guidelines, Action plans on biodiversity, and the decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties. The harmonisation with other reporting mechanisms under international environmental conventions and processes, including the EC, will be taken into account. After adoption by the meeting of the Contracting Parties the reporting format will be available on line.

In this regard a meeting of all MAP components will be held in May 2006 in order to select the best approach with respect to the new reporting format and propose a set of indicators on which the implementation at the regional level of the Convention and its protocols will be assessed.

The sixth meeting on reporting will be held towards the end of 2006 in order to discuss the progress with respect to the preparation of the new reporting format and the list of proposed indicators.

**Recommendations:**

**In view of Art 26 of the Barcelona Convention on reporting, which is now in force, the Bureau may deem it useful to:**

**1) Invite the Contracting Parties to submit their reports on time but not later than the end of December 2006.**

**2) Request the Secretariat to:**

- a) Prepare a regional assessment report on the status of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the decisions of the Contracting Parties.**
- b) Provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to developing Mediterranean countries in view of implementing the working program on reporting that was agreed upon by the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, 2005.**

### ***3.2.Compliance issues***

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties decided to open the membership of the WG on Compliance and Implementation that was set up in Catania 2003, to all Parties. Moreover, the WG had its mandate extended and now includes the elaboration of a full compliance mechanism by 2007. The main task of the WG is to finalize the formulation of the compliance mechanism for its consideration by the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties with a view to introducing it after November 2007.

The Secretariat has started working in this direction. A consultant has been recruited to prepare the draft text of the mechanism for discussion at the third meeting of the WG that is planned to be held in autumn 2006.

The objective is to develop a compliance mechanism that will be based only on the provisions of the Convention and protocols and those decisions of the Parties that are legally binding.

A number of issues still need to be discussed and clarified. In particular, the elements concerning the role of the Compliance Committee, the procedures and the measures to be taken by the Committee to promote compliance and to address cases of non-compliance are still to be determined. Furthermore, the relationship between the reporting system and compliance system has to be considered especially with respect to the role of the Secretariat. Other issues to be addressed are the transparency of the process and the confidentiality of the information provided by the Contracting Parties to the Compliance Committee.

With respect to the pending matters from the agenda of the WG on compliance from the last biennium, there are two issues still open for discussion related to (a) the right of submission of non-compliance situations and (b) the role of the Secretariat and of the Compliance Committee with respect to submissions

The view of the Secretariat is that the NGOs/MAP partners should have the right to refer non-compliance situations, through the Secretariat, to the Compliance Committee. This approach is in line with other Conventions. As regards the role of the MAP Secretariat, it could either take a neutral position and leave the Compliance Committee to decide or it may screen submissions and/or submit a case of non-compliance to the Compliance Committee.

### **Recommendation:**

**Since no discussion on the compliance mechanism was held during the MAP focal points meeting in September 2005, the Bureau is invited to address these issues and advice the Secretariat accordingly.**

#### **4. Liability and Compensation**

At their 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Contracting Parties decided to establish an open ended WG to propose appropriate rules and procedures on liability and compensation for damage from pollution.

During the period covered by this report, steps have been taken for the nomination of members of the WG from the Contracting Parties and for the preparation of the first meeting. The meeting was held on 7-8 March 2006 in Loutraki, Greece. 16 participants from 15 Contracting Parties were present at the meeting. A number of conclusions on important issues were arrived at.

First, the meeting agreed to go ahead with the preparation of Guidelines on liability and compensation that would provide high level of environmental protection. An important objective is to achieve and ensure synergy to the extent possible with the past and ongoing legal developments in this field.

The meeting also decided on a number of elements of the future guidelines and reflected on the issue of participation of interested socio-economic actors and in particular of the representatives of related industries and insurance companies. In this respect the decision taken in Portoroz is not very clear because it provides only for the participation of MAP partners in the meetings of the WG. It was felt during the meeting that there is a need to involve all relevant stakeholders in the process.

