



# **United Nations Environment Programme**



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ENGLISH

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## **MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

3<sup>rd</sup> Review Meeting of MED POL - Phase III Monitoring Activities

Palermo (Sicily), Italy 12-15 December, 2005

## **PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**



**Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Third Review Meeting of MED POL Phase III Monitoring Activities will be held from 12 to 15 December 2005 in Palermo, (Sicily) Italy, in the villa Malfitano located in Via Dante. It is convened by MED POL in cooperation with INFO/RAC. The Meeting will be opened at 10,00 hours of 12 December by the MAP Coordinator, the MED POL Coordinator and the Director of the INFO/RAC.

**Agenda item 2. Election of officers**

The Meeting will elect the Chairperson, a vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

**Agenda item 3. Adoption of agenda and organization of work**

The provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat is distributed as UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/1/Rev.1 and this document contains its annotation. The agenda will be briefly presented by the Secretariat and its content will be discussed, amended as necessary and adopted by the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for the duration of the Meeting.

The Meeting will be conducted in Plenary.

**Agenda item 4. Review and analysis of MED POL Phase III monitoring activities (1996-2005)**

The Secretariat will introduce the document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/3). The overall goals and objectives of the MED POL Phase III Monitoring Activities organized for the 1996-2005 period will be first recalled. The Secretariat will then briefly report on the countries' participation in the Programme through the implementation of National Monitoring Agreements and provision of data. The present functioning and content of the MED POL Database will also be reviewed.

The evaluation of compliance monitoring activities will follow and the Meeting is expected to thoroughly discuss the initial objectives and the outcomes of this activity.

The temporal trend monitoring activities will be presented with special emphasis given to data analysis for trend detection. Recommendations for the improvement of the programmes will be made by the Secretariat for each site-specific activity. The strategic objectives of the activity will also be evoked.

The Secretariat will then report to the Meeting on the implementation of the coastal water monitoring activities by highlighting the gaps at the regional, national and local levels. In this context, in order to complete the available information and data at the regional scale, the countries that have not participated in the MED POL Phase III Monitoring Activities have been invited under this agenda item to present the structure and the results of their respective National Monitoring Programmes for coastal waters for the period of 1995-2005. In the same context, in order to complete the existing gaps in the ongoing national monitoring programmes, other countries have been invited to shortly present additional data and information that had not been provided to the Secretariat.

An overall evaluation of the results and achievements of the MED POL Phase III Data Quality Assurance activities will be presented to the Meeting by the Head of the IAEA/MESL. After its presentation, the Meeting is expected to comment on the results and possibly elaborate on the still existing gaps in participation in the intercomparison exercises that are

mandatory for all MED POL designated laboratories. After the discussion, the QUASIMEME laboratory performance studies will also be presented to the Meeting.

The actual monitoring of land-based inputs and the estimation of loads of substances will be presented by the Secretariat. The MED POL Database content will be discussed as well as the links with the related work carried out within the framework of the implementation of the SAP. The Meeting will be also asked to review the issue of monitoring of river inputs and the estimation of riverine fluxes. In this context, four documents will be brought to the attention of the meeting: MAP Technical Reports Series No.141 and 151 on the issue of river monitoring, and UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/Inf.3 on atmospheric loads of nitrogen and phosphorus to the SE Mediterranean and UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/Inf.4 on nutrient export from the watershed.

The pilot activities and the data quality assurance programmes organized for the biological effects monitoring and for the eutrophication monitoring will be presented to the Meeting. In relation to biological effects monitoring, a proposal for the possible re-organization of the activity will be presented to the Meeting. Concerning the eutrophication monitoring, the Meeting will be asked to discuss parameters/indicators to better cover the biological component as well as the sediments. A draft proposal will be presented to the Meeting for review and comments. Other regional and EU initiatives related to the monitoring and assessment of eutrophication will also be presented by experts.

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about the process of revision of the sediment monitoring strategy and the further steps of the work. A draft document on the methods for sediment sampling and analysis will be presented by the Secretariat as UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/Inf.5 and the Meeting is expected to provide views and comments for its finalization.

