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1. Policy and coordination

During the biennium 2004-2005 there have been no changes in the **personnel structure** of the MED POL Programme and the activities continued to be implemented by the Coordinator, two Programme Officers and the WHO/MED POL Senior Scientist.

In addition to the long-standing **cooperation** with WHO in relation to the activities related to the sanitary aspects of the SAP and the LBS Protocol, compliance and enforcement, work has continued to be closely carried out in cooperation with IAEA/MEL in relation to data quality assurance of chemical analyses through training, intercalibration, scientific visits, purchase of instruments and advices on monitoring issues. Cooperation with UNESCO/IOC was maintained through its study group on benthic indicators and through the NEWS-Med project. Work continued to be carried out in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO through their very active involvement, and contribution to, the PRTR activities and the preparation and finalization of one pre-investment study as part of the GEF Project.

Concerning cooperation with MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), in addition with the work carried out by PAP/RAC on economic instruments in the framework of the GEF Project, the relation with CP/RAC was strengthened through their substantial involvement in the GEF Project, and prospects now exist to consider CP/RAC an essential partner of MED POL in the coordination and follow up of the activities of the SAP, in particular those related to industrial pollution. With the renewal of ERS/RAC, and in particular with their gradual involvement in the promotion of IT, MED POL has recently intensified its cooperation with that RAC and a number of joint activities (i.e. the preparation of an information system, the creation of a MED POL website and a research project on the integration of remote sensing techniques and in situ data) are being launched based on the experience of the Centre in remote sensing and the use of IT (see document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.15). Close contacts were also kept with the Blue Plan for the preparation of marine pollution indicators and the preparation of the report on Environment and Development. In the framework of the cooperation with RACs, in addition to the above, the initiative of MED POL to create an information system with the technical support of ERS/RAC will provide in future a solid platform of cooperation with all Centres.

Close cooperation was ensured by MED POL with MEDU and the Blue Plan for the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) that will be finalized this year and submitted to Contracting Parties for adoption.

Cooperation continued with sub-regional Agreements, and in particular with RA.MO.GE. on coastal litter management, and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII) by putting at the disposal of the Adriatic and Ionian countries the experience of MED POL and the results of the activities carried out in their area (e.g. monitoring).

Cooperation with MedGOOS was marked by the successful involvement of MED POL in the MAMA project. The Project was concluded and the products of MAMA were linked to the MAP web site. As a follow up, an informal working group of MED POL and MED GOOS was established in 2004 to discuss possible future joint activities. The group first met in February 2004 and, later during the biennium, the group members decided to include other similar initiatives in the Mediterranean such as MOON. In 2005, the expanded group will meet to agree upon joint overall/specific objectives and actions.

The Agreement with the Universities of Genoa and Alessandria, (Italy), to ensure the data quality assurance related to biological effects monitoring, was successfully continued through the organization of training and intercalibration.

Close contacts were kept with the UNEP Office of the Regional Seas Programme in Nairobi and the UNEP GPA Coordination Office in The Hague for over all guidance and coordination. In particular, the GPA Office kept constant contacts with MED POL and provided support in the framework of the preparation of NAPs where they had gained substantial and very valuable experience at the global level.

In the framework of the preparation of the **European Marine Strategy** by the European Union, MED POL has been an active contributor on behalf of MAP to the preparation of the various components of the Strategy, by promoting Mediterranean interests in harmony with EU objectives and principles. While the Strategy will be proposed to EU member states later this year, MED POL believes that its implementation in the Mediterranean region 1) rests in harmony with MAP and MED POL objectives, principles and targets (in particular the SAP), and 2) could channel into the region technical and financial support for the achievement by the countries (also non-EU) of the common targets and objectives. In this framework, the Mediterranean EU member states may wish to propose to the EU to use MAP/MED POL as the operational tool for the implementation of the Strategy in the Mediterranean and for bridging EU and non-EU countries in the initiative.

One of the innovative initiatives that the European Marine Strategy is proposing is the application of the **ecosystem approach** to management of human activities. The initiative, that has been taken up by MED POL in the framework of the future MED POL Phase IV, needs to be applied by the entire MAP system and, within the system, MED POL could play a fundamental role as its monitoring and assessment component. In this framework, MED POL has taken the initiative to prepare a document defining the principles of the ecosystem approach and proposing a step by step approach to test its application in the region (see document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.3). To this end, the European Commission, on the basis of their positive cooperation with MED POL in the over all framework of the preparation of the Marine Strategy, are proposing to finance a project to be implemented by MED POL to assist the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to management of human activities in the region.

As a basis to the future MED POL Programme, as agreed by the Contracting Parties in Catania, an independent **evaluation of MED POL Phase III** was carried out during the biennium 2004-2005. By applying a strict and objective methodology, three consultants prepared the evaluation on the basis of review of documents and reports, interviews, visits and evaluation of the results. The report is presented as document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/3) and the conclusions and recommendations, that have already been used by the Secretariat for the preparation of the draft MED POL Phase IV, will be presented by the evaluators, and discussed and accordingly evaluated by the MED POL Coordinators for future action.

Finally, the MED POL Secretariat has intensely worked during the biennium on the preparation of a draft **MED POL Phase IV Programme** (2006-2013). A first draft was prepared by a consultant in close cooperation with the Secretariat; the draft was adapted to the results and recommendations of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III and was presented to a small group of experts involved in similar national, regional and international frameworks for comments and suggestions. The draft was further amended and is now presented to National Coordinators for approval (see document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/4). The draft that the Secretariat is proposing to National Coordinators contains a description of visions, principles, objectives, content and modalities of implementation of the Programme; if they are approved by the Coordinators and later this year by the Contracting Parties, the MED POL Phase III will continue to be implemented during next biennium with the gradual adoption of MED POL Phase IV elements while the operational details of the Programme will be prepared and tested and presented for approval in 2007.

Recommendation:

To the Contracting Parties

To approve the visions, principles, objectives, content and modalities of implementation of the MED POL Phase IV Programme (2006-2013) as contained in document(UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/4) and to ask the Secretariat to prepare the operational details of the Programme during 2006-2007 taking into account the results of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III and the relevant developments of related international and regional programmes and initiatives

To welcome the initiative of the European Commission to support a project to be implemented by MED POL towards the testing and the application of the ecosystem approach to management of human activities in the Mediterranean region

To welcome the initiative of the European Union to prepare a Marine Strategy for its regional seas, to consider it in line and in harmony with the principles, objectives and targets of MAP, the MED POL Programme in general and of the SAP in particular, and recommend the European Union to consider MED POL as the bridging element between the European Marine Strategy and the strategies adopted by the Barcelona Convention towards the common objective to reduce and gradually eliminate pollution in all Mediterranean countries

To the Secretariat

To work in cooperation with ERS/RAC on the preparation of an information system covering data on pollution sources, levels and effects as a platform for a future wider system for all MAP data and information

2. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

National Action Plans (NAPs)

On the basis of the work plan for the implementation of the SAP, that has been financially supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project, Mediterranean countries are expected to formulate their NAPs to address pollution from land-based activities and to have them fully operational by the year 2005. To this end, during the biennium 2004-2005 the MED POL Programme has deployed all necessary efforts and resources to assist the national authorities to fulfill that ambitious target.

The process of the preparation of NAPs was marked by the organization of a Regional Workshop and Training Course held in March 2004 in Izmit, Turkey, to review and discuss the concrete implementation of the MED POL Guidelines for the preparation of NAPs (UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/3). The Guidelines had been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of GPA orientations and were thoroughly reviewed by the national experts nominated by their respective National Authorities for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and NAPs. The workshop was designed as a fully interactive process. In particular, during the Workshop the secretariat together with a number of regional experts highlighted:

- how to make use of the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and the data and information of the National Baseline Budget (NBB) to formulate the SPs and the NAPs; and

- the major topics to be covered and included in the NAPs, namely, the SPs, the issue/impacts matrices, the economic instruments, the portfolio and public participation .

In addition to the above initiative, and in order to increase the prospect of the success of the NAPs exercise, MED POL with the assistance of GEF contracted a regional expert to assist the Secretariat in the close follow up of the process of the preparation of SPs and NAPs. As a result of the daily contacts between MED POL and the SPs and NAPs national experts, two additional explanatory notes were issued and circulated to all experts and NC to clarify some issues related to the process of the preparation of NAPs. Finally, with the assistance of GEF, a meeting was organized in Catania in December 2004 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/7) to review the progress achieved by the countries in the preparation of SPs and NAPs and further identify gaps and capacity building needs. The meeting was an important milestone in the process of the preparation of the NAPs and an excellent opportunity for National Coordinators and experts to pinpoint difficulties and barriers and to find solutions.