#### **Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is invited to advise the Secretariat whether the representatives of industries and insurance companies should be invited for the second meeting of the WG provided they pay their own way**

#### **b. Institutional matters:**

##### **1. MAP Evaluation**

At the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties it was decided to hold an extraordinary meeting of the MAP focal points in 2006 with the participation of the MAP NGO partners with a view to discuss a mission statement and strategic vision with respect to the future of MAP.

The extraordinary meeting of the MAP focal points will be held on 17-20 September 2006, in Greece.

With respect to the follow up of the MAP evaluation, the following steps have been taken by the Secretariat:

- a) A consultant was recruited in early January to prepare a first draft of the Strategic vision and mission statement
- b) A first draft of the strategic vision and mission statement was submitted to the Secretariat in mid-February including proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the external evaluation of MAP.
- c) An internal discussion involving all RACs is being held and the outcome will be communicated to the consultant who will then submit another draft of the strategic vision and mission statement by 30 April 2006.

- d) The agreed draft of these documents will be sent for comments to all MAP focal points by 25 May 2006.
- e) Comments by the MAP focal points will be incorporated into the documents which will be finalised by 20 July 2006
- f) The invitations and the documents for the extraordinary meeting of MAP focal points will be disseminated by end of July 2006.

The Secretariat will submit an addendum to this report on the evaluation of MAP following the meeting of MEDU and RACs Directors, which has been scheduled for 27 March 2006 in Rome.

**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau may wish to discuss and advise the Secretariat on the preparatory process to be followed and to invite all MAP FPs to participate and take an active part in this important extraordinary meeting to be convened on 17-20 September 2006**

***2. Preparations for the 15<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties Meeting***

As announced in Portoroz, Slovenia last November, the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 will be hosted by Spain following the kind offer of the Spanish authorities. The Secretariat has already established contacts with the MAP Focal Point in Spain to determine the venue and dates for the meeting.

The Secretariat has proposed to the Spanish authorities to organize the meeting on 27 – 30 November, 2007. The Secretariat is awaiting a reply in order to be in a position to submit the dates for the consideration and approval of the Bureau

In the opinion of the Secretariat, it is advisable to determine the dates of the next meeting of the Contracting Parties as early as possible in order to give advance notice to the Contracting Parties in view of other commitments which they may have for the same period.

**2.1 Proposed agenda for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties**

It has been the practice in the past for the Bureau to decide on the topics of the agenda for the Ministerial segment of the Contracting Parties meeting during its last session a few months before the conference. This did not give sufficient lead-time to the Secretariat to prepare the necessary documents and especially to have them translated into the four languages of the meeting of the Parties.

It is now being proposed to the Bureau to have a preliminary discussion on the issues that could be included on the Ministerial agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Spain in 2007, especially those of a strategic nature, with the final agenda being determined at the meeting of the Bureau in June 2005 to allow for the possibility of including other topics on emerging issues.

In order to launch the discussion on this matter, the Secretariat would like to propose to the Bureau the following topics for its consideration:

- 1. Evaluation of MAP –
  - a. Ministerial Declaration
  - b. Vision 2020
  - c. Priorities for the period 2008 – 2012

2. Developing of a Financing Framework for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Sources;
3. Adoption of a new ICAM Protocol

**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is invited to consider and agree on the dates being suggested and to discuss the proposed agenda for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007, and advise the Secretariat accordingly.**

**C. Cooperation with Partners**

**1. *Cooperation with the EC***

In Portoroz, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat among others to:

1. implement the Joint Work Programme with the European Commission which was signed on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2005;
2. become a major actor in the Euro-Med initiative to “de-pollute” the Mediterranean by 2020 by contributing the experience and expertise acquired by MAP over the years and thus avoiding any duplication of activities and the wasteful use of resources; and
3. work closely with the European Commission on the issue of adequate financing for implementation of those MAP activities in the Mediterranean that are also of relevance to the EC.

**1.1 Joint Work Programme**

The Joint Work Programme between MAP and the EC is intended to strengthen mutual co-operation on a wide range of Mediterranean environmental and sustainable development issues. It is also an important concrete step towards ensuring synergy between the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and those of MAP as requested by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment in 2002 and as recommended by the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania in 2003.