Finally, the Meeting will be invited to examine and further elaborate the draft conclusions on the overall implementation of MED POL Phase III Monitoring Activities prepared by the Secretariat.

#### **Agenda item 5. MED POL Information System**

The Secretariat will present the conceptual design of the MED POL Information System and the expected contribution from INFO-RAC, including a road map for its preparation. Countries are expected to comment on the proposal and contribute to the future structure and functioning of the system. Under this agenda item, other similar experiences and practices at the national and international levels will also be presented and discussed as a contribution to the preparation of the MED POL information system. In addition, the issue of data submission from countries and exchange between different organizations (e.g. MED POL and EEA/EIONET) will be re-examined.

#### **Agenda item 6. Organization of MED POL Phase IV monitoring activities**

The Secretariat will briefly present the results of the Evaluation of MED POL Phase III (UNEP/(DEC)/MED WG.264/3) presented to the last MED POL National Coordinators' Meeting (Barcelona, 2005) and the principles and objectives of MED POL Phase IV (2006-2013) as adopted by the last Contracting Parties Meeting (Portoroz, 2005) (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5/Annex III).

In view of the decision of the Contracting Parties for the Secretariat to prepare during the biennium 2006-2007 the operational details of MED POL Phase IV, the Secretariat feels that the present meeting would be a good opportunity to have a first preliminary exchange of views on some basic elements on which the monitoring and assessment activities of MED POL Phase IV will be organized. To this end, the Secretariat will introduce a short document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/4) which is expected to stimulate a discussion.

In addition to a general discussion on MED POL Phase IV, the meeting is expected to review more in detail the operational links between monitoring and assessment and the SAP implementation and the organization.

Furthermore, the organization of sub-regional surveys to understand the overall contamination level of the Mediterranean coastal waters will be reviewed. Under this subject, two related projects (Mytilos and Mytimed), respectively covering two sub-regions (N,S West Mediterranean and Aegean Sea, N East Mediterranean) will be presented by the projects' leader. During the Meeting, a tentative road map will be defined for integrating MED POL in the initiatives and the coverage of all Mediterranean coastal waters.

The presentation of a possible application by the Mediterranean Action Plan of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.3) will be made by the Secretariat and the Meeting will be asked to exchange views on the possible role and task of MED POL in monitoring and assessment.

Other relevant monitoring and assessment initiatives being at present carried out by the EU will be presented and discussed in view of their expected regional (Mediterranean) implementation and of a possible role for MED POL.

**Agenda item 7. Other business**

Under this Agenda item, the Meeting will examine and discuss any other business that may be raised by the participants or the Secretariat.

**Agenda item 8. Closure of the Meeting**

The Meeting will be closed by the elected Chairperson at 13:30 hours of 15 December 2005.

## TIMETABLE

### Monday 12 December

08,30 - 10,00 hours	<i>Registration</i>
10,00 - 11,00 hours	Agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 4.
11,00 - 11,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
11,30 - 13,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)
13,00 - 14,30 hours	<i>Lunch break</i>
14,30 - 16,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)
16,00 - 16,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
16,30 - 18,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)

### Tuesday 13 December

09,30 - 11,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)
11,00 - 11,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
11,30 - 13,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)
13,00 - 14,30 hours	<i>Lunch break</i>
14,30 - 16,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)
16,00 - 16,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
16,30 - 18,00 hours	Agenda item 4. (cont'd)

### Wednesday 14 December

09,30 - 11,00 hours	Agenda item 5.
11,00 - 11,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
11,30 - 13,00 hours	Agenda item 6.
13,00 - 14,30 hours	<i>Lunch break</i>
14,30 - 16,00 hours	Agenda item 6. (cont'd)
16,00 - 16,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
16,30 - 18,00 hours	Agenda item 6. (cont'd)

### Thursday 15 December

09,00 - 11,00 hours	Agenda item 6. (cont'd)
11,00 - 11,30 hours	<i>Coffee break</i>
11,30 - 13,30 hours	Agenda items 6. (cont'd), 7., 8.