As at April 2005, the status of preparation of NDA and NBB, considered the basis for the preparation of SPs and NAPs, is shown in the following table:

| Country | NDA | NBB |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Albania | Submitted | Submitted |
| Algeria | Submitted | Submitted |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Submitted | Submitted |
| Croatia | Submitted | Submitted |
| Cyprus | Submitted | Submitted |
| Egypt | Submitted | Submitted |
| France | Ongoing process | Ongoing process |
| Greece | Submitted | Submitted |
| Israel | Submitted | Submitted |
| Italy | Ongoing process | Ongoing process |
| Lebanon | Submitted | Submitted |
| Libya | Submitted | Submitted |
| Malta | Submitted | Submitted |
| Monaco | Submitted | Submitted |
| Morocco | Submitted | Submitted |
| Serbia -Montenegro | Submitted | Ongoing process |
| Slovenia | Submitted | Submitted |
| Spain | Ongoing process | Ongoing process |
| Syria | Submitted | Submitted |
| Tunisia | Submitted | Submitted |
| Turkey | Submitted | Submitted |
| Palestinian Authority | Submitted | Submitted |

The status of the preparation SPs and NAPs, as at April 2005, is shown in the following table:

| Country | Evaluation, comments |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Albania | Draft SPs received and evaluated NAP under preparation. Expected June 2005 Stakeholders meeting organized |
| Algeria | Draft SPs received and under evaluation. |
| Croatia | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 Stakeholders meeting organized |

| Country | Evaluation, comments |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cyprus | SPs received and under evaluation |
| Egypt | Draft SPs and NAP received and evaluated |
| France | Ongoing process. Expected May 2005 |
| Greece | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 |
| Israel | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 |
| Italy | Ongoing process. Expected September 2005 |
| Lebanon | Second draft of SP and NAP received and evaluated. Expected June 2005 |
| Libya | Draft SPs and NAP received and under evaluation. Stakeholders meeting organized |
| Malta | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 |
| Monaco | SPs received and under evaluation |
| Serbia-Montenegro | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 |
| Slovenia | Final draft SPs and NAP received. |
| Spain | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 |
| Syria | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 Stakeholders meeting organized |
| Tunisia | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 Stakeholders meeting organized |
| Turkey | Ongoing process. Expected June 2005 |
| Palestinian Authority | SPs and draft NAP received and evaluated. |

The Secretariat is actively following up and monitoring the finalization of consistent and realistic SPs and NAPs. As a result, MED POL has established a strict and continuous process of review and evaluation of all draft SPs and NAPs with the assistance of an independent expert. All drafts received are subject to exhaustive consecutive evaluations to ensure the consistency of the final outputs.

The evaluations made so far have shown the following bottlenecks:

- The SPs are often not consistent with the NDAs and BBs (i.e. the reduction of the pollutants' emissions and releases is often not related to the National Baseline Budget prepared nor to the SAP targets and deadlines);
- The economic instruments are not well elaborated; and
- The investment portfolios are not at all included.

It is to be recalled that NAPs need to be fully harmonized and consistent with the national Sectoral Plans (SPs) for reduction of pollution and that the above issues are discussed with the national authorities as appropriate in order to improve the final products.

Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties

To politically endorse, support and mobilize the necessary resources for, the implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities and to ensure their integration into the existing national pollution control plans

To the Secretariat

To catalyze and facilitate the mobilization of external funds to assist the Mediterranean countries in the implementation of NAPs

One of the pillars of the implementation of the NAPs is integrated pollution control with emphasis on cleaner production concept and tools. While its technical aspects have already been tackled by MED POL and CP/RAC in the framework of GEF project, the issue of the acquisition by the national SAP stakeholders of the necessary technology to perform pollution reduction is still considered critical. While pollution reduction technology is controlled, in general, by the private sector, stakeholders in developing countries don't have, in most cases, the adequate human, institutional, legal and financial resources to acquire such technology. There is therefore a need to develop a policy and a mechanism to ensure the **transfer of technology** and know how and consequently to facilitate the implementation of the NAPs among Mediterranean countries.

During the 2004-2005 biennium, the MED POL Secretariat has worked on the above issue and has prepared a document which could work as a guide for future initiatives in the region. The document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/8), which is brought to the attention of the National Coordinators for comments in view of its transmission to Contracting Parties, includes the following:

- ❖ policy elements for the transfer of technology and know how for the application of integrated pollution control and cleaner production technology principles in the implementation of the SAP and the NAPs;
- ❖ presentation of options for mechanisms through which the Mediterranean countries could facilitate the south-south and north-south transfer of technology and know how;
- ❖ instruments of institutional, legal and technical nature which are compatible with the proposed mechanisms.

Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties

To take note of the paper prepared by the Secretariat on transfer of technology in the framework of the SAP and the NAPs and to consider it a guide for future initiatives in the region

To approve and facilitate the creation by the Secretariat of a regional task force for the development of regional mechanism(s) for the transfer of technology related to pollution reduction in the framework of the SAP and the NAPs and to provide, when appropriate, technical and financial assistance, through existing bilateral and multilateral cooperative programmes to facilitate the implementation of the pollution reduction process in all countries

On the basis of the large information obtained during the last biennium in the SAP implementation process (NDAs, BBs, SPs, NAPs), the secretariat, with assistance of GEF, will perform an **assessment of individual countries needs** in the development and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at addressing sectoral causes of the environment degradation of the Mediterranean, needed for the implementation of NAPs. Public participation and information, among others, will be given priority in the assessment process.

As it is stated under the Principles and Obligations of the SAP, "...States have common and differentiated responsibilities..." regarding the degradation of the marine environment. As a result, in 2002 MED POL undertook a feasibility study for the application of the **principle of burden sharing** which showed, on the basis of the data available at that time, that the equal (same level of responsibility) principle was the most appropriate one for the implementation of the SAP. In this context, on the basis of a current larger availability of data and information and as a follow up to a specific recommendation of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III, during the biennium 2006-2007 the Secretariat will launch, with the assistance of GEF, a new assessment study of the feasibility of the application of the burden sharing principles, mostly by making use of the data provided by the countries in the framework of the preparation of their National Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases. This study will be thoroughly reviewed by regional experts before its submission to National Coordinators in 2007 for guidance.

Sustainable financing is obviously a critical issue in the process of the implementation of the NAPs. Aware of that, the Secretariat has been actively working with GPA and other donors to facilitate and promote the process of ensuring the financial sustainability. In addition to the work still ongoing in cooperation with PAP/RAC on national economic instruments, MED POL, with the assistance of GEF and the cooperation of UNEP/GPA, EUWI MED and RACs, will continue to assist the countries to develop specific initiatives building on the short term options to finance Hot Spots priority actions and develop the framework conditions for the implementation of medium to long term actions including a proposal for a region wide mechanism to strengthen long term sustainable financing.

Municipal Sewage

Concerning municipal pollution, a number of activities were carried out during the biennium 2004-2005 to provide countries with the basic tools for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and NAPs.

Following the recommendations of the MED POL National Coordinators during their last meeting in 2003, when the regional **Guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal and wastewater use** were presented, a series of documents were prepared by WHO/MED POL that could facilitate the adoption of the above mentioned Guidelines. In particular, the following documents were prepared, discussed, commented and amended accordingly: "Environmental and health impacts of wastewater treatment plants", "Natural wastewater treatment systems for the Mediterranean region", "Cost aspects of wastewater treatment", "Guidelines for sludge treatment, disposal and use", "Environmental impacts of reclaimed wastewater use", "Guidelines on physical and chemical parameters for water reuse in irrigation", "Guidance for wastewater use in irrigation".

All the above documents were presented and discussed at a "Consultation meeting to review documents on wastewater treatment and water reuse", convened by WHO/MED POL in Athens, from 30 March to 1 April 2005. Twelve Mediterranean experts attended the meeting in their capacity of temporary advisors. Their comments and remarks were considered and were included in the final drafts. The documents are presented to this Meeting as Information documents (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.264/Inf. 5 to Inf. 11).

The above documents, that support the preparation and mainly the implementation of the sectoral plans for municipal sewage, form the basis for the Guidelines for treated wastewater use, which were prepared by WHO/MED POL and are presented to this Meeting (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/9).

An updated version of the "**Wastewater Treatment Plants in Mediterranean coastal cities**" was prepared with the assistance of the MED POL National Coordinators and national experts. The document provides in depth information of the sewage treatment plants in coastal cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants and includes a comparison of the data with those published in the report of 2000. The document is published as MAP Technical Report Series No. 157 and is included in the list of reference documents.

In relation to the management of municipal sewage, taking into consideration the documents prepared for supporting the preparation of Sectoral Plans for the NAPs, the commitments of the Johannesburg Summit and the advances in the sanitation sector, a number of activities are proposed. These are linked to the Sanitation Commitment to halve the proportion of people without access to sanitation by 2015 and support the smooth implementation of the SAP.

Following the preparation of the Guidelines on sewage treatment, disposal and use along with those on sludge treatment, disposal and use, the discharge of the treated wastewater in the cases that no further use can be obtained, needs to be addressed in a more efficient manner, taking also into consideration the results of the survey of the wastewater treatment plants in the coastal Mediterranean cities in 2000 and 2004. In the above studies there is a considerable number of coastal cities that do not discharge their effluents appropriately and consequently the quality of the receiving waters is not compatible with uses such as bathing and shellfish growing areas. It is therefore proposed to prepare, in cooperation with national and international experts, a **document on appropriate sewage discharge** including coastal outfalls, which would be considered as the basis for the preparation of training material to be further used for capacity building.

The preparation of the updated survey of the wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities, revealed the fact that only a part of the estimated coastal population is concentrated in cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants and therefore in order to better assess not only the needs but also the discharge of untreated wastewater in the Mediterranean, it is important to proceed with a survey related to human agglomerates with more than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000. Thus, it is proposed to conduct a **regional study on the assessment of coastal human agglomerates** with more than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000 and their ability to efficiently treat and dispose their effluents.

