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Joint Meeting of the Focal Points
of BP/RAC, ERS/RAC and PAP/RAC
Nice, 12 -15 May 2005

Report of the Joint Focal Points meeting of BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC

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Introduction

1. Following the decision of the Contracting Parties at their Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting (Catania, Italy, November 2003) to continue the practice of convening joint meetings of the Focal Points of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) and the Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC), the third Joint Focal Points Meeting of the three RACs was organized at Nice, France, with BP/RAC taking care of the logistical aspects of the meeting and the MAP Coordinating Unit and the three RACs (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC) sharing the costs. The Joint Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Resort, Saint Laurent du Var, from 12 to 15 May 2005.

Participation

2. The Joint National Focal Points Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey; and of the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: World Bank/METAP and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In addition to the representatives of the three RACs involved in the Joint Meeting, a representative of REMPEC attended the meeting. A number of experts attended as observers. Mr P. Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, Mr A. Hoballah, MAP Deputy Coordinator, and Ms T. Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, participated in the meeting as representatives of the Coordinating Unit of MAP. The list of participants is appended to this report as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item I: Opening of the Meeting

3. Mr G. Benoit, Director, BP/RAC, welcomed participants on behalf of the BP/RAC team, which stood ready to help participants in every way possible to ensure the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

4. Mr I. Trumbic, Director, PAP/RAC, said that MAP activities in terms of coastal zone management were very much on track. The Joint Meeting would provide an opportunity to report on highly interesting developments and he wished it every success.

5. Mr S. Illuminato, Director, ERS/RAC, said that the current year heralded a new era for MAP, in which bridges linking the Mediterranean community should be built, notably by developing MAP's information and communication technology (ICT) capacity and through the possible transformation of ERS/RAC into ICT/RAC. He hoped that the Joint Meeting would provide significant pointers in that direction through the participation of all and would help to confer a clear mandate on the Centre.

6. Mr P. Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, said that the Joint Meeting represented an important stage in preparing for the Fourteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties in November 2005 and had a challenging agenda before it. Among the important issues for discussion were the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the draft Protocol on the Integrated Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones and cooperation between MAP and EU. He wished the meeting every success and looked forward to its outcome.

7. Mr A. Hoballah, MAP Deputy Coordinator, said that the joint focal points meetings had brought the Regional Activity Centres closer together, as could be seen from the large number of participants at the current meeting. Such attendance and interest were evidence of the added value that could be expected of the meeting.

Election of officers:

8. Following consultations and as proposed by the Secretariat, the Meeting elected the following officers:

- Chairpersons: Mr M. Amil (Morocco)
  Mr M. Bricelj (Slovenia)
  Mr A. Arozarena Villar (Spain)

- Rapporteurs: Mr T. Lavoux (France) (BP/RAC)
  Mr N. Georgiades (Cyprus) (PAP/RAC)

9. On the proposal of the Secretariat, it was agreed that three one-day sessions would be held, devoted respectively to the three RACs (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC, ERS/RAC) and chaired, respectively, by Mr M. Amil (Morocco), Mr M. Bricelj (Slovenia) and Mr Arozarena Villar (Spain).

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

10. The participants unanimously adopted the agenda as presented by the Chairperson. The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to this report

Agenda item 3: Presentation of the BP/RAC Progress Report for the Biennium 2004-2005 andthe main conclusions of the Environment and Development Report (EDR)

11. In his introduction, Mr Benoit reviewed the information contained in the PB/RAC Progress Report for the period 2004-2005 (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/2/1). He emphasized that, over the past two years, the Blue Plan's workload had been extremely heavy. Its main activities had consisted of the finalization of the Environment and Development Report (EDR), the assistance it had provided in the formulation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the development of indicators of sustainable development. In addition, Blue Plan had continued its work in the field of coastal area management programmes (CAMPs) and on specific themes, including funding and cooperation for sustainable development and sustainable rural development. He added that, despite the great volume of work carried out, Blue Plan's main weakness still lay in communication and the dissemination of information. Some progress had been made in this area, including the establishment of a website containing a large volume of information, but he recognized that much greater attention was still needed in this field. He added that the publication of the EDR provided an extremely good opportunity for Blue Plan to focus on communication in order to ensure that the lessons to be learned from the EDR were used in national discussions and policy-making throughout the region.

12. In the discussion, all of the speakers congratulated the Blue Plan on the work that had been carried out over the past two years, and particularly on the formulation of the EDR,

which was a very important report for the region. It was noted that in this work the Blue Plan had fulfilled its mandate and was a pace-setter in the region. The Blue Plan had also carried out effective work in the context of the MSSD. It was suggested that it would be easier for the participants to gain an overview of the work carried out and of the manner in which Blue Plan's mandate had been fulfilled if a comparative table were provided showing the workplan and the manner in which it had been implemented, including any difficulties encountered and any planned work which it had not been possible to achieve. What was important now was to see how the EDR could best be used and how assistance could be provided to countries to help them take on board the lessons from the report. One of the means of providing assistance in this area would be for the Blue Plan to contribute to the exchange of experience concerning success stories, so that the countries in the region could learn from those which had already made progress in the field of environment and development. The Focal Point from Algeria referred to the organization in his country by the Ministry of Finance, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment, of a workshop on the financing of sustainable development and indicated that Blue Plan's participation had been very useful in promoting its activities and their results. Several Focal Points noted that it would be easier to disseminate Blue Plan's work if greater use were made of national expertise, through the Focal Points, and if there were greater national ownership of the studies carried out, rather than relying principally on international experts. Finally, a number of speakers, referring to the great breadth of Blue Plan's work, as exemplified by the EDR, expressed the opinion that it might now be the time for Blue Plan to focus more closely on those areas in which its expertise was greatest.

13. Turning to Blue Plan's activities in the medium term in the logic of the EDR, and following a presentation by Mr Benoit of the main findings of the EDR, the discussion centred on the selection of a smaller number of themes for the work of the Blue Plan in the years to come. It was pointed out that the MCSD had already identified proposals for its priority themes for the biennium and that, as the support provided by the Blue Plan to the MCSD was of great importance, there should certainly be the necessary coordination in this respect. It was also noted that priority fields of activity were being selected in the MSSD, which was in the process of being prepared for adoption. Although decisions relating to the MSSD should not be anticipated, Blue Plan's work should certainly be consistent with the MSSD and the MCSD programme of work. Any decisions taken at the present meeting could therefore be confirmed once the MSSD had finally been approved by the MCSD and the Contracting Parties. It was also recalled in this respect that any priorities adopted for the work of the Blue Plan should take into account subregional and national priorities. For example, water was in plentiful supply in certain subregions, but was a major priority in others. One Focal Point recalled the importance of action to combat soil erosion and desertification as part of national sustainable development policies, particularly for southern Mediterranean countries. These aspects should therefore be included in Blue Plan's activities, in cooperation with the other MAP components concerned.

14. Many Focal Points indicated that care should be taken to select themes that were within the principal fields of expertise of the Blue Plan. This was particularly important for the provision of assistance at the national level, which required greater in-depth expertise than the formulation of global reports. For example, Blue Plan certainly possessed the necessary expertise on water management to provide assistance for policy formulation at the national level. However, the Focal Point for Italy wondered whether Blue Plan was the best placed organization for the promotion of action in the field of energy. It was also pointed out that Blue Plan's real expertise lay in the field of prospective analysis, where it offered real added value. Whatever decisions were taken concerning its future activities, this expertise should not be lost. Nevertheless, with its indicators work, Blue Plan had started to look more at the past and present, which was a very different science to prospective analysis. Blue Plan had also been called upon to further extend its field of

action through the identification of the various tools which were needed for policy implementation, including legal, economic and planning tools, for example in such fields as the protection of coastal areas.

15. Several Focal Points emphasized that it was extremely important that the work of MAP as a whole, and all of its Regional Activity Centres, should be fully coordinated and seen as a whole. To this end, it was important for the present meeting, firstly, to place the work of the three Centres in the overall MAP context and, secondly, to ensure that there was full coordination in the work of the three Centres themselves. The method of work followed by the meeting should therefore be to look first at the coordination of the three Centres, and then at their individual work plans, rather than coming to the coordination of the Centres only on the last day of the meeting.

Preparation for the 2006-2007 biennium

16. In his presentation, Mr Benoit highlighted the main points contained in BP/RAC's proposed recommendations and programme for 2006-2007 (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/2/3). In respect of thematic activities, Mr M. Blinda, Mr P. Miran and Mr L. Dassonville presented the proposed activities relating, respectively, to water demand management, energy-climate change, and sustainable agricultural and rural development.

17. Following the presentations, Mr Benoit further specified that, with respect to the thematic activities, the three themes selected were among those identified in the MSSD as priorities. To ensure adequate follow-up of implementation, key indicators needed to be identified and practical experience exchanged, including experience gained outside the Mediterranean. Blue Plan's role was essentially one of analysis and facilitation, helping to provide the necessary tools and a shared information system with the general aim of helping the countries most in need to develop their own capacities.

18. In the ensuing discussion, it was observed that the Centre's proposed programme for 2006-2007 reflected the fact that, after its past successes, it now stood at a crossroads and was moving into areas and activities that it had not previously dealt with. Blue Plan's strong area of competence lay in such fields as long-term analysis, and its ambitious plans to embark on such exercises as statistical compilation were likely to entail a workload and resource needs that could be difficult to meet. Its programme should be scaled down to activities that offered real added value and were squarely within its areas of expertise, notably case studies and the development of indicators. The expected outcomes, or what one speaker described as the "deliverables", should be clearly specified. Common thinking at the Mediterranean level was certainly needed on the issues under discussion, but it should be asked whether the Centre was the right place for working on each of these issues. The role of Blue Plan should be to act as a catalyst, identifying areas where MAP could make a difference, with a clearly defined added value.

19. One speaker welcomed the inclusion of energy issues among the selected themes as being of particular assistance to countries with less expertise in that area, while another suggested that the Centre's energy-related activities should be focused on coordination and on creating synergies with national, regional and international bodies. Several others expressed misgivings, however, about the added value of dealing with an issue that was already amply covered by other competent authorities and bodies, and about the huge workload and resources involved in compiling statistics and inventories. Some further cautioned against adding to the reporting burden of contracting parties to other conventions. The latter point was likewise made in connection with indicators. Several speakers observed that indicators must not be developed for their own sake, but must be used and be seen to be used. Account should also be taken of indicator development

activities in various countries. One speaker stressed the importance of qualitative as well as quantitative indicators. The Focal Point for Serbia and Montenegro sought assistance in capacity-building in the field of indicator development in Montenegro, and emphasized the need to separate the data for the Republic of Montenegro from the data for Serbia and Montenegro for use in relation to the Montenegrin coastal zone and Montenegrin National Commission for Sustainable Development activities.

20. The issue of water demand management prompted several comments. Cooperation with the EU Water Initiative was greatly appreciated by the European Commission and was very much in line with the calls for complementarity rather than duplication. Mention was made of subregional water programmes, notably in the Balkans, and of the importance in that connection of water management practices that were adapted to the local context. The Focal Point of Bosnia and Herzegovina offered to contribute to steering committee initiatives for water management.

21. The question of regional workshops prompted the comment that the organization of and participation by the Centre in national workshops would have a greater impact on national policies and would be less costly.

22. Mr Benoit, replying to comments and questions and expanding on his introduction, said that the three selected themes were consistent with the MSSD and MCSD themes, and required follow-up. Blue Plan's role was to monitor progress in those areas, facilitate Mediterranean data-sharing and exchanges of experience and develop the tools for that purpose, drawing on existing expertise and working in partnership with other competent sources. Regional workshops had proved to be very useful, as they tended to have a multiplier effect. The Centre could not organize national workshops but was very willing to take part in them. Another effective tool were the steering committees, with their focused approach. On all themes, the issue at stake was to give a Mediterranean slant to the data available and hence to exchange experience in the light of Mediterranean concerns. On the question of energy, the Centre was committed to working in synergy with others. It should be borne in mind that the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms were insufficiently well known and that the proposed activity was focussed on indicators and follow-up in the field of the rational use of energy and renewable sources of enegry. He assured participants of the Centre's cooperation with other RACs. The Blue Plan's added value lay in its contribution to the improvement of knowledge through prospective analysis, its networking function and its development of practical tools in the form of case studies and indicators, rather than in the preparation of policy documents. He agreed that it should focus its work on key issues and concrete activities. Positive feedback was forthcoming on many of its activities.