The Secretariat considers the agreement on the Joint Work Programme as an important development in the relations between the two organizations, coming at the same time of the adoption by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the launching by the European Commission of the “Horizon 2020” roadmap to reduce the level of pollution in the Mediterranean.

The three central priorities of the Joint Work Programme are:

1. regular high level meetings for coordination on strategic matters of common interest;
2. increased interchange between the European Commission and MAP's Regional Activity Centres to implement environmental policies and actions with the EU, the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as actual or potential EU candidate countries in the Mediterranean basin;
3. strengthening of the environmental dimension of public policy and the promotion of sustainable development in countries bordering the Mediterranean.

The programme emphasizes the close links to be developed between MAP activities and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, as well as the systematic exploration of financing possibilities for MAP activities under the EU financial instruments.

The programme identifies key areas for co-operation covering a wide range of activities relating to the prevention of marine pollution from both land-based sources and maritime activities, protection of biodiversity, promotion of sustainable development and clean industrial production technologies.

In line with the provisions of the Joint Work Programme for cooperation at the institutional level, the Secretariat is in contact with the EC's Directorate General for the Environment to discuss the programme's implementation. In particular, arrangements are being made for the first bilateral meeting on strategic policy matters of common interest.

**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is invited to discuss the Joint Work Programme and to advise the Secretariat on its implementation.**

**1.2 Horizon "2020" Initiative**

A few weeks after the Meeting of the Contracting Parties meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia (8 – 11 November, 2005) and on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Commission organized an Environmental High Level meeting in Barcelona, to launch a major environmental initiative entitled "Horizon 2020" designed to improve the quality of life of the citizens by the de-pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020.

The Agenda of the meeting included a Technical Session and a Ministerial Session, the latter chaired by Mr. Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Environment of the European Commission. Ministers for the Environment from Spain and Malta and the Greek Deputy Minister together with Senior government officials from Slovenia and Turkey and other stakeholders representing Cities, Regions, NGOs and the Business Sector participated in the Ministerial Session.

The MAP Coordinator was one of the main speakers during the Technical Session and addressed the importance of synergies with existing programmes in the Mediterranean region. In this presentation emphasis was made on the fact that land-based pollution assessment and control has been a core activity of MAP for many years. Examples of the synergies that already exist between MAP programmes and EC initiatives in the field of pollution prevention and control were highlighted.

In his presentation, the MAP Coordinator made a number of recommendations on how to improve synergy between MAP and the EC on the "Horizon 2020" initiative foremost among which were that:

1. it was important to build on progress made through existing institutions, policies and conventions;
2. MAP is an appropriate regional mechanism for joint implementation of the ECs de-pollution initiative;
3. the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development could facilitate the goal to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea;
4. sustainable development should be adopted as a guiding principle in the de-pollution initiative;
5. duplication of effort and proliferation of initiatives, structures and project should be avoided to achieve efficiency gains;
6. MAP and EC should pool resources to achieve environmental targets at minimum cost;

7. the road map for actions in de-pollution initiatives should take into consideration the targets of the MEDPOL's Strategic Action Programmes and the National Action Plans;
8. the de-pollution initiative should take account of MSSD targets and the initiatives identified in the Joint Work Programme;
9. EC should allocate financial resources to on-going pollution reduction programmes in the Mediterranean;
10. the initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean should be concrete manifestation of synergy between MAP and the EC.

A first draft of the EC's initiative "Horizon 2020" Roadmap has been prepared and MAP was given the opportunity to give its views on the draft text before the document was published for general consultation. In its comments, the Secretariat stated that the EC should give more direct assistance to ongoing programmes and initiatives taken by MAP to de-pollute the Mediterranean and that the document should reflect the strong support expressed by several speakers during the High Level meeting in Barcelona with regard to MAP being an appropriate regional mechanism to implement the de-pollution initiative.