Since the operation of the wastewater treatment plants is usually within the responsibilities of the local authorities that do not frequently possess the needed scientific and technical skills, it is proposed to prepare a **document on the construction, management and operation of treatment plants** that will be used by the local administrations. The document should be concise, indicative, simple, scientifically based and able to provide solutions for decision-making purposes. Along with this document, and in order to ensure the effective use of the documents so far prepared and assist in the implementation of the sectoral studies, particularly those of municipal wastewater, it is suggested to start a **pilot study on the efficient application and use of the sewage-related documents prepared** in connection with NAPs. Attention should also be paid to the use of the Guidelines and the accompanying documentation, so as to practically assist those that face problems of water shortage. A meeting of national experts responsible for the implementation of sectoral plans to consider the practical use of the related documents for assisting the management and implementation of the municipal sewage sectoral plans, would provide the necessary guidance through discussion of identified problems and proposals for remedial measures and applicable solutions.

Upon request by the countries, assistance will continue to be provided for issues related to environmentally sound management of sewage, including the promotion of the use of adequately treated wastewater. In addition, activities aiming at the connection of all coastal cities and urban agglomerates to a sewerage system, the appropriate location of coastal outfalls, the adoption and operation of all levels of sewage treatment, the adequate design of treatment facilities and their satisfactory operation and maintenance aided by assistance in capacity building programme, would be facilitated and supported by the MED POL Programme.

Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties

To take note of the proposed WHO/MED POL Guidelines for treated wastewater use in the Mediterranean region. The Guidelines were prepared following a thorough analysis of the Mediterranean conditions and will assist countries in achieving the SAP and NAPs targets related to the appropriate management of municipal sewage.

Solid Wastes

On the basis of the work done during the previous biennium, when Guidelines on coastal urban solid wastes management had been prepared, during the 2004-2005 biennium all efforts were made to make the Guidelines known and ensure their application as part of the achievement of the SAP and NAPs targets. In this connection, MED POL participated and presented a paper on the status of coastal solid waste management in relation to the marine environment in the Mediterranean Region at the first METAP solid waste management

regional workshop held in Algeria December 2004 .The Secretariat was also in close contacts with the UNEP Office for the Regional Seas and, as a result, the data and the experience obtained on coastal litter management as well as the Guidelines prepared will be the basis of a global policy instrument on coastal litter that UNEP/RS is preparing.

Concerning the concrete application of the Guidelines in the Mediterranean region, in cooperation with RA.MO.GE., MED POL has launched a Pilot Project for coastal litter management in Lebanon in metropolitan area of Tripoli. The objectives of the pilot project include:

- a) the improvement of the institutional setup dealing with Coastal solid wastes management of the municipality of Al Mina; MED POL will be responsible for this task in cooperation with the mayor of Al Mina, the municipality committee and the Union of Northern Association for Development (UNADEP) of Lebanon;
- b) the improvement of the coordination between stakeholders. MED POL and RA.MO.GE. will assist the national and local authorities in better coordinating all activities regarding the management of coastal solid waste;
- c) the provision by MED POL of technological advices concerning the different elements of the management of solid waste in coastal areas;
- d) the identification of sources and distribution of solid wastes in the marine environment close to the Palm islands. This task will be implemented through the use of specialized GIS system which will run by RAMOGE in cooperation with university students;
- e) the promotion of local public participation and awareness in the solid waste management process. RA.MO.GE and MED POL will be responsible for this task through an expert who will be provided by RA.MO.GE.

The project is implemented by UNADEP under the supervision of the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and the MED POL National Coordinator.

The launching stakeholders meeting were organized by UNADEP with the assistance of MEDPOL and RAMOGE in March 2005. Two experts have been contracted by MEDPOL to assist the Tripoli municipality and UNADEP staff in the implementation of the pilot project. The draft brochures for the awareness campaigns and kit for school students are under review. RAMOGE is at present preparing, in cooperation with the University of Balamand in Tripoli, the GIS system for the quantification and characterization of the coastal litter deposited on the seabed.

On the basis of the interest shown by the countries on the issue of coastal litter management and the first indications coming from the pilot project in Lebanon, MED POL will launch, with the assistance of GEF and in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Seas, a number of activities linked to a future larger GEF Project. These include an assessment of the existing status, data and information on marine litter in the Mediterranean, identification of potential partners of the civil society, definition of the terms of reference for a larger GEF project proposal, organization of a workshop to agree on the proposal and finally the identification of sources of co-financing for the activities of the project.

In addition, MED POL will disseminate throughout the region all deliveries such as documents, brochures, leaflets which will be produced in the framework of Lebanon pilot project to be used for the development and implementation of similar project throughout the region.

Air Pollution

In relation to the estimation of emissions of pollutants into the air, the data and information submitted by the countries through the preparation of the Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases showed that most of air releases, in addition to mobile sources, are generated by the energy sector and energy production plants associated to industrial processes. As a result, the development and implementation of initiatives in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields could play a major role in pollution reduction and control in the framework of the SAP. In this connection, MED POL, in cooperation with the UNEP/GPA Office, and with the financial assistance of the Italian Government is ready to launch a series of activities dealing with the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The Meeting will examine some proposals and will indicate the Secretariat how the National Coordinators see the involvement of MED POL in the above fields.

Industrial Pollution

Concerning industrial pollution, during 2004-2005 MED POL has set up a **data base (DB)** with the data and information from the National Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases which were provided by the countries in the framework of the preparation of the NAPs. The DB is structured in a way the data and information are classified by administrative region, sector, sub-sector and process. The DB also includes data and information on wastewater treatment plants.

In addition to the above, MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC intends to prepare a **guide for non-European Mediterranean countries for the implementation of a system of control of pollution based on BAT and BEP**. The guide would propose to each country a procedure with the following phases:

- How to determine the scope: industrial sectors (vertical areas), auxiliary activities (horizontal areas), size of industries, new vs. existing installations, extensions of industries, etc. How to determine the structure for the definition and consensus in the country regarding BAT and BEP for each industrial sector;
- How to establish a procedure for the determination of BAT and BEP and for their periodic review;
- How to analyze the environmental legislation and powers of the Public Administrations, so that environmental permits contain emission limit values (ELVs) based on the BAT and BEP;
- How to analyze in detail the technical, environmental, legal and economic consequences of the implementation of the system. Before venturing to implement a system of this importance, the country itself must conduct a study, in much greater depth than would be carried out for this guide, of the consequences of the implementation of the system;
- How to put into operation the implementation of the system and monitor such implementation. Once the country has decided to put the system into operation, the guide would recommend on this point how to carry it out and by what parameters to monitor it in order to ensure the success of the implementation.

As a follow up to the work carried out by the Secretariat during the previous biennium on the management of **sea water desalination** that led to the preparation of an assessment, Guidelines and the decision by the Contracting Parties to consider such activities as industrial activities falling under the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL has attempted

to diffuse as much as possible the information available on the environmental risks associated to desalination and on good management practices. As a result, the documents prepared by MED POL were widely distributed and a MED POL staff participated at the international symposium on sea water desalination organized by the European Association for Desalination held in Marrakech in May 2004 and presented a paper, as key note speaker, related to desalination activities in the Mediterranean and their impacts on the Mediterranean marine environment.

MED POL, with the assistance of a regional expert, prepared an “**Assessment, including Guidelines, for the development of national Regulations for releases of pollutants from industrial installations**” (see document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.264/Inf.12). The objectives of the document are:

- to provide the countries with basic information on the diverse environmental standards for the industry in force in different Mediterranean countries
- To identify the means by which standards have been established in EU and non-EU countries
- To identify different ways of establishing up-to-date environmental standards
- To outline a methodology that industrials should use to track pollution reduction.

The assessment shows that only few Mediterranean countries have established a conceptual system to develop standards for industrial effluents. The level of development of environmental industrial policies varies from country to country. In most of them several legal, institutional and resources gaps are limiting the effective implementation of what is already regulated. The document concludes that new or updated industrial environment standards or the optimization of the existing situation require parallel improvements in permitting and enforcement issues, prevention policy, availability of resources and economic instruments.

On the basis of the document prepared, the Secretariat, upon the request of the national authority, will soon launch a pilot project in Morocco to develop industrial standards for a selected number of industrial sectors. During the 2006-2007 biennium MED POL will continue to provide assistance to other countries interested in the development of national regulations for industrial effluents standards.

With reference to industrial pollution, special attention was given during the biennium to substances that are Toxic, Persistent and Liable to Bioaccumulate (TPBs), and in particular to the Twelve Priority POPs. Considering the proposed targets for POPs included in the SAP, a document on the “**Substitutes to be used as alternative to POPs**”, along with Guidelines on the subject, was elaborated. It is presented in this meeting as information document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.13), and it describes the use of substances that can supersede the use of POPs and provides guidance on how this can be achieved.

In order to keep the targets and deadlines of SAP always up-to-date and realistic, the Contracting Parties had decided to exclude the hypothesis of an *una tantum* updating of the **SAP** which, this way, could risk to become again obsolete very soon in view of continuous national, regional and international developments. The Contracting Parties had instead decided to ask MED POL to review on a regular basis the appropriate targets and deadlines, to examine their possible validity and to proceed with specific recommendations which, if need be, may propose changes either in the targets or the deadlines.