23. Summarizing the discussion, Mr Benoit said that several main points had emerged. The first was that the Blue Plan should concentrate its efforts and resources on activities which offered a real added value and which were firmly within its areas of expertise, and particularly the development of indicators and case studies, for example in the field of the management of energy demand policies. A second point concerned the need for Blue Plan's activities to be in conformity with the objectives and themes decided upon within the framework of the MCSD and the MSSD. Blue Plan's activities should also lead to pertinent outcomes, such as indicators, which could be used for the purposes of benchmarking. Finally, Blue Plan should endeavour to make its services more readily available at the national level, especially through participation in national workshops to help stimulate a national debate on the formulation of sustainable development policies and measures. He added that the experts who had contributed to Blue Plan reports, including the EDR, could be used as resource persons in such workshops.

Indicators of sustainable development

24. In a presentation of Blue Plan's work on indicators of sustainable development, Mr Giraud described this activity as horizontal, as it touched upon all the various themes. Indicators constituted an important tool for communication to countries and decision-makers. Over the next two years, the Blue Plan would focus on indicators to monitor the MSSD, a set of which had been selected during the workshop held from 9 to 11 May 2005, and in filling in the information gaps identified during the course of its previous work. Evidently, this work would require some selection and every effort would continue to be made as a matter of course to avoid duplication by using existing information produced by other institutions and organizations. Nevertheless, certain important indicators would require further input from national sources and from the other activity centres, for example from REMPEC on maritime transport in the Mediterranean. It was proposed to hold an expert meeting in 2006 to review the more problematic indicators. A statistical compendium on basic indicators, including the 130 indicators of sustainable development, would be produced in 2007, as well as an illustrated report on indicators for the follow-up of the MSSD intended for Mediterranean decision-makers and actors.

25. In response to questions raised during the discussion of this subject, Mr Giraud indicated that Blue Plan's indicators of sustainable development had been tested in several countries, with some relatively encouraging results. Based on this experience, it had been found that a reasonable number of countries in the region had commenced work on the selection and use of MCSD indicators in the context of the formulation of their national sustainable development strategies.

26. One Focal Point described the progress that had been made in testing indicators of sustainable development over a two-year period in Morocco, where the process was guided by an interministerial committee with representation of socio-economic actors and civil society. Participation in the process had been improved through the discussion of indicators of sustainable development, which had also been instrumental in improving reporting and the development of a strategic approach, based on the identification of pressures and the appropriate responses.

Systemic and prospective sustainability analysis

27. Ms Coudert gave a presentation of Blue Plan's innovative work in the field of systemic and prospective sustainability analyses (SPSA). Blue Plan collaborated in this work with Mr Simon Bell from the Open Systems Research Group of the Open University of the United Kingdom and a draft version of a Handbook prepared on the subject was provided to participants at the meeting. Based on a participative review of the social, economic, environmental, historical, political and technical context, the SPSA approach was designed to help groups of stakeholders assess the issues of concern to them, apply and use indicators to agree on a sustainable measure for each indicator, present the conclusions reached in an informative diagramatic manner, inform wider stakeholder groups, develop future scenarios and determine the policy implications of the overall analysis. The SPSA approach had been tested in a number of CAMP projects in the region and would be further tested and developed over the next biennium.

28. The participants thanked Ms Coudert for a very informative presentation of an extremely interesting initiative.

Dissemination and communication of the Environment and Development Report (EDR)

29. Mr Benoit, recalling that communication was acknowledged to be a weakness of the Blue Plan, said that the EDR offered a very good opportunity to make progress in this field. A project was currently under examination for funding by the EU which would substantially help Blue Plan undertake important activities in this field, in collaboration with PAP/RAC and METAP, through a series of activities at the national level, particularly in SMAP countries. One proposed method for the communication of what was in practice a very lengthy report was the production of a series of short documents on the sectoral and cross-cutting issues covered by the EDR. He added that publishers had been found for the English and French versions of the EDR, which was due to appear later in the year.

30. Several Focal Points agreed that Blue Plan and other MAP representatives should participate in national workshops, such as those organized in the framework of SMAP, to disseminate the findings of the EDR. The Focal Point from Syria proposed that a national seminar should be held in her country on the work of the Blue Plan, including the EDR. Such a seminar should bring together high-level stakeholders, including representatives of the private sector and NGOs. The EU should be encouraged to view favourably the request for the funding of the project mentioned by Mr Benoit. It was also emphasized that the publication of the EDR should be heralded by public relations activities with the press, including the issuing of press releases. However, Blue Plan acknowledged that it did not have expertise in the field of public relations and the necessary support would therefore have to be organized. It was also pointed out that the drafting of short documents on issues covered by the EDR required specific expertise, as it was often more difficult to produce shorter materials than long documents.

31. In a discussion of the communication aspects of MAP's work in general, it was emphasized that a task such as the dissemination and communication of the EDR was a matter for the whole of the MAP structure. Public relations aspects of all MAP activities should be planned and budgeted for well in advance and should be carried out with assistance from the MEDU public relations staff and the other RACs. It was also proposed that the EDR should be made available on the Blue Plan website as rapidly as possible as a means of radically increasing its dissemination.

32. Several speakers called for the EDR and the related information materials to be translated into as many languages as possible, including Arabic. Translation and dissemination of the EDR should be undertaken on the basis of the identification of appropriate target audiences. In response to this proposal, Mr Benoit raised the problem of the availability of funding for the translation work and indicated that, in addition to fund allocations from the MAP budget, there might be a need for participation by beneficiary countries in certain language groups.

33. In concluding the discussion, the Chairperson noted that no detailed comments had been made on the proposed recommendations, which were therefore accepted in principle.

Agenda item 4: Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

34. Mr I. Trumbic, Director, PAP/RAC, said that in the 28 years of its existence PAP/RAC had increasingly focused its attention on Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), while continuing to work actively on other priority issues under the umbrella of ICAM. The past few years had been marked by two major developments, namely the preparation of the text of the draft Protocol on integrated coastal area management in the Mediterranean, which would be debated for the first time at the current meeting, and the formulation of the regional strategy for ICAM. The Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs)

developed by PAP/RAC were a successful example of practical projects on the ground and of cooperation between MAP and its components.

PAP/RAC Progress Report for the biennium 2004-2005

35. Mr. M. Prem, Deputy Director, PAP/RAC, presented the PAP/RAC Progress Report for the period 2004-2005 (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/3/1).

36. Many speakers warmly congratulated PAP/RAC on the progress report and particularly on the Centre's major achievements over the period with such limited human and other resources. The expansion of its activities into the hinterlands as well as coastal areas and the greater focus on sustainable development and key issues were welcomed. Several speakers noted the positive feedback received on PAP/RAC activities, which had furthermore been a source of inspiration for national initiatives. Another pointed to the usefulness of the Centre's activities to countries reporting to other organizations, notably within the framework of EU instruments.

37. Education and training were seen as vital components of the Centre's activities. PAP/RAC was commended on its innovative approach to education and awareness-raising and the use of new technologies for the dissemination of information. The MedOpen project was cited as an example. Several Focal Points expressed an interest in seeing course material, and indeed other documents, translated into their national languages.

38. Several speakers called for increased cooperation and synergies of the work of PAP/RAC with other MAP components, for which there was great potential, notably in terms of specially protected areas, marine pollution and land-based sources of pollution. One speaker mentioned that improved cooperation with MEDPOL would be helpful in adapting the economic instruments developed for national action plans under the SAP for use in sectoral activities at the national level. Reference was also made to the need to improve coordination and communication with Focal Points, a point raised in connection with the holding of workshops and also the CoLD project. Referring to the latter project, the Focal Point of one of the countries concerned commended the excellent cooperation with ERS/RAC.

39. One speaker stressed the importance of involving local authorities, and also economic operators and NGOs, in PAP/RAC's activities, and of developing the tools necessary to secure such participation. Another referred in that connection to existing partnerships and cooperation with civil society institutions, such as universities. Generally speaking, partnerships were considered crucially important, a successful example of which was PAP/RAC's partnership with METAP. The representative of METAP drew attention to the significant funding opportunities available to countries, which were urged to take advantage of them.

40. Among the specific concerns expressed by various speakers were their interest in further work on tourism, urban water resources management and beach management, including that of peri-urban beaches of major cities. An interest was expressed in having a pilot study conducted of the coastal zone of Montenegro, where the necessary legal framework was already in place. The Focal Point of Syria wished to see a national report on ICAM prepared for her country. On another point, one Focal Point said that, in the light of CAMP experience in Lebanon, the final presentation conference component should be incorporated into project design to avoid delays or other problems in the course of implementation.

41. A number of speakers raised the issue of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of CAMPs and the question of evaluation. Impact evaluation of CAMPs

was needed in order to learn lessons for the future, ascertain the effective longer-term benefits of the projects and ensure their follow-up. One suggestion was that completed CAMP projects required a CAMP "Phase II" evaluation component. Another was that follow-up should be incorporated into project proposals from the outset, perhaps in the form of small local projects to follow on from the main project. It was recalled in this respect that the countries concerned were responsible for the follow-up of CAMP projects, while PAP/RAC could provide them with some assistance for this purpose. The Albanian CAMP project was cited as an example of a success story, the benefits of which were to be seen in follow-up at the local level, plans for subregional initiatives and wider partnerships. Input from the countries themselves on their priorities and needs from the very inception of projects was also crucial to their subsequent implementation, particularly at the local level. Finally, the question was raised of the future work programme of PAP/RAC should the Protocol and Strategy not be adopted.

42. Mr Trumbic thanked all those who had welcomed the work of PAP/RAC and noted that a number of important points had been raised during the discussions. Among them was what the Centre would do if the ICZM Protocol and strategy were not approved. Although he expressed confidence with regard to the outcome of these initiatives, he recalled that PAP/RAC had already existed for nearly three decades without a Protocol and that very many challenges remained on which it could continue to carry out useful work. While the adoption of the Protocol would provide a solid legal basis for work in the field of ICZM, and would undoubtedly improve the efficiency of coastal management at the national level, it should be recognized that its implementation and follow-up would be a challenge and an additional task for PAP/RAC. However, the Centre was not necessarily pinning all of its future on the Protocol and would be active in such new areas as coastal risk management and marine spatial planning.

43. Turning to the question of the evaluation of the effectiveness of integrated coastal management projects, he pointed out that, in partnership with METAP, PAP/RAC had undertaken pioneering work in this field as early as 1997, when it had already emphasized sustainability issues. Work was also being carried out by IOC/UNESCO and the EU on the development of indicators for the implementation of ICAM initiatives. A guide book was under preparation and he trusted that this work would contribute to the development of methods for the assessment and evaluation of coastal management initiatives. The question of the follow-up of CAMPs and their longer-term sustainability was raised frequently. Citing the examples of projects in Albania, Algeria and Croatia, he noted that, with a certain time lapse following the completion of the original CAMP projects, the experience and lessons learned from these initiatives had formed part of much larger-scale programmes. While it was primarily the responsibility of the countries concerned to ensure that CAMP projects were followed up, there were a number or ways in which PAP/RAC could help in this respect. For example, and aided by the fact that there was now a high demand for CAMP projects, it was becoming increasingly feasible for PAP/RAC to lay down certain conditions for CAMPs relating to the preparation of investment programmes and the financial commitment of the countries concerned with regard to the implementation and follow-up of projects.

44. He added that the conception of ICAM meant that, while the national authorities were responsible for certain aspects, such as the legal and institutional context and financing, much of the responsibility and ownership of ICAM initiatives was at the local level with the participation of local stakeholders. It was this aspect of ICAM which had provided the inspiration for the importance attached by the MCSD to the local management of sustainable development. Finally, he noted that the integration of the work of the various MAP components had improved in recent years and that much of PAP/RAC's work, and especially CAMPs, involved close collaboration with other RACs. Although there was undoubtedly much room for improvement, the situation was constantly improving.

