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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN



BLUE PLAN



CTM – ERS/RAC



PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

Joint Meeting of the National Focal Points
of BP/RAC, ERS/RAC and PAP/RAC
Cavtat, May 19 -22, 2003

**REPORT
OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
OF BP/RAC, ERS/RAC AND PAP/RAC, INCLUDING PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS
AND PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2005**

Introduction

1. During their last Ordinary Meeting (Monaco, November 2001), the Contracting Parties asked the Secretariat to assess the activities of the three Regional Activity Centres (RACs), namely, the Blue Plan (BP/RAC), Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) and Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC), carried out in the biennium 2002-2003, and to organise a Joint National Focal Points meeting of these three Centres. Following this request, the MAP Secretariat decided to organise the Joint National Focal Points meeting in Cavtat (Croatia). PAP/RAC was requested to cover the logistics aspects of the event while the organisation and costs of the Meeting were shared by the MAP Co-ordinating Unit and the three RACs (BP, PAP and ERS). The joint Meeting was held at the "Croatia" Hotel in Cavtat, from May 19 – 22, 2003.

Participation

2. The Joint National Focal Points meeting was attended by the representatives of the Contracting Parties from: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, the European Commission, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. In addition to the representatives of the three RACs, Mr. A. Hoballah, MAP Deputy Co-ordinator, was present as the representative of the Med Unit of MAP. The List of participants is attached to this report as Annex I.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. Mr. I. Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, expressed his thanks to the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the three RACs for attending the Meeting, wishing them success in their debates. Mr. P. Miskovic, Deputy Prefect of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County, welcomed the participants and gave a brief presentation of the environmental issues facing the County, and more specifically its coastal zones. He expressed hopes that the region would also benefit from the outcome of the Meeting's debates and recommendations. He then gave the floor to Mr. M. Culic, Secretary of the Konavle Municipality, who expressed his gratitude to the organisers and participants for having chosen Cavtat as the venue for the Meeting, and his best wishes for success and fruitful results. Finally, he invited the participants to a reception organised by the Municipality of Konavle.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

4. After the usual consultation, and as proposed by the Secretariat, the Meeting elected the following Officers:

Chairman :	Mr. M. Amil (Morocco)
Vice-chairman :	Ms. M. Dalla Costa (Italy)
Vice-chairman :	Ms. M. Mastrovic (Croatia)
Rapporteur :	Mr. T. Gargouri (Tunisia)

Following the proposal of the Secretariat, the participants agreed to holding three sessions, dedicated respectively to all three RACs (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC) chaired in turn by the Vice-chairmen and Chairman, Ms. Dalla Costa, Ms. Mastrovic, and Mr. Amil.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work

5. The participants unanimously adopted the Agenda, as presented by the Chairman. The Agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

BP/RAC: Review 2002 - 2003 and Programme 2004 – 2005

6. Mr. G. Benoît, Director of BP/RAC, and his team, presented their report on "Blue Plan activities for 2002-2003 and proposals for the 2004-2005 biennium" attached to this report as Annex III.

Agenda item 4: Introduction and Environment/Development Report

7. In his introduction, Mr. Benoît stated that the main objective set for the Blue Plan at the time of its creation was to collect and make available information required for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. This objective entailed the organisation of regional co-operation and the undertaking of prospective and systemic studies on the dynamics of populations, on economic activities and on the environment. The Blue Plan, in its report on "The Future of the Mediterranean Basin" published in 1989, was the first to reveal cases of unsustainable developments in the region. This warning has since proven useful on the international, national and regional scales. The report also alerted to the shortage of environmental data and of information on the conditions and difficulties inherent to the necessary "changes in scenarios".

8. On the basis of these observations, the Contracting Parties invited the Blue Plan to act as "A Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory" (MEDO) by contributing to capacity building in the countries (observatories, indicators and statistics) and by undertaking in-depth analysis of some of the priority issues for sustainable development. During their last meetings, the Blue Plan Focal Points and the Contracting Parties requested that BP/RAC continue its analytical coverage of the difficulties and conditions associated with the improvement of integration between the environment and development. This request also included the preparation of a new regional report emphasising potential developments by 2025, the risks and areas for progress (pressure, state and response indicators). After the presentation of the Progress Report, the Blue Plan team covered the activities related to sustainable development topics, indicators and statistics.

9. Ms. A. Comeau, Scientific Director of Blue Plan, explained how the report would be approached: the initial draft is to be completed during the summer of 2003, translated in English and posted on the BP web site in September before its presentation to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties. After review by the countries, the report will be reworked and improved for publication in the third quarter of 2004. The support of the Blue Plan Focal Points is requested in the further enrichment of the report, particularly through the addition of examples of best practices or case studies.

10. The Focal Points emphasised the importance of this report and the need for co-ordination between this exercise and the future Mediterranean strategy on sustainable development, currently being developed by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

11. The participants stressed the importance of issues such as poverty and climate changes, as well as the need for a global vision of territorial changes between coastal areas and the hinterlands. One of the participants suggested that the report be entitled "Report on sustainable development" rather than "Report on the environment and development".

12. The Blue Plan replied that the definitive title had not as yet been chosen. While this document is slated to highlight important social indicators, such as poverty, it will remain essentially focused on the six topics relating to the interaction between development and environment as selected by the Steering Committee (water, energy, rural space, cities, transport, coastal areas). Social issues will be covered throughout the report rather than in a dedicated chapter. Climate changes will be covered extensively, as one of the prospective elements to be taken into account, and for which BP/RAC has carried out a regional synthesis, available on its web site. The third part of the report will emphasise general learning points and will serve to suggest actions, without making recommendations. The objective is to synthesise the information in the previous chapters and list

the main risks by 2025, as well as to highlight possible benefits of a more sustainable scenario, conducive to progress. Emphasis is placed on the separation between economic growth and the environment, on more balanced development of territories and on regional co-operation.

13. Many of the participants stressed the importance of enhancing the report and the results of the activities of the Blue Plan, through wider and much more interactive communication policies, to target "sectorial" decision makers. These policies should involve regular publication of four-page brochures as well as notebooks on the main documented topics, articles will be published in specialised journals, an electronic newsletter will be created and the Focal Points and other MAP components will be called upon to reach wider audiences. The Blue Plan could propose a method of dissemination. Other participants suggested the creation of a discussion forum and of a CD-ROM and emphasised the need for MAP to develop an overall communication strategy, in which the information activities of Blue Plan would be co-ordinated with those of the other RACs.

Agenda item 5: Free Trade, Financing and Co-operation for Sustainable Development

14. Mr. A. Jorio presented the activities specifically related to the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone, financing and co-operation for sustainable development. He described the main risks in fragile rural areas and the evolution of the main international financial flows in the region, resulting from the recent work accomplished by the Blue Plan on the basis of OECD data.