At present, the SAP commitments that need to be examined are listed in the table below:

| Topic | Commitment | Notes/Remarks |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Municipal Sewage | By 2005 to dispose sewage from cities and urban agglomerations of >100.000 inhabitants in conformity with the provisions of the LBS Protocol | |
| Solid Wastes | By 2005 to base solid waste management on reduction at source, separate collection, recycling, composting and environmentally sound disposal in all cities and urban agglomerations of >100.000 inhabitants | A METAP regional project is ongoing and covering 7 Mediterranean countries from MENA region. |
| Industrial Development | Over a period of 10 years to reduce by 50% discharges ,emissions and losses of TPB from industrial installations | Ten years after the adoption of the SAP is 2007 |
| | Over a period of 10 years to reduce by 50% discharges ,emissions and losses of polluting substances from industrial installations in hot spots and areas of concern | Ten years after the adoption of the SAP is 2007 |
| | By the year 2005 to reduce 50% inputs of the priority 12 POPs | Also addressed by Stockholm conventions |
| | By the year 2005 to collect and dispose all PCB waste in a safe and environmentally sound manner | An initial inventory of PCB has been prepared by the Secretariat |
| | By the year 2005, to reduce by 50% discharges, emissions and losses of heavy metals (Hg, Cd, Pb) | |
| | By the year 2000 to reduce by 25% discharges, emissions and losses of heavy metals (Hg, Cd, Pb) | |
| | To phase out by the year 2005 the use of organomercuric compounds | |
| | Over a period of 10 years to reduce by 50% inputs of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids from industrial sources | Ten years after the adoption of the SAP is 2007 |
| | To reduce nutrients inputs from agriculture and aquaculture practices into areas where these inputs are likely to cause pollution | |
| | By the year 2005 to collect and dispose all obsolete chemicals | |

| Topic | Commitment | Notes/Remarks |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| | in a safe and environmentally sound manner | |
| | By the year 2005, to collect and dispose 50% of used lubricating oil in a safe and environmentally manner | |
| | Over a period of 10 years, to reduce by 20% the generation of used batteries | Ten years after the adoption of the SAP is 2007 |

Without doubting the importance of all the above commitments, an initial review made by the Secretariat together with some experts, mostly based on the up-to-date data and information included in the recently prepared NDAs and BBs, indicated that the priority issues may be the following:

- The reduction of inputs of nutrients from industrial installations
- the reduction of inputs of Mercury
- the management and disposal in environmentally manner of stockpiles of PCB, obsolete chemicals
- the management of lubricating oil
- the reduction of generation of used batteries

On the basis of the above, and considering the successful procedure followed during the previous biennium when the initial deadlines for the reduction of the generation of hazardous wastes and for the reduction of industrial BOD were finally changed by the Contracting Parties at their 2003 Meeting on the basis of Regional Plans prepared by the Secretariat, MED POL is proposing to follow the same procedure for the above mentioned targets and come up with possible new realistic deadlines, as appropriate and if need be. Accordingly, and if the National Coordinators agree on the proposal, the Secretariat during 2006-2007 will prepare, on the basis of the recent data and information included in the NDAs, NBBs, SPs and NAPs and in cooperation with national authorities and regional experts, Regional Plans for the indicated priority issues including proposal for specific deadlines. The Regional Plans and the related deadlines will be submitted to the next Meeting of National Coordinator in 2007 for approval and later to Contracting Parties for adoption.

In addition MED POL will prepare a **review document including a comparative analysis of existing methodologies for the quantification of losses of nutrients from agriculture** into the marine environment to be used in the future for the quantification of national inputs of nutrient from diffuse sources.

Finally, as a result of the adoption by the Contracting Parties in 2003 of the **Regional Plan for the reduction by 2010 of 50% of BOD from industrial sources**, MED POL will prepare an assessment of the status of the implementation of the decision to be submitted to the consideration of the National Coordinators and later Contracting Parties in 2007.

Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties

To provide the Secretariat with all available data and information related to inputs of nutrients and mercury from industrial installations and on national management systems of PCBs, obsolete chemicals, lubeoil and used batteries to allow the preparation of up-to-date Regional Plans for pollution reduction in the framework of the SAP

To the Secretariat

To prepare Regional Plans for the reduction of 50% of nutrients and 20% of mercury from industrial installations, for the management and disposal of stockpiles of PCBs and obsolete chemicals, used lubrication oils and used batteries. The Plans should be prepared on the basis of the recent data and information gathered through the preparation of BBs, NDA, SPs, and NAPs and should contain realistic targets and deadlines based on those indicated in the SAP

Monitoring

Since the last MED POL National Coordinators meeting three new national monitoring programmes have been signed with Syria (Dec'03), Morocco (Jul'04) and Algeria (Nov'04) that, together with the other eight countries with already ongoing programmes (Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey) makes a total of 11 countries currently possessing finalized and ongoing monitoring agreements with MED POL. The Monitoring agreements with Greece and Slovenia were also revised in 2004. In 2005 it is planned to revise the agreements with Tunisia, Cyprus, Croatia and Israel. Negotiations are already ongoing for possible amendments.

Financial assistance was provided to all participating countries and two instruments, an atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS-GF) and a microwave digestion system, were provided respectively to Albania and Tunisia in 2004.

Large efforts were deployed by the Secretariat to involve additional countries in the monitoring activities. Negotiations with Lebanon, Libya and Malta could not lead to the preparation of draft programmes nor the discussions and the visit to Athens of Egyptian experts concerning an agreement with Egypt. In spite of clear indications of interest and availability shown during repeated contacts and visits, France, Italy, Monaco and Spain did not formulate any programme which leaves a very large gap in the coverage of the MED POL monitoring component and puts in serious doubt the credibility of the programme outside the region. In addition, the lack of monitoring represents a large impediment for the proper implementation of the SAP, in particular as to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures taken.

Recommendation

To the Contracting Parties

To consider the formulation and the implementation of marine pollution monitoring programmes an obligation of all Parties according to Art. 7 and 8 of the LBS Protocol and an indispensable tool for the proper implementation of the SAP, in particular for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures taken

Taking into full consideration the difficulties being encountered by the Secretariat in obtaining the full geographical coverage of the monitoring activities and following the specific recommendations of the MED POL Phase III evaluation on this issue, the Secretariat intends to develop **new strategies to achieve a better participation in the monitoring and assessment activities** in coastal waters and at hot spots. In order to achieve this goal, in addition to continuing contacts, visits, training and negotiations with countries to obtain the formulation of monitoring programmes, the following initiatives are proposed to be in parallel implemented:

- Baseline surveys—at the sub-regional scales- (e.g. the MEDICIS initiative) for coastal waters might be developed and planned which would provide scientific basis for both the assessment of pollution status of the Mediterranean coastal waters and the identification of hot spot areas. (A similar survey for the full picture of Western Mediterranean is ongoing in France, Spain and Italy and will end in June 2005 supported by Interrag, a survey is planned for Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in 2006, and MED POL will be asked to support it. This exercise can be extended to other sub-basins in 2007 e.g. for Adriatic, Aegean etc.).
- Temporal trend monitoring activities –basically at the hot spots- will be continued within the ongoing MED POL monitoring programmes with the same objectives; comparable data sets will be asked from non-participating countries for the full period of MED POL Phase III including the next biennium.
- Trend monitoring activities will be improved to include more sites (or key sites) which are under the direct influence of land-based pollution where pollution control measures are taken or planned to be taken as stated in SAP objectives and in the NAPs. All such site specific activities will be better integrated with the available information and studies on inputs (loads).
- In order to better respond to the policy needs of the LBS Protocol and the SAP and other relevant regional obligations, the current monitoring parameters should be extended to include specific organic contaminants.
- The monitoring tool for the control of pollution (compliance monitoring activities) will be revised in depth in order to achieve better understanding of its use for pollution control at the national level.
- MED POL should consider how monitoring and assessment activities can be extended to cover the status of quality of marine and coastal environment including human impact.

The first evaluation of the MED POL Phase III data was made during the second review meeting of monitoring activities held in December 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/3). The third review meeting is planned for December 2005 where status and trends at selected hot spots -where data is available- will be presented. Countries which by then will have not submitted data to the MED POL Database will be invited to present comparable analyses of their data.

After the approval of the new **eutrophication monitoring strategy** in 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14), government designated experts identified some hot spots and sensitive areas related to eutrophication (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/4) at their coastal waters. Based on that, the Secretariat started negotiating with a number of countries during 2004-2005 to extend their programme and include eutrophication monitoring. As a result, the Slovenian monitoring programme was revised with the inclusion of a full eutrophication programme and the lagoon of Nador in Morocco was included as a pilot site in the eutrophication monitoring component of the national programme which was signed in 2004. A programme was also formulated for the Turkish pilot site, the Bay of Mersin, and the activity will start in 2005. Two Tunisian sites at the Gulf of Gabes were considered as the pilot areas and the technical details were discussed in a meeting held in Tunis (March'05). The Tunisian monitoring agreement revision is now expected to include eutrophication monitoring for those sites. The Cypriot authorities proposed to start the activity at a fish farm area, which might be sensitive to eutrophication. During the second half of 2005, national experts will be asked to prepare reports on the historical records of eutrophication events for the above mentioned sites and if possible extending this study to all national waters or at least to other eutrophication sites. The reports will be presented in the third meeting of review of monitoring activities (Dec'05) together with the status of implementation of the eutrophication monitoring programmes in the selected sites.

During next biennium, the list of sites sensitive to eutrophication or where eutrophication is already evident will be updated and completed to better geographically represent the whole region. Based on that, specific pilot monitoring activities may be recommended to be included in the national monitoring programmes. Additionally, the possibility to prepare an updated assessment of eutrophication in the Mediterranean will be examined.