45. In a discussion of the financing of coastal management initiatives, it was proposed that a special fund could be set up for this purpose. Several Focal Points also called for PAP/RAC to provide greater assistance to countries implementing CAMPs to help them identify possible sources of financing for follow-up activities. One observer added that the CAMP projects which had already been carried out had provided much valuable information, which was fairly well disseminated at the level of Ministries of Environment. What was needed was the dissemination of this information, for example based on success stories, in a form that could be easily communicated to politicians and policy-makers in general. He referred to figures produced by the World Bank which estimated the cost of environmental degradation at between 2 and 5 % of GDP. This was the sort of language that was readily understood by Ministers of Finance.

Programme for the biennium 2006-2007

46. Mr. Trumbic introduced the proposals contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/3/1 concerning the programme for the biennium 2006-2007 and the related recommendations.

47. One speaker noted that the terminology used in the field of coastal management was liable to create a certain level of confusion. She believed that it would be beneficial if an effort were made to bring the various acronyms into line, which could in turn facilitate the integration of all the related activities. Moreover, future work in this area should take inspiration from the success of the GEF project, which was based on well-defined targets and time frames, with the identification of priority investment portfolios. Mr. Mifsud added that the new GEF project offered a very good model for work in the field of integrated coastal management. Under the new project a proportion of the investment required for the implementation of the priority projects identified during the first phase of the GEF project was offered to countries as an incentive for national commitment to further action.

48. Another speaker believed that the proposed recommendations should also include the establishment of a funding mechanism for ICZM and the provision of assistance to countries for the identification of financing mechanisms for coastal management projects, and particularly donors. It was noted in this respect that countries faced considerable difficulties in identifying sources of financing, which were very diverse in the region. While the addition of these elements to the proposed recommendations was to be welcomed, it would not be easy for PAP/RAC to carry them out successfully.

49. One observer welcomed the greater integration of the work of the MAP components, but recalled the need for the inclusion of components relating to biodiversity in coastal management activities.

Draft Protocol on the Integrated Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones

50. Mr. Trumbic, after retracing the background to the drafting of the text now before the meeting, as described in PAP/RAC's Progress Report (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/3/1), outlined the rationale for the preparation of the draft Protocol, as explained in the Comments on the draft Protocol (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/3/2). He then presented the structure and content of the text. Under the General Provisions in Part I, he drew particular attention to Article 3, giving the definition of "coastal zone". It should be borne in mind that there was no universally agreed definition. Essentially, there were three legitimate definitions, based respectively on natural, functional and administrative criteria. The drafters of the proposed Protocol had opted for the third definition as allowing for better implementation.

51. Under Part II concerning ICZM principles, he stressed the importance of Article 6 on institutional coordination, the lack of which could cause serious conflicts. Article 7 on protection and use of the coastal zone concerned a particularly sensitive issue, that of coastal zones which were not specially protected areas - these being generally covered by spatial legislation - but were subject to particularly intense pressure. The article included a tentative figure of 100 metres representing the land fringe where building would not be permitted. On Article 9, relating to specific coastal ecosystems, he pointed out that, although such ecosystems were largely covered by other instruments, not all were legally protected and a common approach was needed.

52. Part III concerned instruments for ICZM. Among them, the Mediterranean Strategy for ICZM to be adopted by the Parties (Article 15) was to be in conformity with the MSSD. Article 16 on national coastal strategies, plans and programmes was of particular interest, although it remained to be specified what was meant by “plans and programmes”. In connection with Article 17, on environmental assessments, he observed that most countries were parties to related conventions, but that the focus in the draft Protocol was of course on coastal zones. Land ownership (Article 18) was a highly critical issue in the spatial planning of coastal areas.

53. Under Part IV, on international cooperation, Article 25 on transboundary impact studies and strategic assessments would no doubt arouse considerable interest. Most of the remaining provisions were self-explanatory and/or were standard provisions. He drew particular attention to the accompanying comments on the draft Protocol, and concluded by outlining the forthcoming further consultation process on the draft text prior to its submission to the Contracting Parties in November 2005.

54. In the ensuing discussion, the majority of speakers considered the drafting of a Protocol on ICZM to be a very important initiative and commended the highly professional quality of the initial draft, produced in a relatively short space of time. Subject to the necessary refinement, and without prejudice to national sovereignty and legislation, it would stand as a milestone in endeavours to protect the Mediterranean coastal environment and help reverse the negative trends of coastal degradation. Several speakers stressed its importance in providing impetus and strategic and practical backing to countries developing their own ICZM legislation, institutions and initiatives. One speaker said that it was a sign of an integrated approach to ICZM, citing European Union initiatives along those lines.

55. Serious reservations were expressed by one Focal Point, however, about the practicability and realism of the draft Protocol as it stood. Certainly it represented an ideal, but it was altogether too ambitious, too absolute and too inflexible to be ratified, by his own Government at any rate, as he had ascertained from national consultations. A greater degree of flexibility should be introduced into the wording, and an assessment of its possible impact should be undertaken before the draft was submitted to the Contracting Parties. While that position was not shared by other speakers, it was noted that it was a significant concern which warranted serious consideration with a view to securing wide acceptance of the Protocol. That being said, ministries should be convinced of the economic justification for binding conservation and management measures. In countries where tourism was crucial to the economy, it was a matter of survival. Another view expressed was that a protocol should be confined to policy and strategy issues and not go into management matters. The draft was described by one speaker as a “hybrid” text combining principles with explanations and guidelines. More emphasis should be placed on interlinkages with other initiatives, notably related European Union texts, rather than merely listing what should or should not be done.

56. Among the suggestions for improvement was the need for greater emphasis on environmental impact assessments, particularly transboundary assessments, and likewise on regional rather than international cooperation. Doubts were expressed about the need to adopt strategies at both the regional and national levels (Articles 15 and 16): a regional strategy together with national action plans would surely be more appropriate. One Focal Point stressed the importance of providing for economic and financial mechanisms to enable the countries of the southern rim to meet the ambitious standards set in the draft Protocol. He also sought clarification of Article 14, which made no mention of management bodies, such as conservation agencies. He further wondered what the position of the Protocol would be on the ownership of land reclaimed from the sea.

57. Mr Mifsud welcomed the favourable reactions he had heard from the floor. The increasing threats to the Mediterranean environment, and hence the importance of ICZM, clearly called for action, and the draft Protocol was a significant response to that challenge.

58. Mr Trumbic said that the discussion had been most encouraging and a number of judicious proposals had been put forward and duly noted. He recalled, in response to the comment that the document was a hybrid, that such indeed had been the intent of the Contracting Parties when they had requested an intermediate version of the Protocol. He interpreted the day's discussion as a go-ahead for the draft Protocol, subject of course to further refinement. He assured participants that an informal assessment of the draft Protocol's impact would be requested of countries volunteering to contribute to such an exercise and noted Croatia's offer to participate. He pointed out that the purpose of the Protocol was precisely to prevent situations in which governments were obliged to take emergency remedial action to deal with uncontrolled development in coastal zones. That explained the need for strong working and binding provisions, although he understood the position of countries which were calling for greater flexibility.

Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management

59. Mr. Trumbic, introducing document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.276/3/3, wished to clarify in the first place that this was not the strategy referred to in the draft Protocol. The purpose of the MAP Strategy for ICAM in the Mediterranean was to provide PAP/RAC and the other MAP components collaborating in the implementation of ICAM in the region with a more structured approach in their work. He recalled that the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) had been called upon by the Contracting Parties at its Meeting in 2003 to prepare such a Strategy. He added that the present document, which merely constituted an outline of the proposed Strategy, was based on the guidance provided by an expert meeting held in Split in March 2005. He reviewed the principal components of the proposed Strategy, with particular reference to its purpose, vision and strategic objectives.

60. In the ensuing discussion, many Focal Points welcomed the fact that the document presented was clearly structured and well organized internally. However, the main question that arose concerned the relationship between this particular Strategy, the MSSD and the ICZM Strategy called for in the draft Protocol. Following an exchange of views, Mr. Hoballah clarified that the proposed Strategy was a MAP working document intended to guide the work of PAP/RAC and other collaborating MAP components in the promotion of ICZM in the region, that it would be reviewed once the Mediterranean Strategy called for in the draft Protocol had been adopted and that it would then be appended to the MSSD. The document currently before the meeting therefore constituted an interim operational strategic action plan. Similar documents should be prepared by other Centres.

Agenda item 5 : Environmental Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC)

61. Mr S. Illuminato, Director, ERS/RAC, outlined the background to the Progress Report for the period 2004-2005 and the proposed recommendations for the period 2006-2007 (document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/4/1), recalling the recommendations of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in respect of ERS/RAC and providing information on its present status and structure. It should be noted that he as Director had only been in office since August 2004 and that the implementation of some of the scheduled activities had accordingly been delayed somewhat, but that the structure was now fully operational and almost all activities were under way.

62. Mr. G.L. Borzelli, Remote Sensing Officer, ERS/RAC, presented the Progress Report for the period 2004-2005 (document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/4/1), drawing attention to the fact that, while the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties had recommended that ERS/RAC's activities should be refocused towards information and communication (IC), it had been implicitly agreed that such refocusing should take place gradually. The report for 2004-2005 reflected that gradual transition process, with ERS/RAC continuing ongoing activities while investigating user needs and Mediterranean data demands, and providing Mediterranean users and MAP components with improved data and facilitating the sharing and exchange of information.

63. In the ensuing discussion, the participants welcomed the steps taken to reactivate the Centre and place it on a sound footing, and noted with satisfaction that it was now fully operational.

64. The question of clarification of ERS/RAC's mandate and the refocusing of its work towards information and communication prompted a number of comments. While environmental remote sensing was considered useful – its use in the development of indicators and for the CAMPs was cited as an example – it was essentially a tool or technique and one that was, moreover, now very widely available at all levels, national, regional and international, and from many other sources. Although some speakers stated that it should remain among ERS/RAC's tools, most considered that the shift towards IC, with remote sensing as an instrument to be used in support of the Centre's broader communication and information-sharing function, was an appropriate move in the current regional and global context. In conceptual terms, it tied in with the need for interoperability and for emergence of a global information dialogue.

65. Several speakers stressed the wide scope for application of the Centre's information and communication tools, including remote sensing, across the Mediterranean basin. At the same time, they pointed out that remote sensing capacity varied greatly from country to country and that those tools should be distributed and made available across the region.

66. A number of speakers emphasized the crucial regional dimension of ERS/RAC and its potential networking function in that context. It could, for instance, house a dynamic regional database. As a service network, it could pool and facilitate the exchange of information on particular sectoral issues of Mediterranean concern, such as desertification. Such information would be of great use not only to institutions and individuals, but also to decision-makers and, in particular, other MAP components. In that connection, the importance of information-sharing among the RACs was underscored.

67. Noting the valuable work done by ERS/RAC on the MAP website, one Focal Point commented that there was still room for improvement to make it more user-friendly. The question of MAP's visibility was at stake, an especially important point in the year of its thirtieth anniversary. Another speaker, agreeing on the need for the website to be

interactive and attractive, asked for more information about the number of visits to the website.

68. Mr Illuminato recalled that he had been faced with a somewhat confusing situation on taking office, and even now the Centre's mandate remained to be clarified. What was clear, however, was that there was endorsement for the Centre's refocusing towards IC and a need for better information exchange and improved cooperation with other RACs. He was gratified by the favourable reactions to ERS/RAC's achievements in the previous period, stressing again that nearly all activities planned had either been completed or would be completed by October or November 2005. He was well aware of the importance of remote sensing tools and of the need to cooperate with all partners, especially national centres, to improve the delivery of data. He was likewise sensitive to the comments about the MAP website, adding that a dynamic approach had been adopted to the development of the website, which was now readily adaptable in all languages.