15. Several participants stressed the importance of the work done by BP/RAC and MCS D on the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone. They highlighted the need for the Centre to be more proactively involved in the sustainability impacts assessment launched by the European Commission, as well as the need to more widely disseminate the results of the working group, even through newspaper articles. One of the participants mentioned the risks of the spread of genetically modified organisms due to the establishment of the free-trade zone. In this regard, BP/RAC stressed the case of the rapid changes observed on corn in Mexico since the implementation of the NAFTA Agreement in 1994.

16. Other participants were favourable to the idea of further reflection on economic instruments applied to the environment and of stronger mobilisation of stakeholders and investors to support the implementation of the free-trade zone. The Blue Plan was invited to undertake studies in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, similar to those carried out in Egypt. An inventory of economic instruments for environmental regulation as well as the analysis of the conditions for their development would be very useful. The focus of such studies should be the impacts of free trade (e.g. transport development and packaging waste) and should not overlap with the current activities of PAP/RAC or others. The main goal of these activities is to enhance the credibility of the Ministries for the Environment in the eyes of other Ministries. The regional workshop envisaged for 2004 would serve as a forum of exchange on these issues. In this context, the experience acquired by the other MAP Centres, and by more advanced European countries will be shared.

Agenda item 6: Water, Agriculture, Soils, Forests and Rural Development

17. Mr. Benoît presented the activities and orientations on water, agriculture, soils, forests and rural development. He particularly stressed the success of the Fiuggi forum (October 2002) on water demand management, where the progress achieved over the last 5 years was measured. He underscored the importance of agreements signed by MAP with the FAO (Silva Mediterranea) and CIHEAM, geared towards the development of a prospective vision shared with the Mediterranean networks on forests and agriculture.

18. One of the participants stressed the need to make further progress in water demand management through storage of run-offs in the underground water tables. The Blue Plan and several participants indicated that they agreed with the choice of demand management, since this issue had not heretofore been fully explored in the Mediterranean where it is now considered as a priority. Italy and the EC said it was crucial that the implementation of a series of Mediterranean

indicators on water and on sustainable development take into account other regional initiatives, and specifically the new Framework Directive on Water.

19. Regarding agriculture and forests, the participants stressed the dire importance of desertification. BP/RAC highlighted that the objective of the Silva Mediterranea project, in co-operation with the FAO, entails prospective reflection work on furthering contributions from agencies and forestry organisations to sustainable development. These contributions are to include water and soil conservation, and the combat against poverty.

Agenda item 7: Tourism, Energy, Cities and Transport

20. Ms. E. Coudert and Ms. Comeau presented the activities and orientations recommended to cover these topics. Mr. Benoît emphasised the heavy workload required to compile the data necessary for the future report.

21. Several participants pointed out the strategic importance of tourism, as well as its vulnerability to crisis. They insisted on the interest of maintaining current activities, which should, if possible, lead to the creation of an appropriate regional co-operation mechanism. The participants stated that information on tourism should be increased, and that the progress in the implementation of the MCSD recommendations should be assessed regularly. BP/RAC believes that it would be worthwhile to organise a regional workshop. However, in view of the workload and due to the limited means available, this workshop will be postponed until 2006 and only a meeting of the expert network will be organised in 2004.

22. The participants underscored the similarities between energy and water issues and the extent of the benefits highlighted in the prospective analyses of the Blue Plan. One of the participants expressed her satisfaction with the concrete approach of the Blue Plan, since it will facilitate acceptance of the changes required, such as rational use of energy and the promotion of renewable energies. Other speakers requested that international agreements be clearly mentioned in the report and that the subject of the potential increase in mobility and related risks be highlighted in the Mediterranean prospective approach. BP/RAC is strongly encouraged to analyse in detail the crucial issue of the prospective scenario on marine transport. The Monaco representative suggested specific forms of support and underlined the interest in widening the topic to include harbour infrastructures. Several participants expressed their opinion that the Contracting Parties should strongly support the development and implementation of the "Marenostrum" project by REMPEC and the Blue Plan. Several recommendations were made to Blue Plan that they gear their work on the issues covered in paragraphs 17 to 22 to specific "niches" which are not already being addressed by other regional initiatives.

Agenda item 8: Indicators and Statistics

23. Mr. Benoît, Ms. Coudert and Mr. J. Iotti presented the BP/RAC activities on the indicators. Ms. Coudert described the application of these indicators to the prospective analysis of sustainability in the Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs) and Mr. Iotti shared the results of the MEDSTAT-Environment Programme of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

24. The participants congratulated the Blue Plan on the significant progress achieved. They voiced their support of the proposal for a new regional workshop on the indicators and observatories, to assess the progress in the implementation of the adopted recommendations at regional, national and local levels. The representative of the European Commission expressed her satisfaction with current results. Both she and the Spanish representative pointed out the importance of aligning these initiatives with those of the EU ("INSPIRE" initiative) on environmental data.

25. The representatives of France and Morocco were favourable to the idea of a small experts' meeting on the composite indicators for sustainability and stated that they were prepared to

participate in such a relevant gathering. Concern was expressed as regards the evolution of the MEDSTAT-Environment Project, if it were to strengthen the direct ties between the National Statistics Institutes and EUROSTAT, thus jeopardising the involvement of the Blue Plan. It was replied that BP/RAC would remain directly involved in the implementation of the overall project, and that, furthermore, MAP is now considered as one of the preferred users of the data stemming from all MEDSTAT projects.

Agenda item 9: Proposals and Recommendations

26. The proposals for recommendations prepared by the Blue Plan for the next biennium will be corrected to take into account the remarks of the Focal Points, as well as the contents of the discussions. They are in Annex III to this document, as corrected and approved by the Focal Points.

Agenda item 10: Closing of the Session

27. The participants thanked Ms. Dalla Costa for the quality of her chairmanship and moderation of the Blue Plan Meeting.

PAP/RAC: Review 2002-2003 and Programme 2004-2005

Agenda item 11: Progress Report 2002-2003: Presentation and Discussion

28. The second day of the Meeting was opened by Mr. Amil, Chairman of the session, who asked Mr. Trumbic to present the agenda of the day's session. He gave an overview of the topics to be discussed during the Meeting and the major orientations of the PAP Activities Programme adopted at the last Contracting Parties meeting in 2001.

29. Afterwards, Mr. A. Bjelica presented the PAP/RAC Progress Report for the 2002-2003 biennium. Three broad areas of the Centre's activities were discussed: Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones; Integrating Environment-Development; and Pollution, Prevention and Control. As regards the Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones, detailed explanations were given as to the implementation of MAP Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs). Mr. Bjelica also described the progress of each step of the CAMP projects' implementation, the relevant institutions in charge of CAMP co-ordination and implementation, as well as geographical coverage, the activities carried out within CAMPs and the results expected by the end of 2003. Novel features were highlighted, as well as the growing involvement of the public at large and of well-defined Participatory Programmes. Suggestions were voiced as to the need to maintain sustainable funding in the aftermath of the projects, to limit the timeframe of the projects, to involve local experts as full-time co-ordinators of national CAMPs, to include the concept of Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) in the CAMP framework, etc.