### **Recommendations:**

**The Bureau is invited to:**

- 1) Discuss MAP's participation in the EC's "Horizon 2020" initiative and to request the Secretariat to write to the European Commission pointing out that, as a Contracting Party, it should give due consideration to the recommendations made by MAP during the Environmental High Level meeting in Barcelona for a better synergy between MAP and the EC in the implementation of the initiative.**
- 2) Consider requesting a meeting between the Minister of Environment of Slovenia in his capacity as President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the EU Commissioner for the Environment to discuss MAP's full participation in the implementation of the "Horizon 2020" initiative.**

## ***2. New GEF Strategic Partnership (SP) – Implementation of SAP BIO***

As reported in part A of the present report, a major component of the SP is the implementation of the SAP BIO and of the respective national action plans.

The SAP BIO was adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties meeting held in Catania in 2003. Preparations for the implementation of several SAP BIO regional activities, with catalyzing GEF support to MAP over a period of 5-6 years, will take place during 2006.

One of the first priorities is the re-establishment of the SAP BIO advisory committee, to which its former members will be invited to rejoin. Simultaneously, MAP will establish a wider coordination mechanism for all the stakeholders involved in the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean countries, with respect to SAP BIO activities.

The intention is to assist GEF eligible countries in developing a proper coordination between the Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership and the Investment Fund at the national level. In this regard it is important that in this exercise, the RAC SPA focal points should involve not only their ministries responsible for environment, but also the Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs and other concerned Ministries to ensure a better coordination of actions for the implementation of the SAP BIO.



**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is invited to encourage the Contracting Parties to give full support to the re establishment of the SAP BIO advisory committee and SAP BIO National correspondents in view of achieving a better coordination and integration of the Regional Component with the Investment Fund of the Strategic Partnership.**

**3. Cooperation with NGOs**

**3.1 Application to become MAP partners**

At the meeting of the Contracting Parties, in Catania 2003, it was decided to assign to the Bureau the task to consider applications by interested candidate organizations to become MAP partners, and take due decisions which will be subject to confirmation by the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

The Secretariat has received three new applications from the following NGOs:

- 1) Athens Environmental Foundation, Greece
- 2) Association UN Marinu CPIE Bastia Golo *Mediterranee*, France
- 3) Syrian Environment Protection Society, Syria

According to the agreed procedure, the Secretariat has submitted these requests to the MAP focal points for their opinion. In general all comments received were positive but some focal points have also emphasized the need to assess the performance of the current NGO/MAP partners and their contribution to the achievement of the MAP objectives on the regional and national level.

The Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau that, (a) taking into account the recommendations of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999), (b) considering the different documents produced by MAP on the issue of MAP Partners, (c) the decision of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Cyprus, May 2001), (d) the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points, (Athens, September 2001), and (e) the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco 2001), the following criteria apply with respect to the application by NGOs to become MAP partners:

*Common criteria for inclusion and retention*

1. Existence of a legal constitution;
2. Existence of a regularly elected Bureau or equivalent body;
3. Establishment of headquarters or relevant offices in a Mediterranean country;
4. Capability to contribution to the aims and objectives of MAP.

*Additional criteria for retention*

1. Provision of regular information to MAP;
2. Contribution and involvement in MAP activities and projects;
3. Attendance of MAP meetings;
4. Participation in active Mediterranean networks.

*Application and selection procedure*

An application for partner status should be sent to the Secretariat at least three months before the meeting of MAP Focal Points. The application should include:

- a) concise statement about the organization and how it meets the stipulated criteria;
- b) copy of by-laws or constitution;
- c) indication of the contribution it can provide to MAP objectives.

*List of partners*

Every two years, the Contracting Parties will revise the list of partners taking into account the approved criteria. Those partners that do not participate in the work and meetings of MAP for two consecutive years will be dropped from the list of partners.

The three NGOs that have requested to become MAP partners meet the above criteria. If the Bureau accepts their application, the number of the NGO/MAP partners will be 79.

In conformity with the decision of the Parties, the Secretariat is planning to start an assessment of the activities of the NGO MAP/ partners with a view to revising the list where appropriate.