Presentation of the draft Evaluation Report

69. Introducing the draft Evaluation Report, Mr R. Pryjomko (consultant) commented on the information contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/4/2. In explaining the extensive evaluation process of the Centre, he emphasized that an understanding of the context in which the Centre operated was at the heart of a good evaluation. The main lessons to be drawn from the evaluation were that, while ERS/RAC had undertaken many activities, its effectiveness had been hindered by a number of basic factors including, in particular, problems related to its original mandate. It was therefore very clear, as recognized by the Contracting Parties in Catania, that the Centre would have to be rebranded to focus on information and communication . The rebranding process, based on a new mandate and mission statement, would have to be founded on a detailed analysis of the needs of users of the Centre's proposed services and would require a high level of political endorsement, partnerships and a sound design of the transformation process and the system to be established.

70. During the discussion of the draft evaluation, all speakers welcomed the very impressive presentation of the evaluation and the ideas put forward for the future of the Centre. They emphasized that it had been clear for some time that the Centre's mandate and functions would need to be changed and that, particularly in view of the continued high level of support from the host country, the opportunity for such change would need to be seized. There was clearly a great need for MAP in general to make the best possible use of the potential of IC to improve the dissemination of the vast amount of information currently in its possession and to improve its public image and, more generally, public awareness of issues relating to the environment and sustainable development. While much effort had evidently been made to improve the accessibility of the MAP website, there was still considerable potential to make it more user-friendly.

71. Several speakers laid emphasis on the vital importance of communication and public relations skills to ensure that the work of MAP and its components achieved the impact that was required. It would therefore be of great importance to ensure that the needs of target users were taken fully into account. There appeared to be four main categories of users, namely decision-makers, the general public, experts and users within the MAP community. Even during the process of the transformation of the Centre, a great effort should be made to make available the enormous amount of information in the possession of MAP and to vastly improve MAP's communication through the compilation, processing and dissemination of information.

72. Some Focal Points noted that, although many countries now had a relatively high level of capacity, including national centres specializing in environmental remote sensing, this was

still an important technique and there remained a need in certain countries for further capacity-building and technical assistance in this area. While it was recognized that environmental remote sensing was a tool, rather than an objective, and could not therefore be the sole focus of a MAP Regional Activity Centre, there should still be a place for the promotion and dissemination of environmental remote sensing activities, networking in this field and the use of the information produced in the work of the rebranded Centre.

73. All speakers also emphasized that the proposed transformation of the Centre constituted a very significant change, not only in the work of the Centre itself, but also in the information and communication culture that tended to predominate throughout most of the MAP structure. While it was clear that better information management and communication was essential, the difficulties involved, particularly in the compilation and processing of vast amounts of information, should not be underestimated. An enterprise of this nature would require a substantial level of financing and political commitment.

74. In response to the discussion, Mr Mifsud recalled that there was at present no adequate mechanism within the MAP structure to address the areas of information and communication with a view to increasing the visibility of MAP's work. The Information Officer in MEDU tended to be taken up more with public relations. He therefore welcomed the proposals that had been made and expressed gratitude to the Italian authorities for the willingness they had shown to support the reorientation of the Centre. It was necessary for the present meeting to give a firm indication of its support for the proposal so that the opportunity could be seized and endorsed by the Contracting Parties later in the year. It would now be necessary to work on the planned changes in greater detail, based on the needs expressed by the countries, including the continuing requirement for support in the field of environmental remote sensing.

75. Mr Pryjomko said that a number of valid questions had been raised during the discussion. Two tasks lay ahead. The first was to make a firm commitment to reform and then, once that step had been taken and the way ahead was clear, the tools and procedures would fall into place. Another question concerned organizational culture. Reluctance to change could be overcome through an appropriate policy statement and system design, which was essential before embarking on the development of a new information system.

76. In response to an invitation from the Chair to specify their agreement or otherwise to the basic proposal to transform ERS/RAC into IC/RAC or INFO/RAC, participants expressed their agreement in principle to change the name of the Centre and develop its activities in the realm of information and communication, although a number of them expressed their disagreement with such a change. It was reiterated that there was an obvious need for change and that, once the basic principle was agreed upon, the modalities and "business plan" could be worked out step by step, on the basis of the parameters proposed in the evaluation. It would be for the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2005 and ultimately the Contracting Parties in November to decide on the details of the mandate and activities of the Centre.

77. In that regard, several speakers, stressing the importance of a pragmatic approach and hence tangible proposals, suggested that there would be ample time between now and the September MAP Focal Points meeting for the Centre to refine its proposed programme activities.

78. Among the reservations expressed was the view that remote sensing should remain a tool to be used by the Centre. There was no regional centre in the Mediterranean serving MAP system remote sensing information needs.

79. Major points to be clarified included the Centre's mandate, its budget and the time-frame for its activities. The Centre's activities should cover all parts of the Mediterranean region and should be geared to enhancing MAP's visibility and furthering cooperation with other partners, including, in particular, MAP components. Provision must be made for all Mediterranean countries to be involved in the Centre's activities from the outset.

80. One Focal Point, supported by several other speakers, asked the Centre for urgent support to give greater visibility and publicity to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In particular, the best possible use should be made of the new MAP Internet site and support provided for information and communication side events.

81. Mr Illuminato reiterated that, considering the broad agreement on the evaluation report's conclusions and recommendations, in order to move ahead the Centre needed a clear mandate and a mission. The Centre could not operate without full support. Underlying that mandate was the capacity to use remote sensing tools along with other IC tools.

Proposed programme of activities for 2006-2007

82. Mr Illuminato presented the Centre's proposed programme of activities for 2006-2007 as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.276/4/1, specifying that it was a preliminary outline pending discussions on the Centre's future role.

83. Participants noted that, for obvious reasons, the proposed programme was only a general outline. There remained time, however, to refine it and, as had been suggested, post it on the website for information and for an interactive dialogue with stakeholders in real time.

84. A number of points were made regarding the Centre's role and function, from which its activities would derive. Concern was expressed about whether the Centre could effectively meet the legitimate aspirations of the countries requiring its services. It would be a user-driven Mediterranean Centre serving the MAP system. It did not have the capacity to take direct action, but would act as a catalyst, maximizing and disseminating information gathered from other centres, including the wealth of data and expertise available in other MAP components and elsewhere. It was MAP's best ally in disseminating such data using advanced technologies. It was stressed that its activities must be consistent with the seven priority fields identified in the MSSD. Close integration and coordination was urged with the other RACs and also with national centres. In the description of activities, certain terms needed further definition, such as "information projects" and "management of information". It was suggested that outputs or deliverables should be clearly specified in the list of programme activities. The use of other tools, such as GIS and the Internet, should also be made clear.

85. The Focal Point for Italy confirmed that, though at present mostly funded by Italy, the Centre was a MAP Regional Activity Centre serving the interests of all Mediterranean countries. She agreed with others that no sources of financing, for information and communication activities would be excluded in the future, and that the information provided would be for the use of all.

86. Mr Illuminato thanked participants for giving the Centre the opportunity to follow the orientation and recommendations of the evaluation and to proceed along the lines emerging from the discussion. The first step would be to further identify needs and to present a detailed programme of action. The Centre's main aim was to maximize the work of the MAP system by sharing and disseminating information, for the benefit of all its partners.

Agenda item 7: Adoption of the report of the meeting

87. The draft report of the meeting was examined and adopted by the participants, with certain modifications.

88. With regard to the draft recommendations concerning the three RACs, following some discussion, it was noted that there had not been sufficient time to examine them in detail and that the secretariat of each RAC would refine the proposed recommendations to reflect the discussions during the meeting. Focal Points were requested to submit any proposed amendments to the draft recommendations in writing to the respective secretariats within two weeks of the closure of the meeting. The proposed recommendations, as amended, would then be submitted for adoption by the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the meeting

89. Concluding a short discussion on the holding of joint meetings of the Focal Points of the three RACs, Mr Hoballah said that the comments made during the debates concerning the need to focus on coordination between the activities of the Centres had been noted and that in future joint meetings would start off with a discussion of collaboration between the Centres, rather than leaving the subject to the end of the meeting. The question was also raised as to whether, in view of the new horizontal mandate proposed for ERS/RAC, future joint meetings should be confined to Blue Plan and PAP/RAC.

90. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 11 am on 15 May 2005.

Annex I

BP, ERS, PAP RACs
Joint Focal Points Meeting- Réunion conjointe des Points Focaux

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ANNEX II- AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Thursday 12h May 2005	Friday 13th May 2005	Saturday 14th May 2005	Sunday 15th May 2005
09h00-09h30 Agenda Item 1 Opening of the meeting by the Coordinator of the MAP, the PAP/RAC, ERS/RAC and BP/RAC Directors ***Agenda Item 2*** Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work	***09h00-09h30 Agenda Item 4*** Opening of the meeting by the Director of PAP/RAC	***09h00-09h30 Agenda Item 5*** Opening of the meeting by the Director of ERS/RAC	***09h00-11h00 Agenda Item 6*** Ways and means for RACs cooperation and joint activities strengthening Presentation by the Coordinator of the MAP and the three Directors of the RACs. ***Agenda Item 6*** Discussion
09h30-10h30 Agenda Item 3 Presentation of the BP/RAC Progress Report for the Biennium 2004-2005, and the main conclusions of the Environment and Development Report (RED)	***09h30-10h00 Agenda Item 4*** PAP/RAC Progress Report for the Biennium 2004-2005	***09h30-10h00 Agenda Item 5*** ERS/RAC Progress Report for the Biennium 2004-2005	
10h30-11h00 Agenda Item 3 Discussion	***10h00-11h00 Agenda Item 4*** Discussion	***10h00-11h00 Agenda Item 5*** Discussion	
11h00 – 11h30 Coffee Break	**11h00 – 11h30 Coffee Break**	**11h00 – 11h30 Coffee Break**	**11h00 – 11h30 Coffee Break**
11h30-12h15 Agenda Item 3 Evolution of the BP/RAC activities in the middle term in the logic of the Environment and Development Report (RED)	***11h30-12h00 Agenda Item 4*** Programme for the Biennium 2006-2007	***11h30-12h00 Agenda Item 5*** Presentation of the Draft of the Evaluation Report	***11h30-13h00*** ***Agenda Item 7*** Adoption of the Report of the Meeting ***Agenda Item 8*** Closure of the Meeting
12h15-13h00 Agenda Item 3 Discussion	***12h00-13h00 Agenda Item 4*** Discussion	***12h00-13h00 Agenda Item 5*** Discussion	
13h00 – 14h30 Lunch Break	**13h00 – 14h30 Lunch Break**	**13h00 – 14h30 Lunch Break**	
14h30-15h30 Agenda Item 3 **Programme of the Biennium 2006-2007** General presentation and activities on priority topics	***14h30-15h00 Agenda Item 4*** Presentation of the Draft of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zones Management	***14h30-15h00 Agenda Item 5*** Programme for the Biennium 2006-2007	
15h30-16h30 Agenda Item 3 Discussion	***15h00-16h30 Agenda Item 4*** Discussion	***15h00-16h30 Agenda Item 5*** Discussion	
16h30 – 16h45 Coffee Break	**16h30 – 16h45 Coffee Break**	**16h30 – 16h45 Coffee Break**	
16h45-17h45 ***Agenda Item 3*** Coastal Area Management Program Indicators on Sustainable Development Discussion	***16h45-17h00 Agenda Item 4*** Presentation of the Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zones Management	***16h45-17h00 Agenda Item 5*** Presentation of the Strategy for information need and use	
	17h00-18h00 ***Agenda Item 4*** Discussion	***17h00-18h00 Agenda Item 5*** Discussion	
17h45-18h30 ***Agenda Item 3*** Valorization, dissemination, communication of the Environment and Development Report (RED) Discussion	**18h00-18h30** ***Agenda Item 4*** Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) : common Issues	***18h00-18h30 Agenda Item 5*** MAP Info System : Common	

Annex III

BLUE PLAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
PROPOSAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS-PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007

I RECOMMANDATIONS

A/ INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Environment and development outlook. Strategies, policies, indicators, and statistics.

Issues at stake

The Mediterranean region is characterized by rapid changes: globalisation and liberalisation of commercial trade, evolution in consumption and production patterns, population growth in the South and East, accelerated development of tourism and of surface, maritime and air traffic, agricultural and rural changes, urbanisation, urban sprawl and coastal over-development, increasing use of water and energy, rapid increase in quantities of household waste.