30. PAP/RAC then presented their activities in the field of Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM). A Feasibility Study for the regional ICAM Protocol is under preparation, as well as the ICAM/CAMP Strategy for the Mediterranean. National reports on ICAM for Malta, Turkey, and Tunisia are currently being prepared, and the regional ICAM guidelines are being up-dated. Amongst other PAP/RAC activities, Mr. Bjelica emphasised the creation of the PAP Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House, and the development of Internet-based training courses on ICAM (MedOpen).

31. The second group of PAP/RAC activities encompasses Tourism and Sustainable Development, Urban Management and Sustainable Development, as well as Rural Development, Natural Areas and Resources. The results of the Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) in

the Province of Rimini (Italy), allowed the Centre to evaluate the effectiveness of its CCA methodology. Even more important, this gave political scope to its "Guide to Best Practice in Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment" for its application in the field. PAP/RAC, with co-funding from the European Union, developed a mechanism for exchanges of experience in urban regeneration in the Mediterranean. As regards the activities on Water Resources Management, the "Guidelines for Integrated Urban Water System Planning in the Mediterranean" are in preparation. Two initiatives on Soil Erosion Control are being implemented, one in the Maghreb countries, and the other, in Lebanon and Syria, lead by ERS/RAC and co-funded by LIFE. An innovative publication "Photo Library on Soil Erosion Processes" gave rise to many favourable reactions, in particular from the FAO, willing to produce a CD-ROM.

32. The last series of PAP/RAC activities, regarding Pollution Prevention and Control, involves the development of economic instruments for coastal zone management. This project is being carried out within the framework of the Strategic Action Programme for Combating Land-based Sources of Pollution, financed by GEF. PAP/RAC has assessed existing economic instruments (EIs) in the Mediterranean, implemented six national pilot projects on EIs, and is preparing a programme for the inclusion of EIs into the National Action Plans (NAPs) of twelve GEF-eligible countries.

33. The NFP for Italy requested information on the category of EIs covered in the PAP/RAC study. Ms. D. Povh stated that the priority for PAP/RAC was the application of charges, such as the tourist eco-charge on the island of Hvar in Croatia. In Albania and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, pilot projects have been conducted on the application of sewage charges. In Algeria and Morocco, pilot projects have been undertaken for wastewater charges. The representative from Croatia mentioned another pilot project dealing with the issue of ballast waters and oil pollution in the Bay of Kvarner.

34. The representative from Tunisia congratulated PAP/RAC on their excellent results and voiced some proposals. He suggested that PAP/RAC develop techniques to protect sandy beaches from erosion. He also underlined the importance of aligning information strategies on the expectations of the public at large, to raise awareness on environmental issues and to enhance the visibility of the results obtained by the Centre. He also presented the Tunisian experience in the implementation of economic instruments, predominantly in the form of charges applied to the tourism industry, and described the effective contributions of the Tunisian Fund for the Environment. Finally, he proposed that the criteria on the delimitations of coastal zones be standardised and harmonised in the whole Mediterranean region.

35. The representative from the European Commission mentioned the EU's Recommendations regarding ICAM, coastal erosion, and inclusion of river basins in the regional concept of ICAM within the context of the EU Water Directive. She asked whether PAP/RAC had taken that experience into account. She referred to the work done by PAP/RAC on CAMPs, and welcomed the introduction of a Participatory Programme, as well as of a component on sustainable financing of CAMP follow-up activities. She also praised the PAP/RAC's efforts to promote the Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) in the tourism industry, and suggested its integration with the ICAM process.

36. The representative of the PAP/RAC host country congratulated the Centre on the positive results of the last biennium. She stressed that several projects had been carried out in Croatia, such as the two pilot projects on economic instruments. Furthermore, the PAP/RAC guidelines on CCA for tourism have proven useful in the development of the Croatian strategy in this sector.

37. Mr. Benoît underlined the importance of harmonising the work of MAP Centres on CAMPs, giving the example of CAMP Algeria. He also suggested that a technical tool be developed by PAP/RAC to combat coastal erosion.

38. Mr. Trumbic clarified that the EU recommendation on ICZM had been taken into account by PAP/RAC, and added that he was a member of the Steering Committee of the EUROSION project, stating that this would surely help to harmonise the efforts of the EU and PAP/RAC in the combat against coastal erosion. As concerns the ICARM methodology, he gave the example of the Neretva River in Croatia and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where five projects are currently being developed. He stressed that co-operation in the implementation of these projects was essential to avoid overlap. He also suggested that downstream river populations think of incentives to convince upstream river users to pollute less. Several participants acknowledged the importance of ICARM for coastal zones and stressed that any PAP/RAC work on ICARM should clearly avoid overlap or duplication with other ICARM initiatives already undertaken by other Centres or organisations.

Agenda item 12: Implementation of Recommendations of PAP/RAC External Evaluation

39. The Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the External Evaluation of PAP/RAC was presented by Mr. Bjelica. The Evaluation, carried out in 2001, started with the analysis of a questionnaire, circulated to some 90 stakeholders. A team of evaluators then came to Split, and in-depth consultation meetings were held between PAP/RAC and NFPs during the JFP Meeting in Palermo. The Evaluation demonstrated the positive involvement of the Centre and the quality of the resulting training programmes and guidelines. The efficiency of the work done by the Centre was further enhanced by the gradual refocusing of its activities. The evaluators voiced their opinion that PAP/RAC could assist the Contracting Parties in defining the appropriate institutional policy and the corresponding regulatory framework, to better implement ICAM in the Mediterranean. Most of the 16 recommendations made by the evaluators were implemented as of May 2003.

40. Mr. Trumbic shared with the Meeting participants his ideas to solve the financial difficulties facing the PAP/RAC budget. He suggested that countries involved in CAMP projects be requested to increase their financial contributions, so as to allow more in-depth actions and to enhance their commitment to the implementation of the co-funded projects.

Agenda item 13: Clearing House for Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean and MedOpen

41. Ms. Povh presented the Mediterranean Coastal Management Clearing House, a web database developed with the financial support of the European Commission. The aim of this database is to improve the dissemination of information on ICAM in the Mediterranean. She explained that the Clearing House would be a forum to exchange information and assistance on coastal management issues. The following topics were mentioned: Information on the Clearing House; List of Projects; Funding Guide; Experts Directory; Books, Reports and Articles; Legislation and Institutions; Economic Instruments; Policies, Strategies and Plans; and a Toolbox. She emphasised the fact that the most important task of the Clearing House is the List of Projects, which currently includes 72 projects. There are brief presentations of all projects, and detailed descriptions are already available for 20 of these. It is essential that this instrument is up-dated regularly and the participants have therefore been invited to provide PAP/RAC with all information available on the implementation of ICAM projects in their countries, as well as any information they deem to be relevant for the structure of the ICAM mechanism. Ms. Povh, then, presented the other characteristics of the Clearing House, such as the Discussion Forum, E-mail Lists, the On-line Calendar of Events, and the Help Desk.