As for the mid-/long-term strategies of the MED POL eutrophication programme (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14), the biological component of the programme will be developed and integrated also taking into account the new objectives and scope of MED POL Phase IV. New monitoring and assessment tools will be investigated and the cooperation with international working groups and networks such as EMMA/*ad hoc* group on Eutrophication, IOC Study group on benthic indicators, MARBENA, etc. will be improved and better coordinated.

The ongoing work of the Mediterranean scientific community on **operational monitoring and observing systems** will be closely followed up and cooperation will be strengthened on a concrete basis, e.g. by the formulation of joint pilot exercises and initiatives.

As recommended by the second review meeting (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/4), an expert meeting was organized in Athens on 14-15 April 2005 to revise the MED POL **sediment monitoring strategies** for status and trends applied to hot spots and coastal waters. Mediterranean experts together with an expert from OSPAR revised the present strategies and advised MED POL on certain issues. The report of the meeting (UNEP(DEC)/MED 273/4) provides important hints needed to achieve a reliable sediment monitoring programme.

For **monitoring of loads from point and non-point sources**, efforts were made to include as many as possible discharge points and river inputs in the monitoring programmes. Problems were encountered in the data transmission process and the effectiveness of the initiative remained moderate within the ongoing MED POL monitoring programmes.

Concerning **compliance monitoring** activities, countries were asked to complete their compliance reports specifically for bathing waters and effluents. Answers were received from a very limited number of countries.

A Consultation Meeting on "Criteria and Standards for health-related monitoring of coastal recreational waters" was held in Athens in December 2003. The purposes of the meeting were to review WHO's Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments and preliminary elements of the draft EC Directive for Bathing Waters still being discussed, to develop and formulate appropriate recommendations on **Mediterranean quality criteria and standards for monitoring coastal bathing waters** and to propose preliminary activities related to monitoring of such areas. The meeting was attended by seventeen government-designated experts who agreed to propose criteria and standards that take into consideration the WHO Guidelines and the EC Directive. In addition, a pilot study to identify the physical and chemical characteristics of the bathing waters was launched, namely the preparation of the beach profiles of five beaches in selected countries that had expressed interest. It is expected that the pilot studies will provide adequate information on the condition of the beaches, so as to be classified according to the criteria and standards to be adopted.

The draft Guidelines on coastal bathing waters criteria being prepared will require some preliminary work before their actual implementation. The activities to be implemented, with the expected support of GEF, include:

- Preparation of a common methodology for developing "beach profiles" taking into account the work already done in some countries; and
- Workshop to evaluate the methodology and identify possible problems and capacity building needs,

in order to produce a common methodology for developing "beach profiles" and an operational document for its application.

The implementation of the new criteria and standards, the pilot studies of the beach profiles, and the complementary activities on beach management are issues that needs further discussion, guidance and above all, a detailed and elaborated programme for the adoption and the gradual implementation of the bathing waters criteria. Consequently, it is proposed to hold a consultation meeting of experts during the 2006-2007 biennium in order to examine the further implementation of the bathing waters quality issues and finalize the criteria.

The last assessment of the quality of **shellfish growing waters** was carried out in 1996, as a task for identifying the national rules and regulations of the Mediterranean countries, along with monitoring data of the water quality of such use. It is considered that ten years after, it will be appropriate to assess the state of the shellfish growing waters in the Mediterranean countries by conducting a regional survey and assess the quality of such waters.

Database and data flow

After the finalization of the MED POL Database together with its web version, all the available data of the period 1999-2003 was loaded to the database and a data verification/validation procedure was achieved in cooperation with the data owners. A considerable number of data records was verified and all data flagged.

The web version of the database was updated several times in 2004-2005 and the MED POL participants were informed about the updates. The web site (<http://195.97.36.231/medpol/>) provides information on MED POL monitoring strategies, activities and participants as well as on reporting formats and validated data of MED POL Phase I and II. A dynamic inventory of MED POL Phase III Database is also included with search tools for stations and samples.

According to an agreement reached between **MED POL and the European Environment Agency (EEA)** during 2003-2004 a full exchange of available data was achieved between the two bodies. The procedure, that was also agreed upon with European/Mediterranean

countries and included in their respective monitoring agreements, will be also implemented in the future.

The database will continue to be functionally operational to store, verify/validate, transmit and evaluate pollution monitoring data. The web site will continue to be dynamically linked to the content of the database so that information can be obtained on the present status and content of the database. In addition, the monitoring database will be an integral part of the Information system that MED POL intends to prepare in cooperation with RAC/ERS.

Pollution emerging issues and research

Concerning research and assistance for emerging issues, a joint research project on invading bio-indicators in the Mediterranean involving Institutes from Greece, Tunisia and Syria was partially supported by MED POL during 2003 and 2004. Another research activity finalized in 2004 was carried out by IOLR (Israel) on the atmospheric inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus in connection with dust events in the eastern Mediterranean. MED POL contributed to the work of UNESCO-IOC NEWS for the Mediterranean component of the estimation of diffuse inputs of nutrients from the watersheds of the globe. MED POL has planned to initiate a study on testing TRIX index (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14) at different areas other than northern Adriatic (where the index was tested with data of several decades). To that end, a proposal was made to HCMR (Greece) in 2005 to use its national database for testing the TRIX index. Another research proposal on biological effects was carried out by UoTA (Israel) and is being implemented in 2005.

Regarding Mediterranean EU projects, MED POL actively participated in the MAMA project completed in 2005. MED POL has now become a partner to the project IASON that will be ongoing until June 2006.

It is planned to present the outputs of the research activities in the upcoming meeting of review of monitoring activities (Dec'05) for review and comments by the National Coordinators as similarly done at previous meeting (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/3 and 243/4).

During the 2006-2007 MED POL will continue to partially support research and studies related to pollution emerging issues to contribute to the implementation of pollution assessment and control components of MED POL.

Capacity building

Through **training and fellowship**, during 2004-2005 financial support was provided to a number of researchers and young scientists to assist their attendance at international conferences, workshops, training programmes etc. Candidates holding accepted communications relevant to MED POL as well as candidates needing training on advanced techniques for a better implementation of MED POL programmes were given priority.

Three sub-regional and two national training courses on **quantification of releases from rivers in the Mediterranean** were organized with the assistance of GEF project. The objectives of the training courses were:

- to review Guidelines for rivers monitoring and quantification of releases from rivers prepared by the secretariat
- present the state of the art in quantification of releases in the Mediterranean
- review of the national monitoring activities for rivers
- identify gaps, barriers and needs to improve and develop the process of quantification of releases from rivers.

The sub-regional meetings were held in Cairo, Egypt, for Syrian, Egyptian and Lebanese experts; in Tunis, Tunisia, for Tunisian, Moroccan and Algerian experts and in Split, Croatia, for Croatian, Serbia- Montenegro, Slovenian and Bosnia-Herzegovina experts

The two national training courses were held in Turkey and Albania. A set of training materials was prepared in Arabic, English, French, Croatian, Albanian and Turkish (see documents UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.250/2, UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.252/2, UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.256/3, UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.257/3, UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.265/3, 5reports).

As a result of the discussions during the training courses on quantification of inputs of pollutants from rivers into the Mediterranean sea and the review of the related national experiences, the secretariat will develop a harmonized methodology and manual for the quantification of inputs of pollutants from rivers into the Mediterranean sea to be discussed and reviewed in regional experts meeting.

As part of its strategy to **inform the public** about the major issue related to LBS pollution in the Mediterranean, MED POL, in cooperation with the MAP information office and Maltese authorities organized a meeting with a large number of Mediterranean journalists in Malta on 7-8-April 2005. As a result of the meeting, many national newspapers published articles related to issues discussed during the meeting.

The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of IAEA-MEL continued to assist the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) with the implementation of a comprehensive **Data Quality Assurance programme** in the framework of the implementation of monitoring programmes. As outlined below and described in more detail, the work of IAEA/MEL during 2004-2005 period focused on training courses in marine analytical chemistry of pollutants, interlaboratory studies and the provision of expert technical advice through country missions and attendance at meetings.

Two training courses in Monaco were implemented during the later part of 2004, and complete reports of the individual courses have already been submitted to MED POL. A training course for the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples was organized July 5 to 21, with the participation of 6 trainees from 6 different countries. Similarly, a training course for the analysis of metals in marine samples was organized from September 27 to October 8, also with the participation of 6 trainees from 6 different countries.

Two more training courses will be held in Monaco during September 2005. They will entail one training course for the analysis of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples and another for the determination of metals in marine samples. Each should have 6 participants, subject to nomination by MEDPOL National Focal points and selection in consultation with MEDPOL Coordinating Unit in Athens.

A report was completed for the interlaboratory study of sample IAEA-432 (Mussel Tissue) in which 41 laboratories from 14 Mediterranean countries participated. (*World-wide and regional intercomparison for the determination of organochlorine compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons in mussel tissue IAEA-432*, Report IAEA/MEL/74, March 2004). A separate report was prepared for MEDPOL comprising only the laboratories from the Mediterranean region (*Analytical Performance Study for MEDPOL: Determination of Chlorinated Compounds and Petroleum Hydrocarbons in the Mussel Tissue IAEA-432*, April 2004).