These changes have heavy consequences on the Mediterranean environment and culture. Changes are particularly notable in the land (with desertification and loss of arable land through artificialisation), water resources, urban environment (air quality, congestion), the coastal areas, landscape, and biodiversity. Costs of such degradation are high, and vulnerability to natural risks that characterise the region is increasing. Given the specifics of the Mediterranean region, most of pressures fall on the coastal areas.

A better integration of environmental concerns in all economic and international co-operation policies and the promotion of integrated development in rural spaces, cities, and coastal regions are necessary to control social and environmental impacts related to current changes.

The costs of inaction and the improvements offered by possible alternative scenarios must be taken into account. Action priorities and concrete realistic goals must be agreed upon. Appropriate tools to attain these goals and to measure progress must be adopted. All of this demands reliable and comparable statistics, environmental and developmental prospective studies, and the adoption of strategies accompanied by appropriate indicators.

Responses

The BP/RAC has for years developed prospective analyses. The new Report on Environment and Development (RED), dealing with six major issues (water, energy, transport, urban development, rural space, coastal areas) looks at recent changes and at the present situation, draws attention to risk impacts of future changes (up to 2025), and explores possible alternatives based on case studies and expert analyses. It can contribute to heightened Mediterranean awareness as well as suggest action.

Following the world summits on sustainable development in Rio and Johannesburg, the Mediterranean has moved toward the creation of strategies and the identification of sustainable development indicators. A variety of indicators have been adopted at the regional level and by several countries. A limited set of priority indicators has been proposed for the follow-up to the Mediterranean Strategy prepared by the MCSD with the cooperation of BP/RAC. The Strategy

proposes orientations and objectives in seven essential action areas (water, energy, transport, tourism, sea and coastal areas, cities, rural areas) and for implementation .

Certain countries have begun to create and adopt national sustainable development strategies, along with sets of indicators, and have implemented institutional programs to encourage the integration of environment and sustainability within various ministerial sectors. The Mediterranean NGOs now play a much more active role in pressuring decision-makers regarding issues of environmental and developmental integration.

In the context of the European-Mediterranean Partnership, the reinforcing of national Departments of Statistics in the realm of environmental statistics has occurred. The Euro-Mediterranean SMAP program for the environment has recently been reoriented to increase its strategic pertinence. The World Bank/METAP has completed a preliminary assessment of the costs of environmental degradation in several countries, thereby reinforcing awareness of the gravity of the problems as well as the need for a reorientation of policy.

Gaps

If today Mediterranean populations, including a growing number of decision-makers and businesses, are more aware of the risks involved in current trends and the possible benefits of environmental/developmental integration, most decision-makers and economic actors still remain too committed to traditional approaches.

The environment is still considered only a "sector" instead of a fundamental to be integrated into all aspects of economic policy. The difficulty of moving from end of the pipe approaches to anticipatory and truly integrated ones is significant, as much on the Euro-Mediterranean level as within individual countries. For example, the sustainability impact assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area was launched too late despite the potential for important consequences.
The lack of high-level political will and inter-ministerial cooperation mechanisms favouring sustainable development, as well as the relative weakness of environmental institutions, are all part of the problem. The insufficiency of policy assessments from the point of view of sustainable development, and the lack of data, notably regarding the costs of degradation and the benefits of integration, do not contribute to awareness. The level of training (economists, engineers, etc.) does not evolve rapidly enough to get beyond overly theoretical or technical approaches or promote understanding and more integrated approaches.

Within this context, it would be useful for the BP/RAC to better promote and disseminate the results of its work. A more active role for the Centre in relation to individual countries would be important in the post-Environment and Development Report context as national strategies are drawn up. This would allow to reach a larger public, whereas during recent years actions carried out (mobilisation of regional experts, regional meetings with national experts, studies conducted and syntheses developed by the Centre team) have involved only a limited number of people from each country.

The objective would be to inform and to involve more people in discussions regarding the environment and development while inviting and helping countries to use regional perspectives in national approaches taking into account different national contexts,mainly: Focusing on making environmental and sustainability considerations more important to sectoral decision-makers in the countries and helping Ministries of Environment to strengthen their monitoring and assessments capacities; encouraging the use of indicators identified for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; and, where needed, strengthening capacities in the use of indicators for national strategies. BP/RAC on-site aide/training missions are necessary, along with mobilisation of national experts and environmental ministries.

Publishing the Report on Environment and Development should bring increased visibility. The results should be made accessible in order to increase dissemination and to reach the different targeted publics. To communicate the information, contacts with the press will also be necessary. Requests for translation into languages other than French and English have been expressed. A reinforcement of synergy with the Euro-Mediterranean program SMAP 3 (which targets primarily the increased integration of environment and development) and cooperation with other regional institutions, the METAP in particular, appear desirable.

Concerning statistics, and in spite of progress already made, important data regarding sustainable development does not yet exist. Efforts in that direction by national statistics institutes would benefit from a greater use of environmental and territorial information in economic and sector statistics (energy, transport, tourism, agriculture). To fill such gaps, efforts are necessary at the environmental policy level regarding measurement stations and the gathering of quality data and expertise.

2. Financing and co-operation on sustainable development

Issues at stake

The establishment of a sustainable development process necessitates appropriate instruments for financing and co-operation in order to mobilise and render responsible all actors.

Responses

Innovative analytic work has been initiated on this issue within the MCSD, aided by the BP/RAC. This has led to an assessment of the current state of international financing as well as to the demonstration of the inadequacy of current financing and co-operation instruments on sustainable development issues. Certain countries (Algeria, etc.) have initiated high level (Ministry of Finance) debates on how to finance sustainable development.

Gaps

The regional report and the summary provided by BP/RAC have pointed out the principal remaining gaps as regards financing and international co-operation instruments as well as local financing instruments. These problems must be brought to the attention of economic decision-makers and donors which could then improve their strategies and methods.

The subject, which is itself far-reaching, has been approached only macro-economically. It needs meso- and micro-economical consideration, issue by issue. The proposal is to deepen studies in different areas of activity while documenting the most important cross-cutting indicators, for example the evolution of international financial flows and their contribution to the sustainable development priorities as identified at the regional level.

3. Sustainable management of water and energy

Issues at stake

The water demand (wasted and used) has doubled in one century and increased by more than 60% in the course of the last 25 years. Energy demand has more than doubled in 30 years.
The current trends are not sustainable. In numerous regions, the current levels of water use already attain or exceed availability with, as a consequence, a degradation of wetlands, a diminishment of resources, the salinisation of coastal water tables, and a growing risk of shortage

and conflicts. The consumption of energy depends largely upon fossil-fuel resources, and regional energy dependency will increase considerably if the present trend persists. The contribution of the Mediterranean region to the world's total greenhouse gases emissions could grow from 7% to 9%.

Given the current level of waste of water and energy, the most important area for improvement lies in the reduction of losses and wasteful uses. This presupposes a change from supply-side policies to policies more balanced between supply and demand. Demand policies are actually likely to satisfy social and economic needs at lower cost than traditional supply policies even as they better manage the environment. They can also allow, as 2025 approaches, the recovery and availability of quantities of resources far superior to what current alternative supply plans offer (desalinisation, re-use of waste water). The region offers significant potential renewable energies (solar, wind, etc.) currently undervalued. A firm implementation of the Kyoto Protocol could furnish short-term opportunities to finance projects for the rational use of energy and renewable energies.

Responses

Several BP/RAC reference documents are now available which describe the future increase of problems in the case of a "business as usual" scenario and suggest action for a realistic alternative scenario. Achievable goals are proposed based on consultation with numerous Mediterranean experts on water savings, the rational use of energy, and the promotion of renewable energies.

Water related actions undertaken in the context of MCSD suggest a reorientation of policies. A network of Mediterranean organisations has been established in the framework of the Global Water Partnership. The European Commission seeks to develop the Mediterranean component of its Water Initiative which was launched following the Johannesburg Summit.

Gaps

Despite progress made in certain countries, management based on demand remains scarcely developed, as does the integration of environmental concerns in planning (example: inadequate attention paid to various ecosystems' water need). Tariff and fiscal structures, incentives, and institutional systems are insufficient for motivating all parties. If certain countries have successfully begun to establish demand policies for water and energy and for developing renewable energies, these examples are rare and vague even though there is vast need for improvement, particularly in the areas of agricultural water and the housing/service sector for energy. Concrete efficiency goals still need to be established in several countries. The possibilities offered by the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol (especially the Mechanism for Clean Development) remain insufficiently known and employed.

Reflections at the national level to gather the information related to the priority indicators, to identify case and best-practices studies, and to negotiate the scope of possible improvements and implementation tools all need to occur as does regional sharing of experience.

4. Sustainable development in the Mediterranean region: rural space, cities, and coastal areas

Issues at stake

The Mediterranean region is characterised by the contrast between, on the one hand, vast ranges of hills and mountains, arid plateaux and desert zones, and, on the other hand, rare fertile plains alongside rivers or the sea.

The socio-economic and ecological fragility of Mediterranean rural zones is one of the principal causes for worry about the future of the region. The importance of environmental degradation (desertification: erosion, salinisation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity) and the poverty of huge and sometimes marginal populations characterise much of the rural space in developing countries. Globalisation can add to the difficulties in certain areas. In the more developed countries, hinterlands have been largely abandoned, and despite a rural renewal (tourism, agro-alimentary change, residential economy), social and environmental changes are problematical. Numerous Mediterranean landscapes are at risk. The risks of wide-spread fires are growing.

Urbanisation in the South and East and urban sprawl in the developed countries are ponderous trends. The rapid urban growth in the South and East is difficult to control and the preponderance of inadequate housing is rising. As a result of insufficient economic growth, the problems of poverty are extensive. The urban environment is degraded by poor air quality, by the rapid accumulation of waste, and by automobile traffic.

The coastal areas are degraded by multiple growing pressures (urbanisation, infrastructures, pollution, etc.), exacerbated by uncontrolled tourism development. The loss of productive agricultural land impacts the fertile plains.

Policies of sustainable agricultural and rural development, urban development, and integrated coastal zone management need to be strengthened in order to better reconcile the environment with development in diverse kinds of territories.

Responses

The "territorial" chapters of the Report on Environment and Development dealing with the coastal areas, cities, and rural space are an advance as compared to earlier MAP/Plan Bleu synthesis documents.

The coastal chapter places the emphasis on several important points: specificities, delimitation, various pressures and their dynamics, responses made and obstacles encountered. It warns on the need to act both at the level of the coastal areas themselves but also at the regional and national levels in all economic spheres (water and agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, regional development) in order to reduce unacceptable pressures sure to occur in the trend scenario.

The rural and urban spaces chapters present a synthesis of major past and possible changes and of the main challenges for the future. The seriousness of ecological and social fragilities and of challenges posed in the South and East of the Mediterranean are emphasized. Certain issues have been especially developed, for example about urban waste and transport, about Mediterranean mountains, about food, urban governance and sustainable rural development governance. The report suggests establishing both shared and differentiated approaches in regard to the liberalisation of Euro-Mediterranean agriculture (progressiveness, exemptions) as well as the strengthening of regional co-operation, as has been confirmed by other recent studies (notably by the FEMISE).

Several examples in various countries show the interest and importance of participatory practices in urban or rural renewal in order to make progress in environmental and socio-economic plans. The SilvaMediterranea program, re-launched in cooperation with the FAO, is a concrete opportunity to reinforce common knowledge and planning in the evolution toward participatory practices of sustainable development in policies and governance within the forestry sector.

Gaps

One of the principal gaps remains the lack of local capacities and of integrated policies for territorial development.

Certain successes, notably in the realm of sustainable rural development, remain still too little known. They are, however, of great importance for the future of the Mediterranean environment (resistance to desertification, preservation of biodiversity), and the future of its populations (struggle against poverty).

Another difficulty comes from the lack of "territorialized" data. A specific effort is required to agree upon various coastal indicators and sustainable rural development indicators as related to identified problems, and then to document them. The strengthening of cooperation between the BP/RAC and other MAP components (for the coastal indicators) and with the ICAMAS (for rural indicators) is necessary.