42. Several delegates congratulated PAP/RAC and underlined that the Clearing House is one of the most important web sites in the Mediterranean. The participants asked several questions about the Clearing House, such as the means to update and manage the mechanism, the potential or existing links with the MERSI project, and the state of spatial data. Mr. Trumbic replied that the link with the MERSI project would be available in the future, while Ms. Povh added that only text data was available, since the software used in the Clearing House could not yet process spatial data. Questions were asked concerning the circulation of information on the Clearing House, enhanced user involvement, and the use of the Discussion Forum. Ms. Povh replied that the marketing of the project was underway and that synergy could be established with the other Internet-based projects.

43. Several delegates stressed the need to develop a co-ordinated communication strategy for MAP where the Clearing House could be best put to use. The essential purpose of this strategy would be to give the otherwise overburdened MAP Focal Points the targeted, concise information they require on MAP and RAC activities. Several participants suggested the establishment of national Clearing Houses on ICAM, based on the PAP/RAC model and implemented with the assistance of PAP/RAC.

44. Ms. Povh then presented MedOpen, an on-line ICAM training course, to help Mediterranean countries grow their knowledge in the field of coastal management. The target users of MedOpen are decision-makers (at local, national, regional and international level), political advisors, project managers, teams and experts of international organisations and institutions, academic researchers, students, and all those who are interested in coastal management. The courses are composed of basic and advanced modules: the basic module provides basic information on coastal management and knowledge tests. The advanced module requires greater involvement on the part of the candidate and of PAP/RAC. Several experts acknowledged as specialists in the field of coastal management, will be called upon to prepare the courses. The candidates who will have passed the final test will be awarded a certificate from PAP/RAC. Ms. Povh concluded by saying that the starting dates of the training programme and the application form for the first module of the advanced course, would be posted on the PAP web site in 2 weeks. The delegates asked for further information on the target users of the modules and suggested that the courses be open to students.

Agenda item 14: Progress Report on CAMP Lebanon

45. Mr. M. Prem, PAP/RAC Deputy Director, gave a status report on the implementation of CAMP Lebanon. He described the geographical scope of the project, the major issues facing the three municipalities involved, the individual activities, and the progress to-date. MAP recommendations on the improvement of the CAMP were discussed in detail, namely: improved co-ordination between the local and national authorities and among the ministries involved, integration of project results through the organisation of frequent meetings between national teams, enhanced capacity building and awareness, mainly through the Participatory Programme. The national co-ordinator's role, applied for the first time to CAMP projects, has proven extremely useful. Other novelties in the ICAM component include the preparation of the National ICAM Strategy and the corresponding legislation. These elements will contribute to the development of long-term policies and of the appropriate legislative framework for the national coastal areas. Mr. Prem explained that activities relating to Marine Conservation Areas (to be carried out by SPA/RAC) have not yet been launched due to administrative reasons within the Ministry for the Environment and due to the fact that these activities may not be maintained. He also emphasised the need to ensure that the project remains sustainable, once the CAMP has been phased out.

46. In the ensuing discussion, the questions asked by the participants revolved around the degree of interaction with local authorities involved in the CAMP projects, the follow-up activities, the project outputs and the new CAMP projects. In his reply, Mr. Trumbic clearly stated that the main problem was the degree of interaction with local authorities. He gave the example of CAMP Lebanon, where close co-operation was established with local authorities through a Public Participatory Programme. This is hinged upon the degree of involvement of the countries, and could be greatly improved by continuous MAP presence in the field, as was the case with the local CAMP Co-ordinator. Although MAP is not in charge of follow-up activities, it could nonetheless provide support in the search for investors. CAMP results are both tangible and intangible: training, capacity building, awareness, etc. Several options were presented for future CAMP projects, and will be examined in-depth. They could include trans-border or sub-regional projects, as well as projects covering a single sector or topic (floods, coastal erosion).

47. The delegate from Cyprus informed the Meeting on the progress of the preparation of CAMP Cyprus and expressed her concern regarding the different agendas that the Tourism authority in the country has with regards to coastal zone management. She also expressed her interest as to the more direct involvement of ministries and especially of the Tourism authority.

Agenda item 15: Presentation of the CAMP Mar Menor Project Proposal

48. Mr. J. Cachon, delegate from Spain, presented a proposal for the CAMP Mar Menor project. He described the scope of the project, its characteristics and related issues, and listed the possible activities. A Feasibility Study is underway and should be completed shortly. The final decision to implement the Spanish project will be made by the Contracting Parties during their meeting in November 2003.

Agenda item 16: Presentation of the Activity Agenda for the Biennium 2004-2005

49. Mr. Trumbic presented the provisional activity agenda for the next biennium, and stressed the major PAP/RAC activities. Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) will remain the main core of PAP/RAC, which is already acknowledged as the main regional player in this field. The activities will cover the strategic (regional and national ICAM strategies), technical (guidelines, tools and techniques), and practical aspects (awareness enhancement, training, legislation). Concrete efforts will be made to extend the scope of CAMPs to include river basins in coastal management. The integration of environment-development will remain essential, and PAP/RAC will focus on the issues of sustainable urban management, soil erosion management, urban water resources management and on the main topics covered by MCS. However, additional efforts will be made to link these issues and coastal areas, and to improve their management.

Agenda item 17: ICAM and CAMP Strategy for the Mediterranean: Presentation and Discussion

50. Mr. Prem presented the concept and structure of the Mediterranean ICAM and CAMP Strategy, as requested by the Bureau during its meeting in Monaco, in October 2002. He indicated the main milestones of the development of the ICAM approach in the Mediterranean and its importance, gave a general overview of coastal areas and stressed the need for regional responses. The results and stages of the MAP CAMP project were then presented. The project was regularly evaluated, and the relevant recommendations implemented. Yet, in spite of all these efforts, there is still no regional strategic vision of coastal areas, and a strategy should be determined to plan long-term policy-making mechanisms. This strategy should integrate current tools, MAP recommendations and all other existing sources of support. Special attention should be given to the legal components and to the new style of governance applied to coastal areas. Mr.

Prem concluded by presenting the contents of the Strategy, namely: the Introduction; the Vision; the State of coastal areas; the Main issues; Strategy and Actions Implementation; and Strategy updating and monitoring.