**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is invited to have an exchange of views on the above issues:**

**a)approve that the NGOs “Athens Environmental Foundation, Greece; “Association UN Marinu CPIE Bastia Golo Mediterranee”, France; Syrian Environment Protection Society, Syria be included in the list of MAP partners**

**b)approve the carrying out of an assessment on the activities of the NGO/MAP partners with a view to revise the list, where appropriate.**

**d) National Action Plans (NAPs) to address land-based pollution**

After two years of preparatory work and intense negotiations with national and local authorities and stakeholders (private sectors, NGOs, etc.), National Action Plans were prepared in all countries through an efficient participatory process. The NAPs indicate what are the pollution reduction interventions planned by each country by the year 2010 and by the year 2025, including an investment portfolio, in line with the targets of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties endorsed them and recommended their integration in the existing national development plans.

Considering the great impact that the actual implementation of the NAPs could have on the improvement of the marine environment and thus on the process of achieving sustainable development, no efforts should be spared to assist countries in the long-term process. The MED POL Programme is actively working on all the related aspects (technical, institutional including stakeholders' involvement and participation, financial). Ad-hoc activities are already being implemented and will continue during the biennium.

However, an aspect that requires special attention is how to ensure the financial sustainability to the long-term implementation of the NAPs. On this aspect several opportunities and initiatives do exist and should be tackled by the countries with the assistance of the Secretariat in the most effective way.

In this connection, the Secretariat is treating all the existing regional and national data on priority issues, hot spots, emissions and releases, cost of planned pollution reduction interventions, etc. in such a way as to have a precise picture of the regional and national needs and, accordingly, of the most suitable actions to make. In parallel, two policy mechanisms are being established on transfer of technology and on external financing that could ensure, respectively, the necessary flow of technical knowledge between countries on pollution reduction and the right opportunities and contacts between countries and donors to seek and mobilize the needed funds.

Outside the Secretariat, in addition to the numerous bilateral cooperation agreements existing in the region, two are the most relevant initiatives that may contribute to the financial sustainability of the long-term implementation of the NAPs.

The GEF Strategic Partnership recently launched includes a regional component managed by UNEP and an Investment Fund managed by the World Bank. UNEP/MAP is the implementing Agency of the Strategy. In particular, the Investment Fund is open to all GEF-eligible countries and is expected to mobilize funds for the implementation of the NAPs.

The recently launched "Horizon 2020" initiative of the European Commission aims at achieving land-based pollution reduction in the Mediterranean by the year 2020. UNEP/MAP was fully involved in the formulation of the initiative considered very close to the objectives of the SAP, and plans are being made with the EC to jointly achieve the common objectives.

The GEF Strategic Partnership and the Horizon 2020 are two very valid opportunities for the countries of the region to ensure political and financial support to the pollution reduction process.

***Recommendations:***

**1) The Bureau is invited to encourage Contracting Parties:**

**a) To take into account the pollution reduction interventions included in their NAPs when negotiating bilateral cooperation agreements**

**b) To make use of the Investment Fund of the GEF Strategic Partnership to mobilize funds for the implementation of pollution reduction interventions included in the NAPs**

**2) The Bureau is invited to note the common objectives of the SAP, its NAPs and the EC Horizon 2020 initiative and to recommend the Contracting Parties and the EC to prepare an appropriate joint work plan which would take fully into account the common objectives and the extensive work already made by the SAP in identifying priorities and setting targets.**

**e) Financial/ Administrative issues**

***1. Extraordinary meeting of MAP focal points***

During their November 2005 ordinary meeting in Portoroz, the Contracting Parties approved the convening of an extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points next September to discuss the MAP evaluation. The amount of € 40,000 has been budgeted for this purpose. It was expected that the Contracting Parties would provide additional voluntary contributions to support the convening of this meeting. If no offer is received, the Secretariat would have to

make use of the MTF funds, amounting to € 150,000, to meet the cost for this meeting. It is envisaged to cover the cost of participation of two delegates per contracting party.

## ***2. Second meeting on the ICAM protocol***

During their November 2005 ordinary meeting in Portoroz, the Contracting Parties approved the convening of a series of meetings to elaborate the draft text of the protocol on ICAM. The amount of € 70,000 from the MTF has been budgeted for this purpose. This amount covers only the expenses for the convening of the first meeting of the WG. It was expected that the Contracting Parties would provide additional voluntary contributions to sponsor the convening of other meetings.