5. Sustainable Tourism and Transport

Issues at stake

Tourism is an essential sector for all Mediterranean countries but one that generates heavy environmental and socio-cultural impacts, notably along the coastal areas and around islands. Tourism flows are poorly distributed in time and in space, they are rapidly evolving and on the whole poorly controlled, and the value of the Mediterranean diversity remains insufficiently known. Changes to come need to be anticipated in order to reduce negative impacts and to promote a more sustainable tourism which can better satisfy urban and rural development needs throughout the region and in particular in developing countries in the Eastern Adriatic and in the South and East of the Mediterranean.

The increase in transports, reinforced by the liberalisation of trade and changes in life styles, is more rapid than the increase in GDP. Transports (freight and passenger) are predominantly road transports, and automobile use is rapidly increasing. The impacts in terms of nuisances (noise, pollution), costs of congestion, land use, vulnerability to risks, and household expenditures are increasing rapidly. Alternative policies are possible and necessary to favour less polluting modes of transport.

Responses

Knowledge about past and possible changes in tourism and transports (and about their impacts) has grown because of increased documentation. Numerous examples in various countries show that solutions are currently sought to control rapid change. An alternative scenario has been proposed for transports.

Gaps

One important gap in the transport area is the lack of current precise data about maritime transports in the Mediterranean (flows, type, origin, destination). The last matrix made for the Blue Plan dates from 1985. Specific attention to this subject is required.

Regarding tourism, among various weaknesses there is insufficient knowledge or evaluation of the real tourism revenues for local populations and of the external costs on the environment. The lack of assessment of tourism policies from the point of view of sustainable development and of regional mobilisation for promotion of sustainable tourism is also significant. A precise assessment of recommendations adopted in 1999 remains to be done.

6. Follow-up and deeper assessment of various issues

All seven themes contained in the proposal for a Mediterranean Strategy (water, energy and climate, transports, tourism, sustainable agriculture and rural development, sustainable urban development, sea and coastal areas), along with transversal problems (financing and co-operation, strengthening of human-resource pool), or other themes (industry), justify significant follow-up and in depth analysis.

The means allocated to the BP/RAC are insufficient to efficiently address all these issues and help individual countries to develop analyses adapted to their specific situations.

In this context, it would be desirable for the BP/RAC to:

- maximise synergies and collaborations with other more specialised regional partner institutions and seek out other support.
- favour questions to which the MAP is likely to bring a real added value (sustainable development indicators, inventory of best practices and of policy-tools for demand management and integrated development, sharing of Mediterranean experience)
- concentrate on a limited number of themes. Given the planned schedule for the MCSD, the Centre could work on only two themes per biennium (water and energy in 2006-2007) while initiating two new themes (rural sustainable development and tourism in 2007) which would be finalised in the following biennium.

It would be important also to assure a minimum attention to other themes as well as the follow-up on priority indicators as put forth in the Strategy, in particular the coastal indicators which justify particular attention. Technical collaborations with other MAP components (for the sea and coastal areas), specialised regional networks and the environmental agencies (AEE, individual country agencies) for the follow-up of progress need to be better structured.

Themes not dealt with in the present biennium would be developed in the future.
The BP/RAC data base will be continuously up-dated for all indicators.

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties

1. To support the dissemination of the Environment and Development Report's findings in countries and on the Euro-Mediterranean level and the implementation of the common PAP/BP/METAP project in support of implementing the SMAP III programme so as to strengthen the integration of the environment into development in strategies and policies.
2. To support the Blue Plan’s efforts for developing the follow-up activities (sustainable development indicators, thematic follow-up) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

3. To support (voluntary countries, the European Commission) the Blue Plan's efforts for conducting the priority thematic activities by mobilising qualified experts and the other relevant ministries or agencies and by welcoming and funding regional, sub-regional and national events (workshops).

Recommendations to the Secretariat (BP/RAC)

1. To increase its presence in individual countries in order to reach a larger public and to contribute to the strengthening of Environmental Ministries' capacities to better integrate environmental concerns into sector policies
2. To make the main findings of the Environment and Development Report available to countries and other users in an appropriate format (policy briefs, PowerPoint presentations, websites, participation in national and regional discussions).
3. To help Contracting Parties to build up information that facilitates the follow up and implementation of the Mediterranean, national and sectoral Strategies for Sustainable Development. Document the indicators, expand analyses and find out good practices with voluntary countries, the EU bodies and the partners and regional initiatives involved in the following fields: water-demand management; energy and climate change; sustainable tourism, sustainable rural development.
4. To focus thematic activities in areas where the MAP can bring added value: sustainable development indicators and trend analysis, inventory of best practices and of policy-tools for demand management and integrated development, sharing of Mediterranean experience.
5. To produce and disseminate a set of indicators for following-up the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and help countries provide themselves with indicators for their national strategies..
6. To strengthen technical partnerships with the other MAP components and institutions such as the EEA, Femise, FAO, ICAMAS, IUCN, GWP-Med, OME, MEDENER, METAP, , and so forth. And continue engaging in regional co-operation projects in compliance with BP/RAC mandate (*Silva Mediterranea*, MEDSTAT, SMAP, etc.) funded by the European Union and international donors.

B/ SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AREAS

Responses

The BP/RAC has been developing for several years prospective analyses for coastal regions, notably in the framework of CAMPs. These analyses constitute a powerful tool to make people aware of non-sustainable trends, to provide objectives for the medium and long terms, and to put in place integrated management policies. A new, more participatory method called systematic and prospective sustainability analysis (SPSA) has been developed the last few years and should benefit future CAMPs.

Recommendations to the Secretariat (BP/RAC)

1. To help countries carry out prospective analyses in coastal areas and contribute to the implementation of the MAP's CAMPs.

II. ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

A. Integrating environment and development

Integrating environment and development Indicators and Policies Support missions / Trainings in the countries
National expertises (Indicators and Policies) In the priority themes (Water, Energy, Tourism, Rural Development) and regional expertises
Experts Meeting on the priority issues
Regional Workshop on water demand management
SilvaMediterranea programme for the FAO
Indicators and Statistics Coastal indicators selection and follow-up in connection with the other MAP components. Experts meeting.
Euro-Mediterranean project MEDSTAT Environment
Feasibility study of a Maritime Transport Statistics Observatory in collaboration with REMPEC.
Contribution to the Safe Med project head by REMPEC
Communication, translation and enhancement of the derived-products Conception, translation and publishing of communication supports (policy briefs, dossiers, web sites) and dissemination
BP/RAC Focal Points Meeting

B. Sustainable management of Coastal Zones

Systemic and prospective analysis of the coastal regions and the connected information systems. Contribution to the PAC of the MAP.

Annex IV

**PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
PROPOSAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS-PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007**

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ICAM AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

Issues at stake

In spite of many international and national efforts in recent decades to ensure sustainable management of coastal natural resources, coastal areas, throughout the Mediterranean, still face severe pressures and problems, which threaten coastal resources and undermine the viability of economic activities. The significance of the coastal areas is widely recognised, as well as the need to act in the immediate future since pressures are becoming more and more intense. Population growth on the south shores, changing agricultural production systems towards more intensive and resource demanding uses in the north but also lately in the south, industrial development and expanding transport infrastructure, but mostly expanding tourism lead to increasing concentration of population and economic activities in coastal areas. As a consequence, the following most serious and worrying issues could be elaborated:

- **Coastal urbanisation**, mainly as a result of population concentration, uncontrolled tourism development and growth of recreational activities (secondary houses). This is primarily evident in most of the countries of the southern Mediterranean, but also in the north. The uncontrolled and rapid land development, coupled with land speculation has detrimental effects on the coastal environment and landscape. Coastal urbanisation represents the bulk of consequences related to coastal areas, such as reduction in size of vast coastal spaces (e.g. farmland, habitats) creating, thus, a spatial imbalance in development between strong coastal areas and abandonment of weaker inland areas.

- The development of **tourist activities** in most of the Mediterranean countries is a key element in coastal urbanisation (new settings or "reconversion" sites), both setting off processes of local economic growth and a heavy burden on local authorities who are faced with the difficult choices of management in every sense of the word (facilities, services, municipal sewage and waste treatment, imbalance between seasons, etc.). Therefore, mass tourism exacerbates many of the problems existing in urban areas, often exceeding the local carrying capacity. The most attractive areas and sites, naturally preserved or with high landscape values and cultural heritage are under strongest pressures.

- **Water consumption** is increasing, reaching its maximum rates in coastal areas of many southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, in particular in the urban areas. The consumption of water is often the result of inadequate land use structure.

- **Landscape degradation and biodiversity losses** are the most common consequences of the above mentioned developments. It is widely recognised that the diversity of Mediterranean landscapes contributes to local and regional identity, reflecting the past and present relationship between man and his natural and built environment. Very rich cultural landscapes have been developed through many millennia when different civilisations flourished around the Mediterranean and developed coastal landscapes as a result of transformations in land in order to produce food, build living habitats, art and so on. Nowadays, however, increasing threats to cultural identity, biodiversity, heritage and landscape diversity of the region due to external (e.g. globalisation) and internal factors (e.g. rapid urbanisation of coastal areas, intensifying of agricultural areas or abandonment

of farming, forest fires) can be witnessed constantly. As a result, natural and cultural (man-made) landscapes have deteriorated significantly in several coastal places.

Most of the above issues are interrelated, providing for a rather complex grid of relationships, and resulting in a number of coastal use conflicts. Evidently, conflicts in the use of coastal resources, threats to natural habitats and landscapes, pollution and resource degradation reduce the potentials that sustainable and integrated management, if prudently implemented, could offer. Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) approach has been widely recognised as a conceptual framework to develop policies and actions leading to sustainable use of natural resources and improved quality of life in coastal areas. However, ICAM has not yet become a standard practice in the Mediterranean, and the integration between sectors, stakeholders, administrative levels, and involvement of public has not yet been achieved at a satisfactory level. Lack of resources and inadequate institutional arrangements for ICAM in many Mediterranean countries have prevented coastal actors to implement needed policy tools and instruments for effective ICAM, as well as to develop adequate coastal management strategies, and legal and regulative instruments for ICAM.

Responses

PAP/RAC activities in the past biennium have been directed mainly towards achieving both a long-term MAP objective, which is a promotion of sustainable management in coastal areas of the Mediterranean, and concrete actions to give immediate results in most problematic fields and areas. In short, PAP activities to reduce issues at stake in the reporting biennium can be summarised as follows:

Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)

PAP/RAC has continued being the leading force in promoting ICAM in the Mediterranean, and in particular with the preparation of the two documents of utmost importance, namely the draft text of ICAM Protocol and the ICAM Strategy. The Contracting Parties will have to make strategic decisions regarding these two initiatives. In the case of their positive response, it is expected that the responsible stakeholders in the region will have important instruments to help them manage one of their most coveted assets – the coastal zone. Other activities implemented were carried out in order to raise the awareness on the need for sustainable management of coastal areas, training and capacity building at various levels. With the same purpose, a number of strategic papers were printed and distributed widely (Guidelines, on implemented CAMP projects, Good Practices Guides, specific country reports on coastal management and so on). Also, development of tools and techniques for ICAM is a continuous activity of PAP/RAC aiming at transferring the experience in and approaches to appropriate management of coastal areas to member states, experts and other stakeholders in the ICAM process.

CAMP projects

PAP continued playing the role of an overall co-ordinator of CAMPs, and three CAMP projects, in Algeria, Lebanon and Slovenia were implemented in this period. Three more were in the preparatory phase, CAMPs for Cyprus, Morocco and Spain, while new initiatives are emerging, notably in Serbia and Montenegro and in Italy. Principles of sustainable development in general as well as specific methodologies and tools for ICAM were put to practice when dealing with priority issues in CAMP areas. Capacity building, awareness raising and involvement of stakeholders and public in general in the implementation of these projects were obligatory project components and have shown successful results.

Gaps

ICAM is still not widely used and not enough stress has been placed on the implementation of strategic issues that would result in tackling major and common problems in spite of significant efforts done. Involvement of and integration among administrative levels, private sector, general public, NGOs, other potential end-users and partners has not reached a satisfactory level. Strong approach to integration of coastal sectoral policies, which is a prerequisite of successful integrated coastal management, is still weak and is a challenge to be overcome. Governments, experts and institutions in the Mediterranean still need support in capacity building in order to be able to implement ICAM. Capacity building and training, development of tools and techniques is still to be improved, as well as the distribution of the information and results of various activities.