51. During the discussion, the EU delegate voiced her approval of the preparation of the Strategy, but insisted on the need to be very specific in the drafting of the document, particularly as concerns the activities. Other participants recalled the MCSD Strategy on Sustainable Development, which is currently being prepared, and stressed the need to take it into account so as to avoid repetitions when preparing the ICAM Strategy. The EU delegate also emphasised the importance of actions to combat natural risks.

52. Mr. Trumbic indicated that the MCSD Strategy on Sustainable Development would entail a lengthy process, and would be taken into account, as well as the EU Recommendations, in the ICAM Strategy. Limited resources may be allocated, to the implementation of strategic actions, according to their availability.

Agenda item 18: Feasibility Study for the Mediterranean Legal Instruments on Coastal Management

53. Mr. Trumbic presented the activities related to the preparation of the Feasibility Study, which was requested by the Contracting Parties during their meeting in Monaco, in November 2001. He described the current status of activities and explained the need for legal instruments. He specified that the technical and legal levels of the activities warranted the development of a legal framework for MAP, which could be one of three options: large scale (with more developed contents); framework (with basic contents); and intermediate. He insisted on the fact that no legal instruments exist today and highlighted the negative trends which could worsen the degradation of coastal areas and therefore, the quality of life of coastal populations. He concluded with the Activities Calendar, according to which the draft study should be presented during the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2003. The study itself will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for approval, during their meeting.

54. The EU representative indicated that there is a new political determination to implement the EU Recommendation on ICAM, although this Recommendation does not have the strength of a Directive. She pointed out that the EU was willing to take into consideration regional legal instruments. She suggested that the Mediterranean ICAM legal mechanism should be aligned with the EU Recommendation, realistic and take into account the implementation capacities of the countries.

55. The Chairman, Mr. Amil asked the first question on the field of application of the legal instrument and its possible interference with existing protocols on the marine environment and with national laws (if any) on soil. He recommended that the legal instrument be drafted so as to identify the guidelines for integrated coastal management and to plan incentives to promote best practices at the regional scale. A legal framework is required to improve coastal area management in the Mediterranean, and the preceding recommendations were necessary.

56. Mr. Trumbic explained that the legal instrument would cover both the coastal strip and the hinterland of coastal areas, with a greater focus on land, where impacts are strongest. The scope of the legal instrument will depend on the options chosen. The development of this instrument is in itself a political procedure, which must be protected against potential bottlenecks or freezes.

Agenda item 19: Conclusions and Recommendations

57. Mr. Amil asked Mr. Trumbic to present the suggested recommendations, as they will be submitted both to the Contracting Parties and to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC). These recommendations are broken down into two main categories: Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones and Integrating Environment-Development. The participants to the Meeting contributed modifications and amendments to the recommendations, enclosed in Annex IV.

58. When closing the session, the Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions, and congratulated PAP/RAC on its efforts over the last two years. He also suggested that another Joint Focal Point Meeting be organised to allow every RAC to meet with its Focal Points. A proposal was voiced in favour of presentations by both the RACs and the Contracting Parties, on their achievements in the sustainable development of coastal zones.

ERS/RAC: Review 2002-2003

59. Ms. Mastrovic chaired the next session, dedicated to the ERS/RAC. After welcoming the participants, she presented the agenda of the day, stressing that the debates would not cover the programme of the next biennium, due to the ongoing discussion between the Centre and the Italian Authorities.

60. Mr. Hoballah informed the delegates of the departure of the former Director of ERS/RAC and said that the process to appoint a new Director had begun. As a result, ERS/RAC was asked to limit its presentation to the achievements of the current biennium. The programme and budget for the next biennium will be discussed with the Italian Authorities and MAP, and will be presented during the MAP Focal Points Meeting to be held in September 2003. He highlighted how feedback and advice from the participants would be essential to ensure that a realistic proposal can be submitted to the Italian Authorities, regarding the strengthening, the improvement and, if possible, the extension of the activities of the Centre.

Agenda Item 20: Progress Report 2002-2003: Presentation and Discussion

61. The ERS/RAC presented its "Progress Report for the period 2002-2003" [UNEP (DEC)/MED WG##]. Ms. M. Viel indicated that ERS/RAC had made particular efforts within the framework of its activities to improve co-operation and integration with the other Regional Activity Centres (RACs). She also insisted on the need to maintain activities relative to Indicators for Sustainable Development (ISD) and the MERSI.Web. She firmly recommended an in-depth analysis of the methodology applied to the use of spatial remote sensing, to monitor environmental indicators (such as Land-use change and Forest areas), in co-operation with BP/RAC. As regards the MERSI.Web, she emphasised that this activity was aligned with other European initiatives on information management.

62. The Chairperson invited comments from the delegates, on the first ERS/RAC presentation. The representative from Morocco thanked ERS/RAC for its efforts since the last National Focal Points meeting, in integrating and aligning its activities with those of the other RACs. He also recommended the updating of MEDGEOBASE database in southern Mediterranean countries to collect ten-year data on land-use changes, taking into account the updates to CORINE at European level. He expressed his conviction that the current issues facing the ERS/RAC could become an opportunity for an extended mandate and scope. On the subject of information management and dissemination, and in connection with the work carried out in this field by two other RACs

(PAP/RAC and BP/RAC), he strongly suggested that a portal should be set up at MEDU level, with specific links to web sites of other Centres, to capitalise on results and to enhance the visibility of MAP contributions.

63. The representative from Spain underscored the importance of integrating the MERSI project to INSPIRE, the European initiative. He agreed with as to the need to update the land-use and land-cover data on the Mediterranean scale. The representative from Tunisia advised the use of the CORINE land-cover/MEDGEODBASE category for land-cover classification in the framework of the Algeria CAMP, as the first step of a standardised methodological approach in the Mediterranean region.

64. M. Benoît reminded the delegates that a common and important set of indicators for Sustainable Development (ISD) had been selected in 1999. He also emphasised the positive impact of the regional workshop, organised by ERS/RAC in Tunisia in 2003. He spoke in favour of having access to comparable data, so as to enhance knowledge (on coastal zones, monitoring of forest areas). He added that BP/RAC was prepared to lend support to the enhancement of actions and knowledge on the Mediterranean environment. M. Trumbic expressed his satisfaction on the co-operation with ERS/RAC, and observed that significant results have been obtained.

Agenda Item 21: Progress Report 2002-2003: Achievements and Assessment

65. The presentation of ERS/RAC activities during this biennium continued, and Ms. S. Carnemolla described how a very high resolution satellite was effectively used in coastal management at local scale in the Lebanon CAMP (urban texture assessment, cadastral updating, road network mapping). She described the project called "Improving Coastal Land Degradation Monitoring in Lebanon and Syria" (CoLD) developed with EU funding (LIFE Third Countries). She stressed that the project was based on a multi-scale approach, on the direct involvement of users and on close co-operation with PAP/RAC. She ended the presentations with the ERS/RAC. In her conclusion, Ms. Carnemolla declared that ERS/RAC had worked to implement the recommendations of the Contracting Parties, to promote integration with other MAP components, to confirm its role within MAP, and to support the Mediterranean countries by seeking external funds. Finally, she added that, based on experience, she felt it was necessary to improve networking activities and the interoperability of spatial data.