The second meeting of the WG is scheduled for October 2006. Since the next meeting of the Bureau is expected to be held in November 2006, and if by that time no additional financial contribution is received, it is necessary for the Secretariat to have the approval of this meeting of the Bureau to make use of MTF funds, amounting to € 120,000, to meet the cost for these meetings. It is envisaged to cover the cost of participation of two delegates per contracting party.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. Provided that no voluntary contribution is received by the Secretariat to meet the additional cost of the Extraordinary Meeting of the MAP Focal Points on the Evaluation Report, the Bureau is requested to authorize the Secretariat to withdraw the sum of €150,000 from the MTF for this purpose.**
- 2. Provided that no voluntary contribution is received by the Secretariat to meet the cost of the second meeting of the WG on ICAM, the Bureau is requested to authorize the Secretariat to withdraw the sum of €120,000 from the MTF for this purpose.**

## ***3. Recruitment of Scientific Director at SPA/RAC***

A call for application has been issued to fill the vacant post of Scientific Director at SPA/RAC following the resignation of the previous incumbent. A number of applications were received and interviews held. A French female candidate has been selected. However, she is reluctant to take up the offer of appointment because the net salary being offered is not commensurate with her qualifications and experience.

It should be noted that out of the allocation of € 50,600 as gross salary for the post, about € 20,000 are deducted as tax payments and social security contributions. Moreover, the salary for the Scientific Director has remained the same as it was when the post was occupied by a Tunisian national who did not have to meet extraordinary expenses normally associated with an expatriate employee. In fact, the Spanish expert working at SPA/RAC, who is on the same level as the Scientific Director, receives a gross salary of € 71,500. This lack of parity between the salaries of the Scientific Director and the Expert at SPA/RAC was one of the reasons for the resignation of the previous incumbent.

In order to address the concerns of the successful candidate and especially since SPA/RAC cannot afford to remain without the services of the Scientific Director for long, the Secretariat has authorized the Director of SPA/RAC to offer the Scientific Director a salary equivalent to that of the Spanish Expert utilizing the funds which have remained unspent in the budget line due to the fact that, provided this issue is resolved, the French candidate will not be taking up the appointment before May 2006.

In respect of 2007, it is proposed to authorize SPA/RAC to increase the budget line for the post of Scientific Director to bring it at par with that of the Spanish expert by utilizing part of the additional funds allocated to the Centre by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, from the savings made as a result of the freezing of the post of Deputy Coordinator, and which were earmarked for activities.

Neither of the above measures has any implications on the overall budgetary allocation as approved by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, Slovenia.

The issue of the salary for the Scientific Director will then be addressed and resolved once and for all in the budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is requested to approve the proposal by the Secretariat to authorize SPA/RAC to utilize part of the additional funds allocated to the Centre by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz to supplement the salary of the Scientific Director for 2007 to bring it at par with that of the expatriate expert.**

***4. New Premises in Athens for MEDU***

MEDU has been accommodated in its present premises at 48 Vassileos Konstantinou, in Athens since 1983 when MAP relocated to Greece from Geneva. MEDU in fact occupies one floor of the Greek National Research Centre in the heart of Athens.

For many years, the Secretariat has been requested to look for alternative premises in order to make its office space available to the National Research Centre to accommodate its increasing number of employees and to expand its activities. This request has the support of the relevant Greek authorities although it must be emphasized that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have always made it clear to the Secretariat that any change of premises will only take place with MEDU's consent..

On its part the Secretariat is prepared to move to new premises provided these meet its requirements and in any case should definitely not be smaller than the present offices. It was also pointed out that the Secretariat could not afford to pay a higher rent unless the Greek Government increases its host country financial contribution.

The Secretariat is pleased to inform to Bureau that new premises suitable to MEDU have been identified and that the Greek Government has agreed to contribute an additional Euros 200,000 per annum to enable the Secretariat to meet the substantial higher rent in respect of the new premises.

The Secretariat, with the assistance of its Legal Adviser, is currently negotiating a lease agreement in respect of the new premises. Once agreement is reached the Secretariat will make arrangements to move to new offices.