A report was completed for the interlaboratory study of sample IAEA-433 (Marine Sediment) in which 37 laboratories from 13 Mediterranean countries participated. (*World-wide Intercomparison Exercise for the determination of metals and methylmercury in Marine Sediment IAEA-433*, Report IAEA/MEL/75, July 2004).

Two new samples of a tuna homogenate were prepared for interlaboratory study of organic contaminants (IAEA-435) and metals (IAEA-436). IAEA-435 was distributed in October 2004 to 63 laboratories from 16 countries of the Mediterranean area. The deadline for reporting results was set for the end of September 2005. IAEA-436 was distributed in October 2004 to 57 laboratories from 17 countries of the Mediterranean area. The deadline for reporting results was set for the end of April 2005. The submitted data will be interpreted and two reports prepared by the end of 2005.

The expertise of MESL has also been called upon to assist MED POL in a number of ways during the current biennium, which included:

- the compilation of a reference method for the analyses of nutrients in seawater
- representing MED POL at the meeting of the QUASIMEME Advisory Board in Berlin (October 2004) and in Holland (October 2005)
- quality assurance missions

Concerning the biennium 2006-2007, the key role for MESL will continue to be the implementation of a comprehensive Data Quality Assurance programme, the main facets of which should be training courses, interlaboratory studies / proficiency tests and the provision of expert technical advice through country missions and attendance at meetings.

In the recent past, there have been two training courses a year in Monaco. They focussed on the analysis of organic contaminants and heavy metals using widely available techniques, namely gas chromatography with ECD / FID for organics and atomic absorption spectrophotometry for metals. Given that the sophistication of techniques and instrumentation in some countries is increasing, it is suggested that more advanced techniques such as gas chromatography – mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometry (ICPMS) should be featured, perhaps every 2-3 years. Also, in the next biennium a new course could be organised that deals with the analysis of organotin compounds, already a priority substance for EU countries.

The interlaboratory studies and proficiency tests are seen as vital to maintain a harmonised environmental data set. This activity is expected to continue. As more laboratories analyse a wider range of pollutants, the list of compounds to be reported should similarly rise. Thus, a study on the ability of laboratories in the Mediterranean region to measure organotin compounds would be very useful. Of related interest are the new biocides that will replace organotin compounds in marine antifouling paints, however, few laboratories in the region are or can measure such compounds at this time. This is an area for consideration when (preferably before) the IMO Convention banning organotin-based marine paints comes into force. The ban on the presence of organotin-based paints on all marine vessels should come into effect on January 1, 2008.

As for the **quality assurance activities for the eutrophication** programme, a second training course was held at the Marine Research Center (CRM) in Cesenatico, Italy, during the period 2-5 November 2004. Three Italian institutes; ARPA-ER, CRM and ICRAM, again joined interest and efforts to organize the course at which thirteen trainees from eleven Mediterranean countries were present. During the same event, an informal expert consultation was also held on the draft manual of the eutrophication programme and a revised draft is produced which will be finalized soon. Finally, a list of MED POL eutrophication laboratories was formed recently and provided to IAEA/MEL for the distribution of intercomparison samples for nutrients.

Regarding capacity building for eutrophication, cooperation with the Italian Institutes (ARPA-ER, CRM and ICRAM) and IAEA/MEL will continue during 2006-2007 in terms of training, intercomparison studies, technical and scientific support.

Biological effects studies have continued to be included in the monitoring activities, its research component and quality assurance activities. DISAV (University of Genoa and Alessandria, Italy) continued to act as a reference center assisting MED POL on these issues. In 2004 an intercomparison exercise was organized for the laboratories that had participated at the previous training activities organized for MED POL. An individual training for a Syrian researcher was also provided in 2004 by the reference center. Training activities are also planned for an additional number of scientists in 2005. DISAV will continue to act during 2006-2007 as the reference center for the biological effects studies.

As a follow up to the Regional **training course on Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants Operation and Management** held during the preceding biennium, a number of national training courses were organized by WHO/MED POL and held during the period under review. To improve the effectiveness of the courses, the training material was translated and was made available in the following languages: Arabic, Croatian, English, French and Turkish.

One national training course on the above subject, which was held in Arabic, took place in Algiers, Algeria, from 16-18 May 2004. The course was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the School of Environmental Training of the Algerian Ministry of Land and Environment and was attended by nineteen participants coming from various treatment plants and some ministerial officers.

A national training course on the same subject that was held in Turkish, took place in Mugla, Turkey, from 6-9 October 2004. The course was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry and was attended by thirty-four participants. This training course provided considerable information on the design and construction of submarine outfalls.

As a follow up to the regional training course to "train the trainers" on **environmental inspection systems**, held during the last biennium, several national training courses were organized by WHO/MED POL and were held during 2003-2004. The training material was translated into Arabic, Croatian, French and Spanish. In this connection, a national training course on environmental inspections was held from 10-14 May 2004 in Tunis, Tunisia, in Arabic and was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the Agency for the Protection of the Environment. Thirty senior national experts participated from all over the country.

Moreover, another national training in Arabic was held in Algiers, Algeria, from 12-14 June 2004 on pollution monitoring and environmental inspections, using the training material prepared for this purpose. The course was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the School of Environmental Training of the Algerian Ministry of Land Planning and Environment. Eighteen participants from the environmental services of the Ministry in the coastal areas of Algeria, attended the meeting.

Following a close collaboration with the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment of Syria, WHO/MED POL and the Syrian Ministry co-organized a national training course on environmental inspections, in Damascus, Syria, from 6-9 January 2005. The lectures were based on the training material prepared for the regional training course and were given in Arabic during this national training course by an international expert and a trained expert of the regional course. Forty participants benefited from the training, mainly coming from the General Commission for Environmental Affairs and regional offices of Environment from all over the country.

During the implementation of the capacity building programme related to environmental inspections, it was indicated by some participants as well as national organizers of the training courses that additional issues should also be tackled in the years to come. It was stressed that a helpful tool would have been the development of inspection technical checklists with reference to each one of the industries operating in the country. It is suggested to prepare the appropriate training material consisting of guidelines and instruction on how to perform technical inspections to industries along with inspection check lists referred to each individual industry of relevance in the Mediterranean countries.

In connection with the guidelines on reclaimed wastewater use, a regional training course to "train the trainers" on the subject of "**Water Reclamation and Reuse in the Mediterranean**", was organized by WHO/MED POOL in Barcelona, Spain, from 22-25 November 2004. The training material was prepared in house with the collaboration of the Barcelona University, tailored for the needs of the course as well as for the national training courses to follow. The participants are expected to organize similar national training courses in their respective countries by using the same training material. For this purpose, the training material was translated into French and further version will follow depending on the demand from the countries. The above regional training course was attended by seventeen experts from fifteen Mediterranean countries and was held in the premises of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Cataluña.

Public Participation

The Guidelines prepared by MED POL for the formulation of NAPs are based on a bottom up approach that enables the full **involvement and participation** of all the stakeholders related to the implementation of the SAP. On this basis, the public, the civil society including NGOs, the private sector and the other SAP stakeholders have been mobilized in all Mediterranean countries in the process of reviewing the NDAs, BBs, SPs and NAPs at local and national levels. All initiatives, such as the national stakeholders organized in many countries with the assistance of GEF with the aim at reaching consensus on all the above documents, were based on a document entitled "Guidelines for public participation in the framework of the SAP and NAPs" (document UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/7). This process is considered an indispensable step for the future implementation of the NAPs and will be promoted and supported by MED POL throughout the long-term implementation of the SAP.

Reporting

A Reporting System covering the Convention and all the Protocols has been prepared by MAP as a draft and is being tested in a number of countries. As MED POL is in charge of the implementation of three protocols (LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes), the Programme staff have been actively involved in the preparation of the System.

Reporting on the application of the SAP has not yet been included in the MAP reporting system in view of the complexity of the SAP and the evident difference in nature of the action contained therein (e.g. policy action, pollution reductions, implementation of action plans, etc.). Considering that the SAP should be eventually included in the system, the Contracting Parties adopted in 2003 a document entitled "Evaluation of compliance under the provisions of the SAP" (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/16) prepared by MED POL. In order to increase the prospect of the success of the SAP reporting system, MED POL has organized a testing exercise that is at present ongoing in Greece, Israel, Turkey and Croatia. To this aim MED POL contracted national experts to perform a testing procedure which aims at:

- testing the availability of information
- identification of its sources and,

- identification of gaps, barriers and needs.

The testing exercise is expected to be completed in June 2005 after which a final reporting system will be prepared and will be ready to be incorporated into the MAP Reporting System. More in particular, during the biennium 2006-2007 the Secretariat will launch a region-wide testing trial by making use of national experts. MED POL expects to initiate by the end of 2006 the merging of the SAP reporting system in the MAP reporting system. In order to increase the prospect of the success of this exercise, MED POL intends to organize a regional workshop early in 2006.

As a follow up to the implementation of **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)** pilot project in Alexandria, Egypt, implemented in cooperation with, and with financial support of, the UNIDO International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS-UNIDO), the PRTR unit in Alexandria has continued the collection of data from the six industrial partners according to agreed formats. Egypt requested to widen the field of application of the PRTR system to cover additional SMEs from Alexandria district. The request is under consideration by MED POL and external funds are being sought.