Agenda item 22: Questions and Discussion

66. Ms. Mastrovic invited comments and suggestions from the participants as regards the scope of the ERS/RAC activities and on how to reinforce their purpose. The Italian representative suggested a brain-storming discussion on the Centre, to collect useful ideas for the next meeting between the Centre and the Italian Authorities. Mr. Hoballah stressed that, because remote sensing is such a specific field, ERS/RAC activities have not been fully integrated to MAP, although the Centre has implemented activities and provided useful services to other RACs. He added that the issue was to precisely define how to achieve the best possible form of integration. The ERS/RAC must be given a clear mandate, based on two or three core activities, to put its resources to full-use within MAP. Furthermore, he invited the participants to reflect on a future proposal regarding the Centre, which would be beneficial for all countries.

67. The representative of the European Commission highlighted that remote sensing is an essential tool for environmental knowledge and monitoring (e.g. land use, oil spills) and that it should continue to be used in MAP activities. However, she repeated that it was necessary to identify which "niches" are covered by the RACs, to avoid overlaps between RACs, or with other organisations, and pointed out that ERS/RAC activities should be synonymous with added value for MAP. She also underscored the need to make sure that ERS/RAC activities will not compete with

the remote sensing services market and distort them by obtaining subsidies for activities which could be covered by the private sector. She, therefore, requested an in-depth discussion as to the Centre's mandate.

68. Mr. Amil repeated several times that, in his opinion, the Centre should focus its actions on two levels: on a regional/global scale, through a regional project to up-date the CORINE/MEDGEODATABASE database, and on a local scale, through specific contributions to CAMPs. He emphasised that the ERS/RAC is an asset to be maintained. He also underscored the catalyst role played by the Centre in Morocco and its partnership with CRTS (the Moroccan Royal Centre for Space Remote Sensing) in monitoring the sustainable development indicators.

69. Mr. Benoît voiced his support to the implementation of a programme similar to CORINE and LACOST in the Southern Mediterranean region, in synergy with the EC DG Joint Research Centre. He further stated that the optimisation and use of data was a component of paramount importance. The delegate from Spain repeated how important it was to include the MERSI project in the INSPIRE initiative, highlighting that data alone are not enough, it is their availability to users that is most. He supported Morocco's suggestion, to extend the CORINE programme to southern Mediterranean countries and said that the Centre could play a strategic role in that context. The representative of Tunisia made the observation that the Centre was initially created to support the needs of the Contracting Parties and that the time has now come to consolidate its structure so that it can effectively support the countries in their local and national capacity building process. He also stressed that it was necessary to undertake in-depth analysis of the Centre's strategy, of the enlargement of its mission, as well as on how to adapt it to the future demands of the Mediterranean region. The other representative from Tunisia agreed with his fellow delegate, and voiced his approval of the implementation of a Mediterranean scale project, under the co-ordination of the Centre. The representative from Syria agreed on the need to provide support to the Centre and to identify the appropriate resources.

70. The ERS/RAC staff warmly thanked all Meeting participants for their valuable suggestions and feedback on how to strengthen the Centre, which will be presented to the Italian Authorities. Finally, in view of the nature of the discussion, Mr. Hoballah thought that perhaps a study could be suggested to the Italian Authorities, which could within two months, provide answers to the following key questions on the Centre's future:

- check the market of available environmental remote sensing services in the Mediterranean;
- analyse the needs of Mediterranean users;
- find a "niche" for the ERS/RAC based on the current knowledge and needs of users; and
- define where the core, value-added activities (3 or 4) should be deployed.

71. Ms. Mastrovic closed the session dedicated to ERS/RAC by echoing the general feeling of the attendees as to the effectiveness and relevance of the Centre's activities within MAP. She also thanked the Meeting participants for their participative and valuable contributions.

Agenda item 23: Co-operation and Co-ordination among the RACs: Thematic Questions

72. The fourth and last session of the Meeting was dedicated to co-operation and co-ordination among the three Centres. During the session, chaired by Mr. Amil, Mr. Hoballah and the management teams of the three Centres took the floor. After the round table presentations, a discussion and an exchange of opinion took place, among the country representatives, the Directors and the teams from the three Centres.

73. In view of the number of important activities in the three RACs, the representative from Spain proposed that synergies be developed around two or three core areas at the most. He

stressed the importance of CAMPs, and the need for close co-operation between the Centres in the Mar Menor project. The representative from the European Commission stressed the importance of preparing an overall MAP information strategy to improve information sharing and dissemination. The representative from Bosnia-Herzegovina stated how important the activities of the three Centres were for his country, indicating his country's intention to launch the Bosnia-Herzegovina CAMP, a very important MAP activity that would cover the river basins as well as the coastal area.

74. The RACs Directors then took the floor, and stated that strong complementarity existed among the RACs. They also mentioned budgetary issues for the translation of documents, inviting the countries' commitment to increase information sharing. The MED ICAM Clearing House was proposed as the link between the Centres on specific issues.

75. In short, there is close co-operation between the Centres, in particular in view of the new focus of their activities, in compliance with the recommendations of the preceding National Focal Points meeting. As an example, the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) run by PAP/RAC, is increasing its use of the Sustainable Development Indicators (ISD) developed by BP/RAC. ERS/RAC also uses these indicators in its environmental remote sensing activities (a workshop held in Tunis, on March, 18, 2003, was dedicated to this issue). After listening to the speakers, the participants drew the following conclusions:

- Co-ordination must be further improved in coastal zone management strategies. For instance, both PAP/RAC and BP/RAC, are working on the same topic and should therefore tackle it from different standpoints. The contributions of BP/RAC should focus on prospective aspects, such as the RED initiative, while PAP/RAC should cover the technical aspects of coastal management programmes.
- The value of collected data must be enhanced and dissemination improved. To this end, a portal with information links could be built and used as a shared information dissemination system (through the Internet), which would be compatible with the three information systems described by the Centres (the ECHEMS Database of BP/RAC, the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House and MedOpen of PAP/RAC, and MERSI.Web of ERS/RAC).
- A meeting could be organised between the Focal Points and the Italian Authorities so as to define new orientations and prerogatives for ERS/RAC. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Italy, in September (according to the Italian delegate, the date of the meeting has not yet been determined).