**Recommendation:**

**The Bureau is invited to express its appreciation to the Greek authorities for the additional financial contribution and for the assistance being extended to MEDU to enable it to move to new premises.**



## **ANNEX I**

**Status of Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment and  
the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean  
and its Protocols  
as at January 6, 2006**





	Barcelona Convention 1/			Dumping Protocol 2/			Emergency Protocol 3/		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
Contracting Parties	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	-	-
Algeria	-	16.02.81/AC	09.06-04	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-
Croatia	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	01.10.03
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Commission	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	25.06.04
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	29.09.05	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	-
Lebanon	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	-
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	18.02.03
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	07.12.2004	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Serbia & Montenegro*	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	16.02.04
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	-
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	-
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	-	04.06.03

1. Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

\* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
Contracting Parties	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	-	26.07.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	-	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Commission	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	18.05.83/AC	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	-	-	01.10.96	-
France	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	-	-	-	-
Greece	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Israel	17.05.80	21.02.91	-	03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Italy	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Lebanon	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Malta	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	28.10.99
Monaco	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Morocco	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	-	-	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99
Serbia & Montenegro*	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	-	08.01.03	10.10.95	-	-	-
Spain	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Syria	-	01.12.93/AC	-	-	11.09.92/AC	-	10.10.03	20.09.95	-	-	-
Tunisia	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98
Turkey	-	21.02.83/AC	18.05.02	-	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	-	-	01.10.96	03.04.04

2. Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

\* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976  
Entry into force\*: 12 February 1978  
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean)

Adoption (Barcelona): 10 June 1995  
Entry into force: 9 July 2004  
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 16

2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976  
Entry into force\*: 12 February 1978  
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea)

Adoption (Barcelona): 10 June 1995  
Not Yet in Force  
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 14

3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976  
Entry into force\*: 12 February 1978  
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

4/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)

Adoption (Malta): 25 January 2002  
Entry into force\*: 17 March 2004, replacing the 1976 Emergency Protocol in accordance with Article 25(2)  
Status: Signatories: 16, Parties: 7

5/ The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol)

Adoption (Athens): 17 May 1980  
Entry into force\*: 17 June 1983  
Status: Signatories: 22, Parties: 22

The 1996 Amendments (The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol))

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Adoption (Syracuse): 7 March 1996  
Not Yet in Force  
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 13

6/ The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)

Adoption (Geneva): 3 April 1982  
Entry into force\*: 23 March 1986  
Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 22

7/ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 10 June 1995  
Entry into force\*: 12 December 1999, replacing the 1980 SPA Protocol in accordance with Article 32  
Status: Signatories: 17, Parties: 14

8/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)

Adoption (Madrid): 14 October 1994  
Not Yet in Force  
Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 4

9/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Adoption (Izmir): 1 October 1996  
Not Yet in Force  
Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 5





## **ANNEX II**

### **Conclusions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee.**

***Athens, 16 March 2006***

- The Steering Committee agreed that action at the national level was essential for the next phase of the implementation of the MSSD and called upon the MAP components to provide the necessary support to assist in the development and implementation of NSSDs. In this respect, the BP/RAC was encouraged to go ahead with its plans to provide technical support at the national level, particularly on indicators.
- In view of the strong support for the MSSD expressed by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona in November 2005, the Steering Committee emphasized that the road map being developed to follow up the Summit should specify concrete support measures for the implementation of the MSSD. The EC/MAP joint programme of work should also include concrete action and support for the implementation of the MSSD.
- The Steering Committee welcomed the initiative of the organization of a sub-regional conference for Adriatic Countries as a practical step towards the implementation of the MSSD.
- The Steering Committee emphasized the importance of the cross-cutting issues identified in the MCSD programme of work and encouraged all MAP components to continue to give these issues full attention throughout their thematic activities.
- Care should be taken to ensure the involvement of all sectors of the MCSD membership, including the representatives of NGOs, socio-economic actors and local authorities, in all activities for the implementation of the MSSD.
- The Steering Committee agreed that thematic issues would be addressed by expert groups, which would also be open to all categories of the MCSD membership.
- The Steering Committee welcomed the draft vision for an Information and Communication Strategy presented by Info/RAC and encouraged the further definition and refinement of the vision with the view to its submission to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD. The importance of an effective Information and Communication Strategy was emphasized for the dissemination of knowledge and awareness of the MSSD. It noted that Info/RAC would set up an advisory group for the development of the Information and Communication Strategy.
- The Steering Committee emphasized the issue of MCSD membership, with particular regard to the representation local authorities and socio-economic actors. Potential members from these categories should be approached.
- The Steering Committee approved the agenda of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD.