Endeavours towards adoption of a legal instrument (i.e. ICAM Protocol) for coastal area management should be continued, and countries are invited to put all their efforts to fulfil this strategic objective of MAP, as proposed by the MSSD, too. The state of national legislation concerning integrated coastal area management is not satisfactory, and additional efforts have to be employed. This is not related to the establishment or introduction of specific ICAM legislation only, but primarily to better implementation of the existing legislation, which can be more of sectoral nature, but, nevertheless, dealing with coastal areas. In any case, co-ordination between sectoral initiatives in coastal areas should be improved. And finally, countries need assistance in developing their national ICAM strategies, as well as long-term visions for their coastal areas.

In addition to the already well established priority ICAM issues, some new emerging ones should be implemented, such as: the marine spatial planning, that should provide principles and tools for better integration of sea and land coastal issues; landscape management, that could assist CPs to deal with this emerging issue and to achieve convergence with other specific international legal obligations in this respect; coastal urban management including the water issue and the public transport management, in order to improve traffic related problems, pollution and quality of life as such in urban areas; and coastal risk management.

Activities in CAMP projects are sometimes too diffuse what makes integration a bit more difficult task than it should, otherwise, be. A better link should also be established with potential financiers of the projects indicated as priority in the individual CAMP's Action Plans, and follow-up activities. With regard to the latter more political will is needed at local and national levels in order to continue the ICAM process as initiated by CAMP. Alternatively, a stronger financial contribution by the CAMP country should be requested in order to allow for continuation of the project. Also, there were no proposals for CAMPs of sub-regional or transboundary nature, as suggested by PAP/RAC to the CPs. The same can be stated for the reporting by the country on the progress after the CAMP project has been completed, which is envisaged by the CAMP Agreements.

Landscape management as an issue has never been studied or elaborated in various MAP projects *per se* in spite of a clear commitment in the Convention by the CPs. Only indirectly, through proposals of various documents (plans, strategies), in projects oriented to local level, such as CAMP, by using ICAM methodologies or by dealing with individual natural resources, landscape was also taken into the account. However, landscape specific methodologies and concepts were not developed or existing ones taken into account. Also, knowledge of the landscape typology, i.e. variety of landscapes is not adequate, as well as the main processes and forces influencing their transformation.

1.1. Legal Framework (Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management)

Recommendations Addressed to Contracting Parties

1. To continue addressing the continuing degradation of the Mediterranean coastal zone through a process of integrated management.
2. To undertake the activities towards the adoption of the regional Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management.

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC)

1. To assist the countries and other regional stakeholders in their efforts towards the adoption of the regional Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management, on the basis of a broad process of consultation among experts and other interested parties.

1.2. Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

Recommendations Addressed to Contracting Parties

1. To urge the relevant authorities in their countries to improve the implementation of the MCSD recommendations on sustainable management of coastal areas and to implement components of the MSSD related to coastal management.
2. To support PAP in implementing the Strategy on Integrated Coastal Area Management and CAMP in the Mediterranean and to support the relevant authorities and institutions in preparing national and regional strategies and programmes for ICAM.
3. To continue efforts towards adopting new and/or improving the implementation of the existing national legislation for sustainable coastal management.
4. To encourage authorities in Cyprus, Slovenia and Spain to implement CAMP projects in their countries. Also, to support Morocco and Serbia and Montenegro to start preliminary activities for CAMP project..
5. To invite countries where there have not yet been any CAMP projects to propose new projects. The countries that have already had CAMP projects are invited to commit themselves to the follow-up activities, and to consider new projects in light of the recommendations of the proposed ICAM and CAMP strategy, particularly having in mind new types of CAMP projects.
6. To encourage authorities in Algeria, Croatia and Egypt to prepare their national reports on coastal management.
7. To support the implementation of activities related to development and application of landscape management methodologies and tools.
8. To support the implementation of EU/SMAP programme related to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management, activities to improve beach management, and information sharing through the clearinghouse mechanism.

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC)

1. To assist countries in implementing the regional strategy for integrated coastal area management and CAMP, including efforts in developing new types of CAMP projects.
2. To pursue the development and implementation of ICAM tools and instruments, specifically, marine spatial planning, coastal information systems, EIA and SEA in coastal environments, economic instruments for coastal management, carrying capacity assessment for tourism, landscape management, beach management, and integrated coastal area and river basin management (ICARM).

3. To support and assist the Contracting Parties in preparing their national and local strategies and programmes for ICAM, in implementing tools, techniques and methodologies for ICAM, and in developing the sub-regional initiatives in ICAM.
4. To assist Algeria, Croatia and Egypt to prepare their national reports on integrated coastal management.
5. To co-ordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects, under the overall co-ordinating responsibility of MEDU.
6. To prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements, to implement the on-going MAP CAMP projects and the projects whose implementation has been decided on.
7. To propose to the countries where CAMP projects have been completed the introduction of new and/or adaptation of existing instruments for environmental management and to assist those countries in preparing viable projects, which would enable the follow-up of CAMPs.
8. To continue institutional strengthening and capacity building of the Contracting Parties' national and local institutions by means of traditional and internet-based training courses (MedOpen), exchange of information on ICAM through "clearing house" mechanism, maintaining the informative web-site, publishing and disseminating guidelines, thematic papers, programme results and other achievements.
9. To strengthen the existing and seek new partnerships in the region aimed at the implementation of ICAM and sustainable development in coastal regions.

2. INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Issues at stake

Tourism and sustainable development

Tourism is still one of the basic development activities in the Mediterranean. Many countries, especially those in the South and the East of the Mediterranean, as well as the Adriatic region, consider tourism to be their main development opportunity. However, besides its positive effects on national income, employment and quality of life, tourism still has negative effects, especially in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean countries. Increased pressure on ecosystems, construction along the coastline, diminished surface of protected areas, increased pollution and construction of communications along the coastline, are just some of the problems encountered by those countries. The main challenge for the Mediterranean tourist countries still remains to be the harmonisation of the development needs and tourist potential to meet those needs with the carrying capacity of their environmental and socio-economic systems.

Urban and coastal local management and sustainable development

Demographic pressures are the main force for changes of coastal areas and in particular their urban areas. In relation to this, the problems of local management, where most of the management instruments for and decisions for changes are adopted and implemented, are more than evident. Urban and coastal management in local political context is characterised by conflicting priorities (employment and income vs. environment, short- vs. long-term actions) and it requires a lasting pressure on politicians for more sustainability considerations, above all through stronger civil society (civic engagement through citizens and community-based organisations, NGOs, different interest groups) as the most important trigger and control of political actions.

Land degradation, water resources and beach management

Water and soil are two natural resources that are crucial for the functioning of the ecosystem and for the development. Anyway, the problems of water and soil are not expressed only in the

inadequate physical supply of the resources, but additionally worsened by inadequate management. Thus, for example, we have a situation where urban areas of some countries with very high rainfall rates almost constantly face crisis situation regarding the water supply for urban population. Other problems that need mentioning are inappropriate agricultural practices causing degradation of land, such as soil erosion; diminished replenishment of the underground aquifers, as well as increased flooding; inadequate systems of protection against fires in coastal forests; absence of systematic programmes of water savings resulting in exaggerated consumption and growing water demand. In addition, management of the beaches as a crucial spatial component for tourism sector has experienced various approaches, which do not always lead to rational solutions for the environment. A need for the exchange of the good practices and appropriate methodologies for the beach management is more than evident.

Responses

Tourism and sustainable development

PAP/RAC has been developing and implementing for years the method of carrying capacity assessment for tourism. This method was applied in numerous areas where CAMP projects were implemented, as well as by some countries outside the CAMP projects. The method is flexible, enables easy adaptation to the local conditions, and offers a realistic framework for planning of tourism within the limits of sustainable development of an area. The results of a carrying capacity assessment make a key input in the preparation of ICAM programmes and plans of coastal areas. The efforts to increase the capacity of local stakeholders to implement the carrying capacity methodology were made.

Urban and coastal local management and sustainable development

In order to facilitate and assist countries in the implementation of the MCSD recommendations on urban management, PAP/RAC prepared the Guidelines for Urban Regeneration in the Mediterranean. All these activities are additional to those that have already been described in the previous chapters. With regard to the local management a position paper was prepared with a view of developing relevant future activities to be submitted to the MCSD.

Land degradation, water resources and beach management

Jointly with FAO, PAP/RAC has developed a methodology of soil erosion and desertification mapping and management. Two guidelines have been prepared, including a Photolibrary. A sub-regional project is being prepared in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco aimed at introducing soil erosion management in the planning systems of those countries. A series of training courses were organised in this framework upon request of some countries. In addition, PAP/RAC was a partner to ERS/RAC in implementing an EU LIFE III countries project "Improving Coastal Land Degradation Monitoring in Lebanon and Syria" (CoLD), together with local partners from Lebanon and Syria. All these experiences were shared with the UNCCD and FAO, and with the latter, this close co-operation will result in a joint regional workshop in autumn this year.

As a continuation of the endeavours of PAP/RAC in the previous period, the Guidelines for Integrated Urban Water System Management in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean have been prepared. The main objective is the integration of water resources management and urban management in order to provide advice on how to stabilise water supply for urban population. As for the activities related to beach management a pilot study "Evaluating the State of Beach Management in the Mediterranean" that analysed a number of cases around the region was prepared, as well as a workshop to share these experiences.

Gaps

Tourism and sustainable development

The principles of sustainable tourism development have not yet entered all spheres of decision-making in tourism, or development in general, in the Mediterranean. A great effort is required to provide a widespread explanation of the meaning of CCA for tourism. Although the mere calculation of the carrying capacity is not mathematically complicated, a proper understanding of all relevant CCA parameters and definition of their interrelations still requires great efforts. A special problem is posed by a lack of appropriate statistics at the national, and even more, at the local levels.

Urban and coastal local management and sustainable development

One of the main shortcomings with regard to urban management is the lack of understanding of the roles of various actors in urban management, or what the true role is of urban planning in relation to the application of appropriate instruments and policies, institutional arrangements in urban management, and the role of national authorities. This issue is, however, an urgent one, when we take into account the fact that most of the decisions on urban development are made by the local authorities where there is a great need for capacity building or raising, as well as the fact that the spatial planning, which falls into the national institutional responsibilities, varies substantially around the region.

Land degradation, water resources and beach management

In spite of clearly defined priorities, which are mostly contained in the recommendations of the MCSD for water resources management, the concrete actions are still primarily related to the creation of water supply and not to limitations or changes in the structure of water demand. At the regional level, a common water resources management strategy has not yet been adopted, nor the ones regarding soil erosion reduction and desertification prevention. There is still a lack of adequately educated experts able of setting correct priorities in water use and acting accordingly. Majority is still made of water experts who are basically hydroengineers who see increased water use as a solution for financing numerous problems of the water sector, including the activities aimed at reducing pollution by wastewaters. However, the key of a positive change leading to sustainable development is in a changed behaviour of all stakeholders of the water sector. Soil erosion control is a long process, and for the moment there is a lack of educated experts able to launch changes in the agricultural practice of many Mediterranean countries. Efforts have to be increased to raise the awareness as well as the capacity of local actors to implement efficient methods of beach management.

Recommendations Addressed to Contracting Parties

1. To support activities on Local Management and Sustainable Development in the framework of MCSD.
2. To urge the municipal authorities to apply the recommendations of the MCSD on Urban Management and Sustainable Development.
3. To support efforts to introduce better practices for urban water resources management, in particular the implementation of the relevant guidelines.
4. To encourage their national and local authorities, and relevant stakeholders to apply carrying capacity assessment for tourism activities as a common tool for sustainable development of tourism.
5. To support activities related to combating land degradation (e.g. soil erosion/desertification control) and to support the partnerships of PAP/RAC with relevant international organisations and institutions.