Agenda item 24: Adoption of the Report on the Meeting

76. The draft Meeting report and proposals for recommendations, as well as the Activity Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium, established by all three RACs, were distributed to the participants. It was decided that only recommendations and the proposed activities would be discussed and amended during the Meeting, while suggestions and comments on the draft reports would be communicated in writing to each RAC, by May 30, 2003. Also, PAP/RAC was entrusted with the preparation of the overall Meeting report.

77. The participants adopted the proposals for recommendations and the activity programme presented by BP/RAC and PAP/RAC. The recommendations and activity programmes of these RACs are attached to this report as Annexes III and IV, respectively. As relates to ERS/RAC, it was decided that the relevant recommendations would be prepared and presented at the next Joint NFP Meeting.

Agenda item 25: Closure of the Meeting

78. In his conclusive address, Mr. Amil pointed out that the Meeting had served its purpose and fulfilled its objectives. He thanked the participants for a very constructive discussion on the issues of common interest to the three RACs. He expressed his gratitude to the PAP/RAC staff for the excellent organisation of the Meeting. Finally, he raised hopes that joint efforts would be made to improve co-operation among the Centres.

79. Mr. Hoballah thanked the RACs for their effective preparation of the reports presented during the Meeting. He raised hopes that the Centres would continue to work bravely on the improvement of their co-operation, which could open the door to further progress. He stressed that responsibilities should also be shared by the Contracting Parties and the Focal Points. On the subject of information dissemination between the RACs, he pointed out that this included the circulation of documents and the improvement of the image of the RACs through the media. His words of gratitude particularly went to PAP/RAC for their excellent preparation and organisation of the Meeting. Finally, he assured the participants that the results and recommendations of the Meeting would be duly taken into consideration during the preparation of the documents for the next meeting of MAP National Focal Points.

80. Mr. Amil thanked Mr. Hoballah for his congratulatory speech. After thanking the participants, the organisers and the interpreters for their contribution to the success of the Meeting, Mr. Amil declared the Meeting closed on May 22, 2003 at 13:00 hours.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

Monday, May 19, 2003

09:00-11:00 **Opening of the Meeting**
Election of Officers
Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work

BP/RAC: Review 2002-2003 and Programme 2004-2005
Introduction and Environment/Development Report

11:30-13:00 Sustainable development issues
Free trade impact in the Euro-Mediterranean context and funding and co-operation for sustainable development
Water, agriculture, soils, forests, biodiversity and rural development
Tourism

14:30-16:00 Towns, urbanisation, energy and transport
Indicators for sustainable development and contribution to Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs)

16:15-18:00 Statistics and database
The MEDSTAT- Environment Project: Phase I and Phase II
The Blue Plan database

Conclusions and recommendations

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

09:00-11:00 **PAP/RAC:** Review 2002-2003 and Programme 2004-2005
Progress Report 2002-2003:
Presentation and discussion
Implementation of recommendations of PAP/RAC External Evaluation

11:30-13:00 Clearing House for Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean and MedOpen
Progress Report on CAMP Lebanon
Presentation of the CAMP Mar Menor project proposal

14:30-16:00 Programme for the biennium 2004-2005: Presentation and discussion
ICAM and CAMP Strategy for the Mediterranean: Presentation and discussion

16:15-18:00 Feasibility Study for the Mediterranean Legal Instrument on Coastal Management

Conclusions and recommendations

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

- 09:00-11:00 **ERS/RAC:** Review 2002-2003
 Progress Report 2002-2003: Presentation and discussion
 The CoLD Project
 The MERSI Project
- 11:30-13:00 Progress Report 2002-2003: Achievements and assessment
- 14:30-16:00 **Questions and discussion**

Thursday, May 22, 2003

- 09:00-11:00 **Co-operation and co-ordination among the RACs: thematic questions**
- 11:30-13:00 **Adoption of the Report of the Meeting**
Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

BP/RAC : RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005

INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations Addressed to the Contracting Parties

- To contribute to the completion and distribution of the regional report on the environment and development in the Mediterranean region, and its derivatives, and, if necessary, to have them translated into languages other than English and French.
- To ensure wide dissemination to public and professional stakeholders involved in the results of the activities relating to the integration of environment and development, and more specifically to water demand management, free trade and environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context.
- To support development of regional studies and activities relating to financing and co-operation for sustainable development, agricultural and rural development, and economic tools for the environment through the identification and mobilisation of experts and qualified players (to go with the implementation of the Euro Mediterranean Free Trade Zone).
- To encourage the preparation by REMPEC and BP/RAC of the "Marenostrum" project relating to the medium and long-term prospective of marine transport and of the potential ecological and socio-economic risks for the Mediterranean.
- To assess the progress and difficulties in the implementation at regional, national and local scales of the recommendations regarding Sustainable Development Indicators and observatories, for the presentation to be made to the regional workshop scheduled for the end of 2004 or the beginning of 2005.
- To continue to support the implementation of the second phase of the MEDSTAT-Environment Programme through the National Statistics Institutes. Promote the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding between MAP and EUROSTAT to ensure that Contracting Parties make optimal use of outputs.
- To contribute, whenever possible, specific support to regional activities and to the organisation or hosting of forums or workshops.

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat

- To finalise the report on environment and development, in co-operation with the other MAP components, by the third quarter of 2004 and support the preparation of the Mediterranean strategy on sustainable development.
- To ensure larger dissemination of outputs from activities through appropriate means (regular publication of four-page brochures, booklets, articles, interactive electronic newsletters, etc.) to reach and mobilise wider and targeted audiences. Strengthen this policy through the transmission of proposals to Focal Points and to the other MAP components to enhance the visibility of the Blue Plan, and through the dissemination of documents to stakeholders. Test the organisation of discussion forums to support the preparation and follow-up of regional activities.

- To participate actively in the consultation process for the impact study of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone ("Sustainability Impact Assessment") and widen the dissemination of existing studies and syntheses. Further the analyses of the conditions for improved involvement of stakeholders and for investments for sustainable development, heighten knowledge on the economic instruments for the environment which are available in the countries and which could be promoted to support the implementation of the Free Trade Zone, and organise a workshop in 2004.
- To develop with the FAO ("Silva Mediterranea"), CIHEAM (International Centre for High Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) and the NGOs involved, a shared prospective vision on the stakes, conditions and means to improve the contributions made by regional co-operation and by the sectors on forests and agriculture to sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean region (local development, combat against desertification, biodiversity conservation) on the basis of regional and national analyses and case studies.
- To further prospective reflections on transport and sustainability. Contribute with REMPEC to the preparation and implementation of the "Marenostrum" project on the medium and long-term evolution of marine transport in the Mediterranean and to the assessment of induced risks. Lead an expert working group on the relation between transport, urbanisation and sustainability and the conditions to improve change management.
- To undertake reflections, with a network of experts on tourism and with the support of Focal Points, on the economic instruments applied to the governance and protection of the natural and cultural sites and on which type of mechanism for regional co-operation could be implemented in the region.
- To implement the second phase of the "MEDSTAT-Environment" project, by enhancing synergy between the Statistics Institutes, the Ministries for the Environment and the data producers. Invite the Secretariat (MEDU) to negotiate an MoU with EUROSTAT in order to ensure the best possible synergy in the implementation of the MEDSTAT-Environment Programme and the use of its outputs by the Focal Points. The ECHEMS database could also be made available to the national observatories or equivalent organisations. Ensure the gradual inclusion of this tool in the EC "INSPIRE" initiative.
- To assess, with Blue Plan Focal Points and other MAP components, the progress and difficulties encountered in the implementation, on the national and regional scales, of the adopted recommendations and as regards the indicators and observatories for sustainable development. Make proposals to more closely align these tools with the debates and the decision-making process as well as with the monitoring of the future strategy on sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Study the interest of the composite indicators for sustainability and their potential adaptation and application to the Mediterranean. Promote the development of sets of indicators to include sustainability within the sectorial water policies (taking into account other regional initiatives).