### **ANNEX III**

#### ***PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MCSD MEETING*** **Nicosia, Cyprus, 24-26 May 2006**

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of the meeting
3. National Strategies for Sustainable Development
  - Update of the review of NSSDs
  - Progress in the implementation of NSSD by the countries and new developments
  - Launching of Pilot Actions
4. Implementation of Priority Action 2.7 of the MSSD (Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones)
  - Strengthening regional cooperation
  - Draft protocol for the integrated management of coastal areas (PAP/RAC)
  - Prevention and reduction of land-based pollution – implementation of SAP and NAPs (MEDPOL) and synergy with the Horizon 2020 EC Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean
  - Implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (REMPEC)
  - Protection of Marine and coastal biodiversity
5. Follow-up and assessment of progress in implementing the MSSD
  - Indicators and thematic activities (water, energy, tourism and rural development)
  - Participation by Commission members in thematic activities
6. Evaluation of impact of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone  
Presentation on the initial results of the Impact Assessment
7. Information, Communication and Education for Sustainable Development
  - Environment and Development Report (BP/RAC)
  - MSSD Information and Communication Strategy (INFO/RAC)
  - Results from state of the art study on sustainable production and cleaner technologies in Med Countries (CP/RAC)
  - Education for Sustainable Development
8. Conclusion and Closure of the meeting

**ANNEX IV**  
**TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION**  
**(ME) - Status of contributions as at 28 February 2006**

**(Expressed in Euro)**

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2005 & prior yrs	Adjustment	Pledges for 2006	Collections during 2006 for 2006 and fut. yrs	Collections during 2006 for prior yrs	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2006 & prior yrs
Albania	3,898	0	3,877	0	0	3,898	7,775
Algeria	116,326	0	58,163	0	0	116,326	174,489
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0	0	16,619	0	0	0	16,619
Croatia	0	0	53,730	0	0	0	53,730
Cyprus	0	0	7,755	0	0	0	7,755
European Union	0	0	138,483	0	0	0	138,483
Egypt	54,418	0	27,143	0	0	54,418	81,561
France	0	0	2,103,262	2,103,262	0	0	0
Greece	155,653	0	155,653	0	155,653	0	155,653
Israel	(2,276)	0	81,427	0	0	(2,276)	79,151
Italy	0	0	1,737,670	0	0	0	1,737,670
Lebanon	3,564	0	3,877	0	0	3,564	7,441
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	121,593	0	109,124	0	0	121,593	230,717
Malta	0	0	3,877	0	0	0	3,877
Monaco	0	0	3,877	0	0	0	3,877
Morocco	75,427	0	15,511	0	0	75,427	90,938
Serbia and Montenegro	0	0	18,000	0	0	0	18,000
Slovenia	0	0	37,113	30,984	0	0	6,129
Spain	0	0	830,337	0	0	0	830,337
Syrian Arab Rep.	(428)	0	15,511	0	0	(428)	15,083
Tunisia	11,632	0	11,632	0	0	11,632	23,264
Turkey	0	0	124,634	0	0	0	124,634
<b>Total</b>	<b>539,807</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,557,275</b>	<b>2,134,246</b>	<b>155,653</b>	<b>384,154</b>	<b>3,807,183</b>

<b>Additional Contributions (for information only)</b>							
European Commission	0	0	598,568	0	0	0	598,568
Host Country *	236,173	0	440,000	0	0	0	676,173
UNEP Env. Fund	0	0	16,580	0	0	0	16,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>775,980</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,612,423</b>	<b>2,134,246</b>	<b>155,653</b>	<b>384,154</b>	<b>5,098,504</b>

***N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government***