In this framework, again in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO, MED POL has launched in September 2004 a PRTR pilot project in the Coastal area of Syria. Seven industrial sites are participating to the pilot project as industrial partners. Two experts were trained in ICS-UNIDO premises on the quantification of releases from industrial sources and the set up of PRTR data base. A national project coordinator has been contracted to assist the national authorities in the implementation of the pilot project. The pilot project has been actually launched and is expected to be completed in November 2005.

MED POL is also negotiating with the national authorities of Turkey to launch later in 2005 a third Mediterranean PRTR pilot project. Recently, Libya has also requested to negotiate the launching of a PRTR pilot project during the biennium 2006-2007.

Upon request by the MED POL National Coordinators at their last Meeting in Venice in 2001, the Secretariat has developed a concept paper for **Marine Pollution Indicators (MRI)** to be adopted as a tool for national reporting on the effectiveness of the implementation of Dumping, Hazardous waste and LBS Protocols and the SAP. The document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17) proposes to apply the DPSIR approach and a framework for the calculation of a core as well as supplementary sets of MRI falling under three types of indicators: concentration of chemicals, change in the marine ecosystem and biomarkers. The concept document proposes to work in the framework of the indicators for environment and development prepared by MCSD. The approach is in line with the EEA activities in the framework of indicators.

As a follow up to this activity, MED POL with the assistance of regional experts developed Fact Sheets (FSs) for the core sets of indicators on the basis of data and information available at the Secretariat and other Mediterranean countries. The Fact Sheets were reviewed and amended in an experts meeting organized by MED POL on 4-5 April 2005. The experts agreed on the contents of the FSs and amended the testing process proposed (see Document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.14).

Three options are proposed for the implementation of the testing process, which are here presented for comments to the MED POL National Coordinators:

- a. through questionnaires
- b. by national experts
- c. by regional experts

During the biennium 2006-2007, MED POL will continue working on the development of Marine Pollution Indicators through the organization of a regional workshop and intercalibration programmes,

- coordination of the activities with those of Blue Plan, MEDSTAT and SPA/RAC and the development of quality indices on the basis of the core set of MPI adopted.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP

The **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** is considered a very important document for the quantity and quality of information that it contains and a very useful background for all the MED POL activities. As part of the process of revising the 1997 version of the TDA, financially supported by the GEF Project, during 2002-2003 one coordinator and several experts were recruited to review and amend the various chapters of the TDA. In addition, a Meeting was held in January 2003 to review the content of the chapters and to harmonize the document. MED POL finalized the final version of the TDA and is actually preparing it for publishing. The TDA content was presented at the stocktaking meeting for the GEP Mediterranean Partnership organized by MAP and held in Trieste, Italy on 11 and 12 October 2005. In addition, MED POL will present the TDA findings in the worldwide meeting of GEF Projects which will be held in Salvador, Brazil, on 20-25 June 2005.

Regarding **Environmental Inspections** and in particular systems of inspection in the Mediterranean countries, a meeting of the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement of legislation was held from 2-5 December 2003 in Athens. A number of issues were discussed and a set of recommendations was formulated that are included in the report of the meeting, which is presented to this meeting as a reference document (EUR/03/5041713/03).

The activities related to environmental inspections carried out during 2004-2005 including national training courses on the subject will continue during the biennium 2006-2007 in order to strengthen compliance and enforcement of legislation and systems of inspection in the region. However, due to the increasing importance of indicators in all the aspects of the environmental compliance monitoring programme and their proposed use, it is evident that, along with the efforts for preparing indicators for the Mediterranean region, it would be very useful to develop a set of indicators for environmental inspections.

The implementation of NAPs will require a complex mechanism in order to assess the reduction of pollutants at the source. This assessment mechanism is based on three pillars; the authorization of discharges system or Permit system is the starting point to regulate the reduction of pollutants; the inspection system is the system to control the compliance and the enforcement of the regulations related to the set targets; and compliance monitoring is directly related to the inspection system as the most important tool to verify the proposed measures for pollution reduction. The assessment will provide a thorough picture of the institutional framework of the Regulation and Inspection systems as well as the Compliance monitoring policy in order to identify overlaps or gaps and to propose ways and means for every country to strengthen the systems and to effectively enhance the capacity building. To assist countries in this process, two activities are proposed to be carried out in 2006-2007 with the support of GEF:

- Assessment of needs in countries with the assistance of national experts; and
- Preparation of a programme of action concerning the strengthening of the permit, inspection and compliance systems in the countries.

During the last meeting of the informal network on compliance and enforcement, it was recommended by the participants to continue working on issues of common interest and

provide services within the framework of the national inspectorates, but also to go further and consider "formal" the network. Taking into consideration the above recommendation, if agreed, it is proposed to hold a meeting of the network of compliance and enforcement during the next biennium to discuss issues of mutual interest and to exchange views on the field of environmental inspections.

The new MED POL Phase IV includes the **tourism industry** as a very important issue of development in the Mediterranean, as also indicated by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. Considering the link of the human health aspects of tourism with the provisions of the LBS Protocol, it is proposed to prepare an assessment of health risks associated with tourist establishments in the Mediterranean region that will provide scientific evidence of the major risks. A meeting of government-designated experts could be organized during the biennium 2006-2007 in cooperation with the relevant bodies in order to agree on possible activities to be implemented in the framework of MED POL.

The GEF Project

The GEF Project is in its final stage of implementation and will be closed by 31 October 2005. During the past biennium, the activities mainly focused on two important actions: assistance to countries for the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address marine pollution from land-based activities and sources, and the preparation of pre-investment studies for selected pollution hot spots.

In addition, the activities on the development new/adaptation existing economic instruments for sustainability of the SAP were continued and are in the final stage. The remaining actions were related for the finalization of the other activities which had been initiated during the previous reporting period.

The **process of preparing NAPs** and its status of implementation have already been described in detail earlier in this document. The GEF Project has substantially contributed to the success of the activity by financing most of the actions in the twelve GEF-eligible countries and by assisting MED POL in the coordination of the overall activity. The process of the preparation of the NAPs consists of several steps, includes various stakeholders and is a rather sensitive political issue. As a result, due to its participative and political complexity, the time for its accomplishment is resulting longer than planned. In accordance with the last project revision, the deadline for the completion of the process of the preparation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) was 31 December 2004, and for the NAPs is 31 March 2005. However, the countries preferred to work on both documents in parallel. Most of the national experts had been hired until 31 December 2004, but the contracts were extended until 31 May 2005.

The first step of the process, the preparation of NDA and BB, was successfully accomplished in all countries during the previous biennium. The second and third steps, the preparation of SPs and NAPs, were initiated at the beginning of 2004. In order to enhance the process, a large training course was added to the initial programme and organized on 4-7 March 2004 in Izmit, Turkey, where all the experts hired as well as the GEF National Coordinators were invited to jointly and individually review concrete aspects (technical, financial, political and organizational) of the preparation of SPs and NAPs.

The majority of national experts, who were nominated by the National Coordinator, were contracted during the first half of 2004 for the preparation of SPs and NAPs with a deadline of December 2004. In December 2004, when it was obvious that the documents would not be ready by the deadline, the contracts were extended until 31 May 2005.

In order to provide technical assistance to the countries, and to enhance activities within the countries, a regional expert was hired to assist MED POL in assisting directly the national

experts and in evaluating their outputs. So far, the expert visited five countries where he provided technical assistance to the national experts who are preparing SPs and NAPs.

The countries were offered financial support for the organization of the stakeholders meetings, with the aim of involvement of various stakeholders into the process. So far, 9 countries have signed a contract to receive support.

The preparation of NAPs is country-tailored process, which requires the full engagement of national experts and officials, and the involvement of various stakeholders, as well as adequate assistance from outside. In order to further stimulate the implementation of all the aspects of the process, until the end of this year the countries can still be provided with reasonable assistance, including support to increase public awareness.

It should be pointed out that, for the completion of the NAPs process, in addition to what the project has provided so far, there is no feasible additional concrete action at the project level which could significantly speed-up the process. At this stage, the countries need more time to settle their own internal problems and, as a result, close and frequent contacts will be maintained by the Project management and MED POL.

The procedure for the preparation of **pre-investment studies** is rather complex and includes various stakeholders. The procedure was developed by METAP and adopted by the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee and the Inter-Agency Steering Committee. The process was initiated by a number of preparatory activities, which included the development of criteria for the prioritisation of the identified pollution hot spots, adoption of the revised list of pollution hot spots and preparation of model Terms of Reference (ToR) for the studies. It was followed by the selection of the pollution hot spots where the pre-investment studies would be carried out, the organization of an expert mission to the countries in order to revalidate the proposed pollution hot spots, the selection of one for pre-investment study, drafting site-specific ToRs, the identification of a national implementing agency, and the estimation of the costs of the activity. When this stage of the process was accomplished, the process was handed over to the national implementing agency, which had implemented an internal tendering procedure for the selection and the hiring of a consultant in accordance with the criteria agreed in a relevant contract signed between the national implementing agency and UNEP/MAP. The countries were obliged to establish an *ad hoc* national committee, which consists of the representative of the local community and relevant national authorities, in order to monitor, evaluate and adopt the outputs of the consultant. Finally, the quality of outputs has to be approved by METAP.

The process of preparing pre-investment studies was initiated mid 2002. However, the further development of the process, in all the countries, was much slower than planned and expected because of country-specific reasons which were beyond the control of the Project Manager.

ICS/UNIDO has directly supported the preparation of one pre-investment study in Croatia. The study was accomplished in September 2003.