Recommendations Addressed to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC)

1. To assist the MCSD Working Group on Local Management and Sustainable Development.
2. To assist the Contracting Parties in their endeavours to implement the MCSD recommendations on urban management and sustainable development through the development of appropriate urban management tools and instruments, further developing the methodology for urban regeneration.
3. To promote the use of carrying capacity assessment as a tool for sustainable development of tourism, through the enhancement of the capacity of Mediterranean national and local institutions, and to continue offering technical assistance.
4. To support local authorities in implementing guidelines for sustainable urban water resources management.
5. To continue activities related to land degradation (e.g. soil erosion/desertification control) management and to establish new partnerships with international and regional organisations and institutions in this field.

3. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2006 - 2007

CONSULTANTS

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

MAP CAMPs
Co-ordinating role; implementation of ICAM activities in Cyprus, Slovenia and Spain; natural resources management; participatory programmes; data management; capacity building; environmental assessment; sustainable urban management; CCA for tourism; preparation of ICAM strategies, programmes and plans; implementation of economic instruments for coastal zone management as a follow-up to SAP MED; integration of activities; preparation of final integrated reports; preparation of bankable projects as a follow-up of CAMP activities; preparatory activities for CAMP projects in Morocco, and Serbia and Montenegro.
ICAM
Implementation of the Strategy on integrated coastal management and CAMPs in the Mediterranean
Preparation of the final text of the Protocol for ICAM through a series of expert meetings and stakeholder forums
Assistance to Mediterranean countries in application of ICAM and ICARM methodologies: application/development of tools and instruments for ICAM - marine spatial planning, SEA, coastal hazard assessment and risk management, coastal information systems, land and sea use planning systems, vulnerability studies
Preparation of the good practices guidelines for beach management in the Mediterranean
Preparation of the analysis of the spatial planning systems in Mediterranean coastal regions
Assistance to Mediterranean countries in preparing their national reports on coastal management (Albania, Egypt)
Implementation of SMAP (EU project on ICZM); raising awareness, enabling implementation of activities*
Implementation of thematic studies with a view to development and application of landscape management methodologies and tools in Mediterranean coastal areas
Update and improvement of the Regional clearing house mechanism for documentation, information dissemination and awareness on coastal area management initiatives in the Mediterranean countries

INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of the recommendations of the MCSD Working Group on Urban Management and SD: awareness raising, regional exchange of experience
Assistance to countries in implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
Assistance to countries in development and preparation of strategies and management plans to combat land degradation (e.g. soil erosion/desertification control)

TRAINING

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

MAP CAMPs
Capacity building of stakeholders in CAMPs.
ICAM
Improvement and implementation of the internet-based open training course on ICAM (MedOpen); training documents, case studies, selection of candidates, helpdesk, discussion groups, basic and advanced courses, examinations; implementation of the Educom@Med master's degree course on integrated coastal area management
Regional workshop to discuss and adopt the good practices guidelines on beach management in the Mediterranean
Regional workshop to propose measures to improve spatial planning in Mediterranean coastal areas
Regional training to introduce methodologies and tools for landscape management; landscape planning, vulnerability studies, landscape typology

INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Regional TC on application of guidelines for sustainable urban water resources management in French
Regional TC to implement the Guidelines for Carrying Capacity Assessment for Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean

MEETINGS
National Focal Points Meeting of PAP/RAC (jointly with ERS/RAC and BP/RAC)

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT REMOTE SENSING
PROPOSAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS-PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007

1. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2006-2007

Introduction

ERS/RAC is undergoing a process of profound internal reforms – namely, redefining its overall mandate; consolidating internal capacities and capabilities (technical, managerial, administrative etc) as well as redefining its working relationship with the MAP community as a service provider. Such a process is complex, time consuming and never easy. It depends upon a very careful consideration of what has and has not worked in the past, the available resources and capacity of the Centre (now and in the future) and how best these resources, skills, tools, capabilities etc. can be directed towards making a positive contribution to MAP and its overall agenda and priorities. Consequently, at this moment in time it can be stated that ERS/RAC (to be renamed Info/RAC) is a "work in progress." This does not preclude its ability to plan and deliver specific activities and deliverables. However, in considering the proposed programme for 2006-2007 it should be considered that:

- All the specific details required may not be available due to activities underway concerning institutional reforms
- A planned requirements survey of the wider MAP community will yield important user-derived information regarding which IC (information and communication) services Info/RAC should offer in the future
- In presenting the proposed programme below it must be accepted that changes and modifications in the planned activities will be inevitable as specific user needs and requirements come to light within the framework of the expanded mandate of the Centre.

Furthermore, the programme outline was prepared considering:

The 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols (The Barcelona Convention), held in Catania, Italy on 11-14 November 2003, which adopted Recommendation I.A.2.1, entitled "MAP and RACs evaluation", in which the COP called on the Secretariat:

- *"To launch an external evaluation of ERS/RAC, drawing on the lessons learned from the previous evaluations in terms of approach, methodology and criteria".*

- *"to extend the scope of activities of ERS/RAC to information and communication technologies";*

Within this context, ERS/RAC in close consultation with the MAP Coordinating Unit (MEDU) and its Components, the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory and the Sicilian Region, propose the following (draft) work programme for the biennium 2006-2007 which considers and integrates:

- The recommendations of ERS/RAC's evaluation report for refocusing of the Centre toward information and communication functions/services;
- The general consensus among participants to the ERS/RAC NFPs Meeting in Nice (May 2005) that the Centre should indeed focus on the wider information management and communication challenges facing MAP;
- The Centre should support the future orientation of MAP and its links with other

regional and international organizations and programs in the Mediterranean;
- A focus on service provision at the regional scale, through the implementation of the most appropriate and sustainable IC tools and value added services;
- Improved and focused technical assistance to Mediterranean countries in IC domains;
- Help to strengthen partnerships across the MAP community and especially where such partnerships will assist and enable improved information sharing and dissemination.

MAP is now at a crossroads. Thirty years after its launch, its future role, both from a strategic and operational point of view, has to be determined in light of recent developments in the region and at the global level. On this basis, its priorities, effectiveness and direction must also be assessed.

For over three decades, MAP (and its signatory nations) has made valuable contributions to the goal of sustainable development in the region. However here too, re-evaluation and reforms are necessary to accommodate the profound social, economic and environmental changes impacting the basin. In addition, there are demands for MAP to become increasingly "action oriented," true to its original appellation as a Mediterranean Action Plan and in response to the needs of its diverse beneficiaries.

New resources/capacities that allow MAP to mitigate its potential inertia and/or "isolation" and become a more action-oriented body need to be identified. A key component of this revitalisation strategy is the adoption of effective information and communication systems, that support the goals of MAP and its sustainable development agenda across the Mediterranean by coordinating and linking the information needs of governmental, non governmental and concerned citizens as key stakeholders in the future of the Mediterranean.

This will occur by strengthening the shared information management and communication (IC) capacity of MAP components (using the proposed MAP-Info system and related components), as well as by supporting the activities of its cross-sectoral constituency as they make vital contributions to the collective goal of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Working for and on behalf of the wider MAP community, the future "Info/RAC" wishes to become a valued-added service provider with the primary goal of meeting the IC demands of users across the Mediterranean as they work towards the MAP agenda. If, through the application of appropriate IC tools and capacities, Info/RAC can enhance the unity of purpose across a diversity of activities executed by various stakeholders, then it will have gone a long way to fulfilling its new mandate.

Bearing this in mind, the following recommendations and activities for the Centre in the 2006-2007 biennium are proposed (subject to modification and/or clarification).

2. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Invite the Contracting Parties to take note of the evaluation report and adopt the recommendations for the refocusing of the Centre toward information and communication, "INFO/RAC".
2. To support the new mandate of the INFO/RAC by providing national level information on experiences and lessons learned on environmental and sustainable development information management and participatory approaches to decision making and awareness raising.
3. To promote and support national level information and communication activities to increase the visibility of MAP's activities and outputs.
4. To encourage national level linkages with end users of MAP produced information and products.

To request the Secretariat (ERS/RAC):

1. To modify ERS/RAC's name into INFO/RAC.

2. To support collaboration with relevant organizations in the areas of information management and dissemination, especially in the design and implementation of MAP-Info (MAP's common information management and dissemination platform)

3. To facilitate the regular exchange of information with and among the MAP Components, to share requirements, experiences and lessons learned related to information and communication activities within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, especially with a view to strengthening the participatory design and approach of MAP-Info and offering services and technical support in the field.

4. To support the consolidation of MAP's activities in the fields of public awareness and expanded participation, with increased focus on promoting public participation, access and dissemination of information, while promoting the involvement of civil society, also with interested NGOs, through the use of appropriate information and communication tools (supported by MAP-Info) and through specific activities.

5. To specifically re-define the mandate and mission statement of the future "INFO/RAC" to include delivery of information services to support sustainable development and environmental protection in the Mediterranean Region. Following is a draft for the proposal of the new mandate:

- The Centre supports the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) through the delivery of information and communication products and supporting services It will establish an information service network with the other MAP operational components and partnerships. Its outputs will provide support to the decision-making process at various administrative levels and geographic scales, facilitating compliance with relevant protocols and conventions and enabling sustainable development across the Mediterranean basin

6. To modify a Host Country Agreement of the future "INFO/RAC", in close cooperation with the concerned Italian authorities, in order to better implement its regional and international status in the information and communication domains.

7. To maintain strong management/leadership of the future "INFO/RAC", committed to strategic planning, including the ability to secure long-term political and financial support from relevant external bodies to integrate and supplement the MTF share of funding.

3. ERS/RAC PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2006-2007

3.1. COORDINATION

ACTIVITY
Upgrading and maintenance of the UNEP/MAP website, implementation of intranet tools and necessary studies and design for more advanced Web Portal functions that support sharing and dissemination requirements of the widest MAP user base
Workshop for the identification of Mediterranean Community user-segments and needs and information retrieval from the “MAP Info System"
Execute a formal system design process for the establishment of a common information management infrastructure (MAP Info) that facilitates and supports IC activities across MAP – wherever possible, giving careful consideration to existing systems and/or plans for a MED-POL Information System, Mediterranean Data Clearinghouse etc.
Enhance and strengthen partnerships across MAP through a formal process of partnership building and brokering activities with measurable deliverables and benefits. This includes establishing direct Info/RAC bilateral partnerships with non-governmental organisations and other actors concerned with promoting public participation and raising awareness of the objectives and activities of MAP and the Barcelona Convention.
Execute and promote the Mediterranean Environmental Award as an annual event and ensure maximum and positive media/public exposure for the Award, MAP and the priority environmental concerns of the Mediterranean basin.
Facilitate a workshop(s) and related activities for the preparation of a strategic information and communication strategy in the context of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development-MSSD. Ensure convergence with the MAP Info design process and related recommendations
Provide technical assistance in the drafting and implementation of an information and communication plan to the country selected to host the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties – to ensure the most effective use of available IC tools, information resources etc.

3.2. COMPONENTS

3.2.1. Pollution Prevention and Control

ACTIVITY
Upgrading and management of the MED POL Info System
Information and capacity building applications on oil spill prevention and control, as well as maritime navigation security and control

3.2.2. Biological Diversity and Specially Protected Areas

ACTIVITY
Implement communication and information dissemination activities using relevant IC tools and platforms with a focus on the SPA Protocol and related Action Plans

3.2.3. Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

ACTIVITY
Assist local level development of information management tools/capacities to assist Countries to make the best use of CAMP outputs (e.g. on-going CAMPs in Cyprus). Wherever possible, ensure that tools and methodologies developed are transferable and replicable across the Med. basin
To support and promote improved communication among Contracting Parties to develop their knowledge base and access to information regarding the ICAM Strategy

3.2.4. Integrating Environment and Development

ACTIVITY
Organise and implement Joint National Focal Points Meeting of Info-BP-PAP/RAC (Italy) ensuring meeting has very clear goals and pre-defined deliverables, which support the overall IC capacity of MAP and the ability of Info/RAC to deliver on its new mandate
Carry out information dissemination and promotion activities to support regional initiatives integrating environment and development issues (e.g. supporting the dissemination of Plan Bleu's Report on Environment and Development – RED)