INTEGRATED COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat

- To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to draw up the guidelines on Sustainable Systemic Prospective Analyses (SSPA) in coastal area management programmes (CAMPs). Build a training module and implement SSPA in the new CAMPs in co-operation with PAP/RAC.

- To invite the Secretariat (MEDU, BP/RAC and PAP/RAC) to maintain current efforts and to heighten co-operation and co-ordination in the implementation of their respective activities.

ANNEX IV

PAP/RAC : RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

Recommendations Addressed to the Contracting Parties

- To urge the relevant authorities to improve the implementation of the MCSD recommendations on sustainable management of coastal areas.
- To support PAP/RAC in preparing the regional strategy on Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) and CAMP, with a view to its adoption in 2005.
- To pursue efforts towards adopting and/or improving national legislation for sustainable coastal management, taking into account the work of PAP/RAC and other international organisations.
- To take note of the Feasibility Study for the Regional Legal Instrument on Coastal Management, and to request PAP/RAC to proceed with its preparation in view of a potential adoption in 2005.
- To support sub-regional activities on sustainable management of coastal areas, and develop sub-regional strategies (such as the Adriatic Action Plan), programmes, action plans and projects in related fields.
- To prepare national and regional strategies and programmes for ICAM with local authorities and institutions, with the methodologies, tools and instruments used in the implementation of ICAM.
- To invite the authorities in Algeria, Cyprus and Slovenia to maintain their efforts in support of the implementation of CAMP projects in their countries. Also, to invite Morocco and Spain to prepare the launch of such projects in their countries.
- To call on the authorities in the countries where CAMP projects have been completed to implement the follow-up activities by securing the necessary financial and human resources for their implementation, with the support of MAP and PAP/RAC.
- To invite countries, where there have not yet been any CAMP projects, to propose new projects, and to prepare the respective feasibility studies. The countries where CAMP projects have been organised, are invited to consider new types of CAMP projects in the light of the recommendations for the proposed ICAM/CAMP strategy.
- To support the preparation of the regional action plan to combat coastal erosion, with special emphasis on beaches, and according to the proposed regional protocol on coastal management and to the ICAM/CAMP strategy.

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC)

- To prepare the regional strategy for Integrated Coastal Area Management and CAMP, in consultation with regional stakeholders and in co-ordination with MEDU and the MAP components concerned.
- To support and assist the Contracting Parties in preparing their national and local strategies and programmes for ICAM, as well as to assist them in implementing the appropriate tools, techniques and methodologies.
- To prepare the Regional Legal Instrument on Integrated Coastal Management, *inter alia*, for its potential adoption by the 14th meeting of the Contracting Parties, by assisting in the preparation of national legislation for ICAM.
- To continue institutional strengthening and capacity building of the Contracting Parties' national and local institutions, through traditional and internet-based training courses (MedOpen), through information exchange on ICAM with the "Clearing House" mechanism, through helping

Contracting Parties prepare their own national Clearing Houses for ICAM, through maintaining the informative web-site, publishing and disseminating guidelines, topical papers, programme results and other achievements.

- To assist Algeria, Albania and Egypt in preparing their national reports on Integrated Coastal Management.
- To undertake the necessary analyses and prepare a Report on the State of Mediterranean Beaches.
- To develop the regional plan to fight coastal erosion.
- To undertake thematic studies, from which relevant guidelines and action plans will be developed, on issues of coastal landscapes and sustainable financing of ICAM activities.
- To pursue the development and implementation of ICAM tools and instruments, specifically, the coastal information systems, rapid coastal environmental assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in coastal environments, economic instruments for coastal management, Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for tourism, and Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) plans.
- To assist countries in developing sub-regional initiatives for ICAM and ICARM taking into account other initiatives.
- To co-ordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects, under the overall co-ordinating responsibility of MEDU, including the development of new types of CAMP projects, such as trans-national projects.
- To prepare CAMP Feasibility Studies, CAMP programmes and agreements, to implement current and scheduled MAP CAMP projects.
- To propose to countries where MAP CAMP projects have been completed, the introduction of new environmental management instruments, and/or the adaptation of existing ones, for sustainable follow-up of CAMPs, and to support these countries in preparing sustainable follow-up activities to the completed MAP CAMP projects.
- To strengthen existing partnerships and seek new ones in the region, in the interest of the implementation of Integrated Coastal Area Management and of sustainable development in coastal regions.

INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations Addressed to Contracting Parties

- To encourage their national and local authorities, associations in the hotel industry and for-profit and non-profit organisations to consider the Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) as a common tool for sustainable development of tourism.
- To support efforts to introduce better practices for urban water resources management, in particular through the implementation of the relevant guidelines.
- To support activities related to soil erosion/desertification control and management as essential elements of sustainable development in the region, and to support the partnerships of MAP with relevant international organisations and institutions.

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC)

- To assist the Contracting Parties in their endeavours to implement the MCSD Recommendations on urban management and sustainable development through the development of appropriate urban management tools and instruments, and by establishing mechanisms for the exchange of experience of good urban management practices.

- To assist the Contracting Parties in implementing the guidelines for urban regeneration and to motivate them to include this practice in urban development planning and management, and to study and analyse the incorporation of ICAM to urban management.
- To assist the MCSD Working Groups on Cultural Heritage, Local Management and Sustainable Development, and Waste Management.
- To promote the use of Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) as a tool for the sustainable development of tourism, through the strengthening of national and local Mediterranean institutions. To continue offering technical assistance, and to take steps to incorporate CCA to the ICAM process.
- To support local authorities in implementing guidelines for sustainable urban water resources management.
- To develop partnerships with international and regional organisations involved in soil erosion/desertification control and management, and to implement the sub-regional project relative to these issues in the Maghreb countries.