FFEM, as the main partner for this action, has decided that it would directly support the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) by applying the same procedure which was applied to the other countries. MAP provides technical assistance in preparing ToRs for a consultant, in selecting a consultant, and in the monitoring and evaluation of its activities. So far, the assistance was provided to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

One GEF eligible country, Libya, is not participating in this activity.

Concerning **capacity building** during the biennium 2004-2005, all training courses were organized, as planned. The material for the training courses, which had been originally prepared in English was translated into Albanian, Arabic, Croatian, French, and Turkish to enable the preparation of sub-regional/national training courses in different countries.

In addition, one more national training course on river monitoring in Albanian was added to the four originally planned national training courses in order to achieve training in all the GEF eligible countries that have larger rivers. The costs for the organization of this training course were covered from savings from other training courses. The courses were organized as follows:

| Training Course | No. of participants | Organized/Place, Date |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regional training course on river pollution monitoring ¹⁾ | 18 | MED POL/Orleans (France), 18-19 December 2003 |
| Sub-regional training course on river pollution monitoring for: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia | 56 | MED POL/Tunis, 25-26 March 2004 |
| Sub-regional training course on river pollution monitoring for: Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro ²⁾ | 22 | MED POL/Split, 3-4 June 2004 |
| Sub-regional training course on river pollution monitoring for: Egypt, Syria and Lebanon | 15 | MED POL/ Cairo, 14-15 September, 2004 |
| National training course on river pollution monitoring for Turkey | 40 | MED POL/Ankara, 9-10 September 2004 |
| National training course on river pollution monitoring for Albania National training course on pollution monitoring and inspection for Syria | 28 | MED POL/Tirana, January 2005 WHO/MED POL/Damascus, 10-13 Jan. 2005 |
| National course on pollution monitoring and inspection | 16 | WHO/MED POL, Tirana, Albania, 6-8 October 2003 |
| National course on pollution monitoring and inspection | 31 | Opatija, Croatia/WHO MED POL, 29-31 October 2003 |
| National course on pollution monitoring and inspection | 27 | WHO/MED POL/Teslic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29-31 October 2003 |
| National course on pollution monitoring and inspection | 18 | WHO/MED POL/ Nova Gorica, Slovenia, 18-20 November 2003 |
| National course on pollution monitoring and inspection | 30 | WHO/MED POL/ Tunis, Tunisia, 18-20 November 2003 |
| National course on pollution monitoring and inspection | 26 | WHO/MED POL/ Algiers, Algeria, 12-14 June 2004 |
| National training course on municipal wastewater operation and management for Turkey | 34 | WHO/MED POL/ Mugla, 6-9 October 2004 |
| Regional training course on wastewater reclamation and use ¹⁾ | 17 | WHO/MED POL/Barcelona, 22-25, November 2004 |

¹⁾ supported by FFEM

²⁾ supported by UNEP/MAP

Concerning the **regional cooperative actions** agreed in the GEF Project, all Regional Plans and Regional Guidelines, were prepared in English, translated into French and printed within the MAP Technical Report Series (23 volumes). The updated TDA report was finalized, copied on a CD-ROM and widely distributed. In addition, it was prepared for the UNEP/MAP Web Site, and it is editing for printing as a book.

A **Donors meeting** is planned for the first week of October 2005, when at least seven out of 10 pre-investment studies will be accomplished and presented to potential partners/donors. In addition, a **regional Forum** for the civil society and the private sector is planned before the end of 2005 to increase information on the preparation and implementation of the NAPs and stimulate participation in the process.

Concerning the future prospects of cooperation with GEF in the region, in order to accelerate on the ground the implementation of the SAP and the SAP BIO and related NAPs and assist the early implementation of the Integral Coastal Zone Management (ICM) Protocol, a **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** is being proposed by UNEP and the World Bank to all the countries of the Mediterranean and to all international cooperation Agencies, IFIs and bilateral and multi-lateral donors.

The proposed Partnership – which builds upon the model and lessons learnt from the GEF Black Sea/Danube Partnership – is a basin-wide multi-stakeholder collaboration with the main objective to assist basin countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors that address transboundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection priorities identified in the two SAPs. The Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem its contributing freshwater basins, habitats and coastal aquifers.

The proposed Strategic Partnership will consist of the two individual but interconnected components:

- Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (UNEP); and
- The establishment of an Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership (World Bank).

The main objective of the Partnership is to foster the implementation of the two Strategic Action Programmes (SAP and SAP BIO), and prepare the ground for the future implementation of the ICM Protocol. A draft Concept Paper of the Partnership was presented, discussed, amended and adopted at the stakeholders meeting organized by MAP in Trieste (11-12 October 2004). While a project to develop the details of, and create the necessary ground for, the future Strategic Partnership will be launched by the end of 2005 (a PDF-B GEF Project), the Partnership is expected to be launched in 2007.

3. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Under the provisions of Article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are requested to keep records of the dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, as it was reported on several occasions, since the entry into force of the Protocol, only few countries have regularly reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

In this context, considering the relevance that dumping activities have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities, and the expected entry into force of the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat prepared an **assessment of dumping activities for the**

period of 1995-2001. The document was prepared on the basis of the information provided by countries through a questionnaire that was prepared by the Secretariat and of information available from other relevant organizations such as the London Dumping Convention Secretariat. The Assessment is presented to this Meeting as document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.4)

In the context of the requirements of Art.6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat has prepared draft **Guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials**, which will complete the list of Guidelines to be prepared. The Guidelines were prepared on the basis of similar Guidelines being developed in the framework of the London Dumping Convention and the work of GESAMP. The draft Guidelines are presented to this Meeting as document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/6) for discussion and approval in view of their transmission to Contracting Parties for adoption.

As it was recommended by the Contracting Parties in 2003, MED POL has also prepared for the consideration of this meeting "**Guidelines for the Placement of matters for other purposes than dumping**" as an important contribution to the environmentally sound management of a practice widely diffused in the region. The draft Guidelines are presented to this meeting as document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/7) for discussion and approval in view of their transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

In order to better plan its future activities in relation to the assistance to countries for an appropriate management of dumping activities, MED POL organized, in cooperation with the secretariat of the London Convention and the Cypriot authorities, a **regional Workshop in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 15-16 February 2005**, to a) review the dumping activities in the Mediterranean Countries, including the implementation of the Dumping Guidelines, b) inform the countries' representatives, through presentations made by regional and international experts, of the state of the art of the management of different types of materials mentioned in Art 4 of the Dumping Protocol and c) identify national needs for assistance and support.

The presentations of the representatives of the CPs showed that:

- Mediterranean countries still consider the sea as the most convenient dumping site;
- the Guidelines for management of materials previously adopted by the CPs are not fully implemented in most Mediterranean countries;
- several Mediterranean countries are not correctly interpreting the text of the Protocol related to placement of matters for purposes other than dumping;
- several Mediterranean Countries are lacking the appropriate legal and institutional set up to implement properly the dumping guidelines.

As a result of the open and constructive discussions, the participants proposed a number of recommendations which will guide the work of the Secretariat in the years to come and that will assist the countries in the process of implementation of the 1995 amended Protocol (see document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.266/3).

On the basis of the above -mentioned recommendations, the following activities are proposed for implementation during the biennium 2006-2007:

- 1) preparation of a methodology for the development of national Limit Values for contaminants in dredged materials;
- 2) preparation of maps showing the historical sites of dumping of ordnance;
- 3) collection of information related to treatment of dredged material on land;

- 4) assessment of countries' needs (covering legal, technical and institutional aspects) for the proper application of the Dumping Protocol and its Guidelines.

Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties

To adopt the Guidelines for the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials proposed by the Secretariat which were prepared in close cooperation with national authorities and experts

To adopt the Guidelines for the placement at sea of matters for other purposes than dumping proposed by the Secretariat which were prepared in close cooperation with national authorities and experts

To facilitate the acquisition of data and information for the setting up of maps showing the historical sites of dumping of ordnance

4. Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

The MED POL and CP/RAC Secretariats produced during the biennium 2002-2003 a Regional Plan for the management of **hazardous wastes**, a Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% of hazardous wastes generated by industrial activities and a Regional Plan for the management of PCBs and nine pesticides including an inventory. While it is assumed that those plans will be playing a major role in the national pollution reduction process that NAPs will contain, the Secretariat, in cooperation with CP/RAC, is in the process of updating the information included in the inventory on the basis of the information included in the recently prepared national reports (BBs, NDAs, SPs).

In addition, MED POL has strengthened cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and accordingly has launched a pilot project for the setting up of national inventories of Luboils and to assess their impacts. The project, jointly coordinated with the Basel Convention regional Office in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the national authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina, is expected to be a model to be considered in future by other Mediterranean countries. The project is expected to be finalized in March 2006 and its products widely disseminated throughout the region.

In parallel to the above mentioned project, which will represent the starting point of an enhanced cooperation with the Basel Convention, during the biennium 2006-2007 MED POL will prepare an inventory of quantities of batteries generated in countries and a collation of information on their management system. In addition, the issue of the management of obsolete chemicals, appearing as a major issue in the region, will be given attention and assistance will be provided to countries upon request for the development of the appropriate management system.

Finally, noting the generalized lack of interest and accordingly of ratifications of the Hazardous wastes Protocol, MED POL, in cooperation with technical and legal experts will attempt to highlight the reasons behind the lack of progress and will propose specific measure towards the revitalization of the Protocol.